



MINUTES
LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH &
WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 28, 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Wayne McCall, Chairman, District II
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV
Mr. Reg Dexter, District V

No recording was made of this meeting.

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee scheduled at 5:30 PM [meeting immediately followed the Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting also scheduled at 5:30 p.m.] in the Conference Room [not Council Chambers as advertised to allow Registration and Elections to set up to tally and report the election results for the run off race in Oconee County], Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present and Clerk to Council, Elizabeth Hulse.

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: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio & Steven Bradley – Daily Journal.

Call to Order

Chairman McCall called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 2 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Dexter abstained – form filed with these minutes] to approve the April 12, 2016 minutes as presented.

New Business:

Paid Inmate Labor / Sheriff Mike Crenshaw

Sheriff Crenshaw addressed the committee utilizing a handout [copy filed with these minutes] discussing why Oconee County might consider paying for state inmate labor. He discussed current sentencing guidelines, other counties practices, benefits to Oconee County to transfer inmates with specific labor skills, etc. Sheriff Crenshaw recommended the Committee consider recommending to Council \$2-3 per day pay range for state inmates. Lengthy discussion followed regarding options to have the Delegation work with the SC Department of Corrections [SCDOC] establish a set pricing structure, potential state reimbursement for housing state inmates, cost benefit ratio to utilize state inmates, etc.

Additionally, Sheriff Crenshaw addressed Oconee County citizens sentenced to community service for nonpayment of child support to be utilized to reduce their child support arrearages, etc. He noted that he has discussed the possibility of this program with the Family Court Judge and Mr. Blake Taylor, SCDOC, who both concurred with the proposed program. Sheriff Crenshaw noted that he has not yet discussed this program with the county attorney. Discussion followed.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 0 to recommend to full Council to move forward with the program where citizens sentenced to community service are offered work through the Sheriff's Office with any payments going toward their child support arrearages.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 0 to recommend to full Council to ask the Sheriff to complete his study of other counties funding for state inmate labor and to report back to full Council for their consideration in potentially funding a program in Oconee County.

Oconee Humane Society Spay/Neuter Assistance Program [SNAC] Program Update / Sheriff Mike Crenshaw

Sheriff Crenshaw addressed the committee utilizing a handout [copy filed with these minutes] highlight the success of the Humane Society's SNAC program noting that adoptions have increased by 60% over five years and intakes have decreased during the same period. Discussion followed. The Committee thanked Sheriff Crenshaw for the report.

Boating Safety

Deferred as Mr. Ray Lewis, DNR, was not present at the meeting.

Other Business:

Fire Boats on Lakes

Chief Charlie King addressed the Committee noting that two new boats will be in service [one on Keowee and the other on Jocassee] by mid October 2016. Additionally, he noted that work is ongoing on two of the current boats to repower them. Chief King also stated that an additional tow vehicle has been purchased with the assistance of the Vehicle Maintenance Department. Lastly, he stated that continued training is taking place for quick response dive responses which has reduced the recovery time to +/- 40 minutes. Discussion followed.

Mr. Dexter questioned why locate the new boats on Keowee and Jocassee. Chief King noted that the largest gaps in service areas existed on these two lakes and that a permanent location to keep a boat in the water on Hartwell has not yet been identified.

Recycling Plan

Mr. Thrift requested that Mr. McCall provide his recycling plan in order that all Council members may have sufficient time to study the plan prior to Council discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. McCall stated he would provide his hand written plan to the Clerk for transcribing.

Adjourn:

Mr. Dexter made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council