



MINUTES
LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH &
WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
April 11, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Wayne McCall, Chairman, District II
Mr. Julian Davis, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee scheduled at 5:30 PM [meeting will either immediately precede or follow the Transportation meeting, which is also scheduled at 5:30 pm] in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee Members present [except Mr. Davis & Administrator Scott Moulder] County Attorney David Root and Katie D. Smith, Clerk to Council present.

STAFF PRESENT:

Sheriff's Office: Chief Kevin Davis
Emergency Services: Chief Charlie King, Deputy Chief Scott Krein
Solid Waste: Swain Still

Press:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: None

Call to Order

Chairman McCall called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 2 - 0 to approve the January 24, 2017 minutes as presented.

Discussion Items

Mr. Root & staff addressed the Committee for all Discussion & Action Items listed below.

Discussion regarding proposed ordinance for structure and composition of Building Codes Appeal Board

Mr. Root noted this was requested by Community Development to update the Building Codes Appeal Board to include who is to be on the board, membership qualifications, etc. He also noted the membership shall be constituted with two (2) architects, two (2) engineers, two (2) licenses contractors, and one (1) member of the construction materials industry. Discussion followed.

Committee members inquired about conflicts between the board members. Mr. Root noted the member would have to recuse himself if a conflict were to arise. Discussion followed.

Committee members asked to have the ordinance redrafted and to include the following:

- Membership shall be constituted with one (1) architect, one (1) engineer, four (4) licenses contractors, and one (1) member of the construction materials industry.
- Failure to recuse oneself based on a conflict of interest will be a basis of removal by County Council.

It was the consensus of the Committee to direct the County Attorney to update the Ordinance to reflect changes above and send to full Council for consideration.

Update and discussion regarding Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

Mr. Scott Krein, Emergency Services, addressed the Committee regarding Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. Statewide mutual aid allows sharing of assets from county to county and has direct mutual aid with surrounding counties. During floods and hurricanes it allows for travel and sets a pre-agreement so that during FEMA reimbursement time, we are eligible for money. There has to be a pre-contract established prior to the event or it has to be completed once called to the event. Statewide Mutual Aid, which has been signed before, is being done again to make sure it is up to date. This allows through Fire Emergency Management to share assets. Most recently, this was used for the Pinnacle Mountain Fire. Fire Emergency Management traveled to the event and was eligible for reimbursement because the mutual aid agreements had been pre-signed and saves time. Discussion followed.

It was the consensus of the Committee to send Resolution on May 2, 2017 to full Council to adopt the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.

Update and discussion regarding DHEC Annual Inspection findings and mandate

Mr. Swain Still addressed Committee utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] regarding DHEC Annual Inspection. Mr. Still noted the landfills get inspected once a month from DHEC and in the last 11 years they have not been sent to enforcement on any action. Discussion followed.

The Committee thanked Mr. Still for the presentation and he was doing a good job.

The Committee took no action on this matter at this meeting.

Update and discussion regarding proposed revisions to the Oconee County Noise Ordinance

Mr. Root updated the Committee on the revisions that had been made to the noise ordinance. He read over the ordinance and pointed out the additions that were made.

Committee members noted they wanted the Agriculture operations to be exempt from the noise ordinance.

Chief Davis addressed the Committee utilizing a handout [copy filed with these minutes] suggesting recommendations for the new ordinance to include but not limited to:

- 3 or more independent or individual complaints registered or 1 or more complainants and 1 law enforcement officer.
- 70 decibels during the day and 60 decibels at night during the specific time of 6:59 a.m. to 6:59 p.m. during daytime hours and 6:59 p.m. to 6:59 a.m. during nighttime hours.

Discussion followed.

It was the consensus of the Committee to direct the County Attorney to update the Ordinance and send to full Council for consideration.

Update on Recycling Centers

The former engineer was working on this, however, since he left there are no new updates. Rick Martin, Director of Rock Quarry, is working on this now.

The Committee took no action on this matter at this meeting.

Update on Successful Old Tires Program

Since August of 2016, approximately 350 tons of tires have been collected.

The Committee took no action on this matter at this meeting.

Oconee Emergency Services Lake Patrol

Mr. Charlie King, Fire Chief, noted his staff is on an as needed basis, both on population of the lake and as staffing allows with volunteers being available but officially having a lake patrol service is not something they offer regularly.

Mr. McCall noted the Department of Natural Resources [DNR] has money through a federal fund that funds the gas for their boats. Mr. King noted that it was not open their mission and due to public safety and dive and rescue. Chief Davis noted he has never heard of this but would look into it. Discussion followed.

The Committee took no action on this matter at this meeting.

Legislative Update / Distracted Driving

Mr. Root updated the Committee noting the letter that was sent to the legislative delegation regarding distracted driving. Senator Thomas Alexander wrote back bringing attention to House Bill 3526, which states it is unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle while using a cell phone, pager, or any mobile device and does not apply if using hands free. Violation of this bill would be a misdemeanor. At this point, it is in the house judiciary committee, which ends on or about May 11, 2017, and may not make it out the committee this session due to working on the budget, roads bill, retirement funding, etc.

For Oconee County, in the personnel manual, any person operating a county vehicle is to be hands free. Chief Davis noted the Sheriff's Department manual mirrors the County policy regarding hands free. Fire Chief King noted staff receive alerts, call notifications or any incident they respond to with directions and call information on their cell phones. He noted it

requires constant attention and understands the hazards and want to support it. Discussion followed.

The Committee took no action on this matter at this meeting.

Fire & Rescue Boat Purchase

Mr. McCall noted Mr. Moulder asked him to review specs for the boat noting he would do this as a courtesy and not directing Mr. King to do anything at this time. Discussion followed.

The Committee took no action on this matter at this meeting.

Future Purchases of Fire Engines

Mr. Root reviewed with the Committee that due to the expense and debate of the last fire engine purchase, there needs to be standard items for each truck and an allowance for different items that may be considered extra. Additionally, Chief King noted he wanted to design a truck that is useful and adequate for the types of emergencies and incidents but also has a price that is affordable for taxpayers.

Additionally, there are two concepts when referring to refurbishing an apparatus: refurbish and remanufacture.

Refurbishing a Fire Truck

- Apparatus that still has life left in the truck and needs to be updated and can be either in-house or sent to a vendor. This replaces ripped and damaged upholstery, replaces or upgrades the emergency lighting on the generators, paint, etc.
- Refurbishing a truck would be at the 10 to 14 year in an apparatus that receives heavy use.

Remanufacturing a Fire Truck

- Apparatus would need to be sent to a vendor to where the truck is remanufactured.
- Body is removed from the truck along with the pump and plumbing system, etc.
- Typically runs three quarters to the cost of a new apparatus and has an unexpected life span.

Discussion followed.

The Committee took no action on this matter at this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council