

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Steven R. Moore, District I Mr. Kenneth E. Johns, Jr., District II
Mr. Harry R. Hamilton, District III Mr. Marion E. Lyles, District IV
Mr. H. Frank Ables, Jr., District V

MINUTES, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Oconee County Council met Tuesday, March 5, 2002 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members and the County Attorney present.

Press:

Members of the press notified (by mail): Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Anderson Independent, WGOG Radio, WPEK Radio & Daily Journal, WYFF TV & WLOS TV.

Members of the press present: Dave Williams – Anderson Independent & Amanda Rylander.

Call to Order:

Supervisor-Chair Hughes, who welcomed those present, called the meeting to order present.

Invocation:

Mr. Ables gave the invocation.

Minutes:

Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns that the minutes of the February 19, 2002 meeting be adopted as printed.

Mr. Johns Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that the minutes be corrected to reflect the water presentation Mr. Littleton heard being given by Mr. Howard Moore, not Mr. Allen Moore.

The minutes, amended, were then adopted 4 – 0.

Resolution 2001-11:

Council adopted Resolution 2001-11, "A RESOLUTION HONORING MS. HOLLI THOMPSON, MISS OCONEE 2001" on first and final reading. Mrs. Hughes then presented the resolution to Ms. Thompson.

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Resolution 2001-14:

Council adopted Resolution 2001-13, "A RESOLUTION PROMOTING OPERATION HOPE" on first and final reading. Mrs. Hughes presented the resolution to Mr. Bill Andrews.

Public Hearing Regarding Ordinance 2002-02:

The next item on the agenda was a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2002-02, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND COMPACT AIR PRODUCTS, LLC; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES".

There was no one present with either written and/or oral comments regarding this ordinance.

Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2002-02 (titled above) be adopted on third and final reading.

Resolution 2002-13:

Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2002-13, "A RESOLUTION HONORING JACK M. HIRST". Mrs. Hughes presented the resolution to Mr. Hirst's family.

Water Issues:

Mr. Steve Epton presented Council with the attached information regarding the protection of Oconee County's water.

Chau Ram Park Grant:

Upon recommendation of Ms. Vickie Satterfield, Deputy Parks Director, Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 4 – 0 that Parks submit a federal grant application for the purchase of 122 acres adjacent to the Chau Ram Park.

It is a 50/50 match, the grant will provide \$152,500, which means the county, will also have to provide the match of \$152,500 if the grant is approved and adopted. Ms. Satterfield proposes designating the three percent local accommodations tax for this match.

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Resolution 2002-12:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that Resolution 2002-12, "A RESOLUTION OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AUTHORIZING A LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT, SERIES 2002, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$2,154,000 RELATING TO THE FINANCING OF EQUIPMENT/VEHICLES FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING THE LEASE AGREEMENT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO" be adopted on first and final reading.

Lease Purchase of Fire Trucks:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 4 – 0 that the bid for financing of ten (10) pumper trucks be awarded to Leasing 2 Inc. at an interest rate of 3.59% and an annual payment of \$478,152.33. (See attached bid sheet)

Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that the bid for the ten trucks be awarded to Quality Manufacturing at a cost of \$2,680,890 as well as \$2,000 for going to the company for pre-construction and \$2,000 for inspection. (See attached bid sheet)

Budget & Finance Recommendation:

Oconee County has a contract in place with Compact Air for the removal of dirt from site A to site B in the new commerce park and we have a contract with Compact Air to use our best efforts to ensure the installation of the roadways and utilities by July 1, 2002; since Compact Air has contracted with Roebuck for the construction of their project with a second contract for the grading work to be completed on their site; the fact that it would be a duplication of work to have one contractor move the dirt and another contractor pick up the dirt and spread it and Roebuck received four bids and will be using the low bidder of Clary-Hood, it is the recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee that the bid procedure be waived and Roebuck Builders be engaged to complete this work. Council unanimously adopted this recommendation.

Personnel & Intergovernmental Recommendation:

Council unanimously adopted the recommendation of the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee to award the bid for the classification and compensation study to MGT at a cost of \$39,600. (See attached bid sheet)

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Form of Government:

To Mr. Moore's inquiry, Mr. Norton informed Council they needed to determine if they were going to place a referendum on the ballot regarding the form of government in Oconee County.

Credit at the Rock Crusher:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 4 – 0 that DeShields Grading be granted credit at the Rock Crusher as per Ordinance 91-10.

Solid Waste:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that the county offer \$15,000 for approximately four (4) acres adjacent to the Five Forks Landfill for remediation purposes.

Water Authority:

Mr. Moore requested the Council to consider asking the Legislative Delegation to review the activation of the water authority, which would basically be in lieu of the water commission. Mr. Moore expressed feeling that to be proactive the county is going to need an entity that can deal with outside grants more effectively that the water commission will be able to do.

Law Enforcement, Safety, Health, Welfare & Services Committee Recommendation:

Council unanimously adopted the recommendation of the LEC Committee to refer the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance back to the Planning Commission with a recommendation to change the set back of one hundred (100) feet to fifty (50) feet from the ordinary high water (within banks) elevation of any natural body of water.

Rural Fire Appointee:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 4 – 0 that Mr. Jesse Neville be reappointed to represent District II on the Rural Fire Commission.

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Public Comment Session:

Mr. Bud Lorsch addressed Council regarding the asset the Rock Building could be to the School District.

Ms. Becky Ballenger addressed Council regarding an office with one inspector and a digital camera being ineffective.

Mr. Bob Manka addressed Council regarding the county either accepting or rejecting the report of the Governmental Task Force to place a ballot on the agenda regarding the form of government in the county and authorizing Marion Lyles to appoint a committee to education the public regarding this matter.

Mr. Steven Ancona addressed Council regarding the local option sales tax issue.

Mr. Mike Evatt expressed support for Ms. Thelma Miller.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding our natural resources and also expressing support for Ms. Thelma Miller.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding two pit bulldogs that would not let a citizen out of her house and he also noted that executive sessions require a specific reason.

Adjourn:

Adjourn 8:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green
Council Clerk