



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
June 7, 2016

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Mr. Paul Cain, District III, Chairman
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II, Vice Chairman
Ms. Edda Cammick, District I, Chairman Pro Tem
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV
Mr. Reg Dexter, District V

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Scott Moulder, County Attorney David Root and Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council present.

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 [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Ashton Hester / Keowee Courier & Greg Oliver/ The Daily Journal.

Call to Order

Mr. Cain called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council voicing concerns regarding an Oconee County Sheriff's office deputy's conduct and allegations made against him that he believes to be untrue.

Ms. Ann Dreyer addressed Council [utilizing photograph handouts – copies of the photos filed with these minutes] regarding dilapidated property in the Port Bass subdivision.

Ms. Jean Jennings addressed Council regarding various topics to include her opposition to hiring an outside firm to assist with reassessment; DHEC's education regarding the West Nile virus; her support for the Dollar General project; and, her opposition to plutonium in South Carolina.

Mr. Jerry Barnett addressed Council in opposition to citizens in the agriculture community asking Council for handouts to purchase property for an Agriculture Center.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council in opposition to sewer expansion to exits 1, 2 and 4 on Highway 85.

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council in opposition to a millage tax increase for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

County Council Response to Public Comment

Ms. Cammick questioned Mr. Moulder regarding procedures to review dilapidated property. Mr. Moulder stated he would have staff meet with Ms. Dreyer to review her concerns.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Cain asked for a moment of silence prior the Invocation by the County Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain:

The County Council Chaplain gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Ms. Cammick led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Cain and Ms. Cammick noted corrections needed to the Council Member Comment section of the May 17, 2016 minutes.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0 to approve the May 17, 2016 regular meeting minutes as amended.

Administrator's Report & Agenda Summary

Mr. Moulder briefly reviewed with Council and for the public's benefit specifics related to the following matters before Council at this meeting:

- First & Final Readings for Proclamations: P2016-02
- Public Hearings & Third Readings for Ordinances: 2016-15, 16, 17 & 19
- Discussion Regarding Action Items
- Board/Commission Appointments
- Council Committee Reports
- Third Reading for Ordinance: 2016-01
- Executive Session

First & Final Reading for the Following Proclamations

Proclamation P2016-02 "A PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK"

Ms. Cammick made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Proclamation P2016-02** on first and final reading.

Lt. Joe Moagna, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, came forward to accept **Proclamation P2016-02** from Chairman Cain.

Public Hearing Regarding the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2016-15 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND **PROJECT WALES; THE GRANTING OF SPECIAL SOURCE CREDITS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES"**

Mr. Cain opened the floor for Public Comment.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council in support for BASF but in opposition to fee agreements with industries in principal.

Noting that no other citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Cain opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council.

Mr. Cain asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Cain closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2013-15**.

Ordinance 2016-16 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE I OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF OCONEE COUNTY PERTAINING TO UNIFIED ROAD STANDARDS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR, AND PROCEDURES IN RELATION TO, THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN UNPAVED ROADS, WHICH DO NOT MEET THE STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO THE COUNTY PUBLIC ROAD SYSTEM, FOR MINIMUM IMPROVEMENT AND MINIMUM MAINTENANCE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. Cain opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Cain opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council.

Mr. Cain asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Cain closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2013-16**.

Ordinance 2016-17 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF OCONEE COUNTY PERTAINING TO COMMITTEES IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE **OCONEE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. Cain opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mr. Jerry Barnett addressed Council in opposition to creation the Agriculture Advisory Board; noting his concerns that they will exceed their authority as outlined in the ordinance.

Noting that no other citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Cain opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council.

Mr. Cain asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Cain closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2013-17**.

Ordinance 2016-19 “AN ORDINANCE CANCELLING, REVOKING, AND RESCINDING OCONEE COUNTY ORDINANCE 2013-22; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” [*Rescinding Patillo Land Swap Ordinance*]

Mr. Cain opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Cain opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council.

Mr. Cain asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Cain closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2013-19**.

