

OCONEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



TEL (864) 638-4218 FAX (864) 638-4168

6:00 PM, Thursday, January 25, 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present:

Mr. Pearson – Chairman , District 4
Mr. Kisker – Vice Chairman , District 1
Mr. Johnson – At-Large
Mrs. McPhail – At-Large
Mr. Gramling – District 3
Mrs. Lyles – District 5

Staff Present: David Root, County Attorney
Adam Chapman, Zoning Administrator

Media Present: None

1. Call to Order

Mr. Pearson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Invocation by County Council Chaplain

Mr. Root gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Minutes

a. January 11, 2018

Mrs. McPhail – Motion

Mr. Johnson – Second

5. Public Comment for Agenda and Non-Agenda Items (3 minutes)

None

6. Staff Updates

Mr. Chapman stated that the 150th-anniversary celebration will be January 29, 2018, at the Oconee County Complex at 415 S. Pine Street. The Vegetative Buffer ordinance has passed the second reading in Council.

7. Discussion on February meeting schedule

Mr. Chapman stated that February 19th is Presidents' Day and the County offices will be closed. The Commission agreed to move the second February meeting to the 22nd. Mr. Kisker made a motion to approve the meeting date and a second by Mrs. McPhail, the vote was unanimous.

8. Discussion on Traffic Research

Mr. Chapman stated that he talked with South Carolina Department of Public Safety and Karl Addis, Oconee County Coroner and the following information was obtained. The act of driving, being a passenger or being on the roadway as a pedestrian in Oconee County has been fatal for over 400 people in the last 24 years. Between 2012 and 2017 there were almost 8,000 collisions that resulted in 81 fatalities and over 3,000 injuries. Highways 123/76, 11 and 28 are the highways with the highest incidents of total collisions. Highways 123/76, 11 and 130 are the County's most fatal roadways. Driving under the influence and driving too fast for the conditions are the top causes of fatal wrecks in the County. Driving too fast for the conditions and failure to yield the right-of-way are the top causes of all collisions within the County. Driving too fast for conditions and driving under the influence are conditions which may be reduced utilizing a multi-department, multi-agency approach with short, medium and long-range plans and goals.

Mr. Pearson asked if this information should be presented to County Council to get a directive on where the Planning Commission needs to go from here. Mr. Kisker stated the Commission needs direction on where to start on the Corridor Overlay District. Mrs. McPhail asked if the changes to the intersection at Highway 24 and Highway 59 has made any difference in the wrecks at that intersection. Mrs. McPhail asked if having a sign stating what speed a vehicle is going could be purchased by Oconee County and being placed different locations would help in speed control. Mr. Root stated he would talk with the Administrator and see which way to go with that request. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. McPhail for the County Attorney to take the request to the Administrator to see what direction to go with funding. The vote was unanimous.

9. Discussion on Goals Element

Mr. Kisker stated that since the Capitol Project committee was disbanded should this be eliminated. Mr. Root stated that it should remain as a historical marker within the Element and in 2020 discuss whether to update it or remove it. Commission Chairman allowed Mr. Tom Markovich to speak and Mr. Markovich stated that it is required by state law for the Planning Commission to make recommendations on the Capital Plan to County Council.

10. Discussion on Prioritization of Planning Commission goals for 2018

Mrs. McPhail stated that the Comprehensive Plan review needs to be complete by December of 2018. Mr. Pearson stated the Work Force Housing needs to be addressed. Mr. Johnson noted that the traffic and housing need to be addressed also bike paths are needed. Mr. Johnson

stated that adding alternative methods of transportation could help to alleviate congestion caused by Clemson students. Mr. Johnson stated that some sort of farmland protection program needs to be looked at this year by the Planning Commission. Mrs. McPhail stated that corridor and traffic issues need to be finalized. Mrs. McPhail also stated that municipality revitalization is important to help alleviate some of the traffic issues. Mr. Root stated that our Economic Alliance is very active in any businesses are looking at coming to Oconee County. Mr. Root suggested that Mr. Blackwell come and talk with the Commission about any upcoming projects. Mr. Pearson stated that there needs to be a Housing Task Force to promote affordable housing. Mrs. Lylkes stated that the Comprehensive Plan should be a priority and when issues come up in the future it can be addressed.

11. Old Business

None

12. New Business

Mr. Kisker noted that the successful recycling effort in this county was spearheaded by Bozo Richards who has passed away recently. Mr. Kisker noted that one person can make a difference and that it is important to recognize this fact.

13. Adjourn

Mr. Kisker made the motion to adjourn at 7:06 pm