

City Council Minutes
June 16, 2026

Orangeburg City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers, 933 Middleton Street with Mayor Butler presiding.

PRESENT:

Michael C. Butler, Mayor
Annette Dees Grevious
Jordan E. Hawkins
Dr. Kalu Kalu, Mayor Pro Tem
L. Zimmerman Keitt
Sandra P. Knotts

PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Jerry Hannah

A motion was made by Councilmember Keitt, seconded by Councilmember Knotts to approve June 2, 2026, City Council Minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Administrator Evering addressed Council concerning a resolution approving a License Agreement between the City of Orangeburg and the South Carolina University Foundation. He stated, "Please make a correction to remove Real Estate both on the resolution and the supporting agreement. As I indicated to you previously, members from the Foundation reached out looking for temporary office space for approximately six months as their office spaces on the campus at South Carolina State University had to be vacated because of construction. We have office space available at the old Public Works Department at the Stevenson Auditorium. They are offering to pay \$1,949 per month for access to the 2,924 square feet of office space which amounts to about \$8 per square foot. We are proposing access to the building, which is different than what is in front of you, based on business hours 8am – 5:30pm. If they want to use the space after business hours or on weekends, they will make a written request just like our employees do now. We will in turn approve or deny the request and give the IT Department the information so access to the space is available. From a security standpoint, this allows us to better know who is always in the office spaces. A certificate of insurance will be required before occupancy."

Councilmember Hawkins asked, "Are utilities included in the rent amount? Are they responsible for maintenance, repairs and damage?"

City Administrator Evering stated, "Yes, utilities are included. They would be responsible for any damage and janitorial services for the space."

Councilmember Grevious asked, "Are they occupying the entire Public Works space?"

City Administrator Evering stated, "Yes, the area where Public Works was located. There are some other minor things to work out but with your permission, I am confident I can work out. If there are any substance of changes, I will bring back to Council for approval."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kalu, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to approve a resolution approving a License Agreement between the City of Orangeburg and the South Carolina State University Foundation. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Works Director David Epting addressed Council concerning Building Codes Official Update. He stated, "The building permitting information for this packet was consolidated to make it easier to read. This report includes the previous year's information for the same month as a comparison for the fees and the estimated construction costs. This month includes a commercial mechanical permit for the railroad corner which is a very large part of this permitting month making the fees a little larger than what they normally run throughout the year. During the month of May, we had three new single-family houses completed, 75 inspections completed for building codes and three plan reviews."

Councilmember Keitt asked, "How long does the City work with owners on burnt down houses?"

Public Works Director Epting stated, “We recently hired a new Code Enforcement Officer that hit the ground running as we have issued over 40 letters for weedy lots, junk cars, and abandoned houses. One of the issues we have with the abandoned houses is that it takes a little more time because of getting the owners to cooperate. If the City demolishes the house, then the City must pay the demolition cost. But if we can work with the owners to cover the cost, a monthly payment plan is set up. If they do not make monthly payments, then the amount goes on their taxes”

Councilmember Keitt asked, “How long do you give as one property has been over a year?”

Public Works Director Epting stated, “I will have Code Enforcement look at it tomorrow.”

City Administrator Evering stated, “Because of limited staffing, if Council will bring to our attention areas that need attention so we can address. Also, the time frame is in the Code of Ordinances.”

Councilmember Hannah asked, “What is the update on the two restaurants that we spoke about? One has a restroom that citizens do not have access to and the other one has a blocked restroom.”

Public Works Director Epting stated, “I will be sending Code Enforcement there this week and if it is the same way as you stated, then citations will be issued.”

Councilmember Grevious asked, “Is there a process where Public Works checks with DPU prior to giving approval for permits?”

Public Works Director Epting stated, “When someone submits plans, we give them DPU contact information. We are working with DPU on new software for permitting to be launched in the next few months that will send information to DPU departments, the Fire Marshall and required City departments.”

DPU Manager Harley stated, “I would like to add that the City and County are working together to bring a process that will help us fill in those gaps.”

Mayor Pro Tem Kalu asked, “How are fees calculated?”

Public Works Director Epting stated, “The fees are set in the Master Fee Schedule which determines the fee based on price or construction cost. There are different costs for example roofing is different than new construction.”

Councilmember Hawkins asked, “Is the time frame listed in the Code?”

Public Works Director Epting stated, “There is a time frame of 90 days but there are a lot of variables that do not allow us to tear a building or house down. We are looking at possibly shortening this time frame.”

A motion was made by Councilmember Grevious, seconded by Councilmember Keitt to go into Executive Session concerning discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and the receipt of legal advice. SC Code Section 30-4-70(a)(2) a) E-Bikes and b) Old City Gym, 1420 Broughton Street and discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline or release of an employee. SC Section 30-4-70 (a))1) – Department of Public Safety. The motion was unanimously approved.

Council did not return to open session. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McDaniel

Linda McDaniel
City Clerk