Third & Final Reading for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2016-15 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND **PROJECT WALES**; THE GRANTING OF SPECIAL SOURCE CREDITS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES”

Mr. Richard Blackwell, Oconee Economic Alliance Director, introduced Mr. Will Teasdale, BASF Plant Manager, who addressed Council thanking them for their continue support for the company and the 400+ employees [and their families] employed at the Oconee plant.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2013-15** on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2016-16 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE I OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF OCONEE COUNTY PERTAINING TO UNIFIED ROAD STANDARDS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR, AND PROCEDURES IN RELATION TO, THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN UNPAVED ROADS, WHICH DO NOT MEET THE STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO THE COUNTY PUBLIC ROAD SYSTEM, FOR MINIMUM IMPROVEMENT AND MINIMUM MAINTENANCE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cammick, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2013-16** on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2016-17 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF OCONEE COUNTY PERTAINING TO COMMITTEES IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE **OCONEE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Ms. Cammick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, to approve **Ordinance 2013-17** on third and final reading.

Lengthy discussion followed with various opinions offered.

Ms. Cammick made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to table third and final reading of **Ordinance 2016-17**.

Ordinance 2016-19 “AN ORDINANCE CANCELLING, REVOKING, AND RESCINDING OCONEE COUNTY ORDINANCE 2013-22; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” [*Rescinding Patillo Land Swap Ordinance*]

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cammick, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2013-19** on third and final reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items:

State & Local ATAX / Mountain Lakes CVB FY 2016-2017

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to approve \$152,000 from State & Local ATAX accounts noting exact amounts from each account will be determined upon receipt of the 4th Quarter State ATAX check.

PRT Commission Local ATAX grant requests

Mr. Cain asked Mr. Phil Shirley, PRT Director, to please in future provide return on investment information when available for ATAX grant requests for Council approval. Mr. Shirley stated he would do so for all future requests.

Ms. Cammick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to approve the ATAX grant request as presented on attached spreadsheet.

Old Business:

None at this meeting.

New Business:

None at this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

Planning Commission / District IV

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to appoint Mr. Nick Gambrell to the District IV seat on the Planning Commission with their seat being co-terminus with Districts II, IV & V.

Destination Oconee / District III

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cammick, approved 5 – 0 to appoint Mr. Al Shadwick to the District III seat on the Destination Oconee Advisory Committee.

Council Committee Reports

Budget, Finance & Administration Committee

Mr. Cain read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting the activities and discussions at the May 24, 2016 committee meeting.

Third Reading for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2016-01 “AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR **OCONEE COUNTY** AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES, FOR THE TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE VICTIM SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, FOR THE BRIDGE AND CULVERT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, AND FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, ALL IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2016 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2017”

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, to bring **Ordinance 2016-01** to the floor for discussion.

Ms. Cammick made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, to adopt budget document version #3 for **Ordinance 2016-01**. Mr. Moulder noted that version #3 is currently in the ordinance as approved at second reading. Ms. Cammick withdrew her motion and Mr. McCall withdrew his second.

Lengthy discussion followed with various opinions offered.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 2 [Mr. McCall and Ms. Cammick opposed] to amend **Ordinance 2016-01** to include budget version #4 for consideration at the public hearing and for third and final reading.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0 to table action on **Ordinance 2016-01** for third reading to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2016.

Mr. Cain requested that staff advertise an additional public hearing be scheduled for the June 21, 2016 regular council meeting.

Executive Session:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0 enter into Executive Session as allowed for in §30-4-70 (a) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended, 1976 for the purpose of:

- [1] discussion regarding a potential property purchase related to the Rock Quarry,
- [2] receiving legal advice regarding a contractual matters and issues related thereto.

Council entered Executive Session at 7:41 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Thrift, seconded by Ms. Cammick, approved 5 – 0.

Mr. Cain stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to direct the Administrator to proceed with investigation of the property purchase related to the Rock Quarry as discussed in Executive Session.

Ms. Cammick made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 2 [Mr. Thrift & Dexter opposed] to direct the Administrator to proceed as discussed in Executive Session regarding the contractual matter.

Adjourn

Mr. Thrift made a motion, approved unanimously 5 – 0, to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council