

**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, April 2, 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, Daily Journal, WYFF TV, WLOS TV.

Members of the press present: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio, Dave Williams – Anderson Independent & Amanda Rylander.

**Other Organizations Notified:**

Also notified were the Oconee County Tax Payers Association and the Oconee County Democratic Party.

**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, approved 5 - 0 that the minutes of the March 5, 2002 meeting be adopted as amended to include the name of the firm to work with Goldie & Associates be corrected to B. P. Barber to conduct a feasibility study and also develop a master plan regarding sewer in the county.

**Resolution 2002-15:**

Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2002-15, "A RESOLUTION HONORING MR. HARRY A TOLLISON" on first and final reading.

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**Resolution 2002-16:**

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 5 – 0 that Resolution 2002-16, "A RESOLUTION HONORING THE WESTMINSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS" be adopted on first and final reading. Mrs. Hughes presented the resolution to the students present and Ms. Charlene Burris, Choral Director.

**Workforce Investment Act:**

Upon request of Ms. Julia Sermons, Local WIA Administrator, Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the attached *Local Workforce Area Subsequent Designation* be adopted.

**Consent of Sublessor & Owner to Mortgage:**

Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Item #8: "Consideration of Approval of Sublessor & Owner to Mortgage for the Benefit of AOR Real Estate, Inc." be tabled pending further information.

**Registration & Elections:**

Upon request of Mrs. Joy Brooks, Registration & Elections Director, Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that \$3,600 be taken from contingency for training of Registration & Elections employees on the Sequoia Systems.

**Aeronautics:**

Mr. Robert Banks, Airport Director & Mr. Jay Talbert, Talbert & Bright presented a seven-year capital improvement plan for the Airport as delineated on attachment. Upon recommendation of Mr. Banks & Mr. Talbert, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 (Mr. Hamilton abstaining due to his owning property that would be affected) that Council adopt the Environmental Assessment for Runway Extension at a cost of \$120,000 which will commit Council to the five percent local match in the 2002-03 fiscal year budget.

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**Cheohee Bridge Marina:**

Mr. Lamar T. Smith addressed Council regarding the concept of a marina to serve Oconee County, SC & Stephens County, GA, and the development of an eleven hundred acre tract of land to include homes, an eighteen-hole golf course, swim & tennis club and restaurant. (See attached)

A permit would have to be secured from the Corps of Engineers for the marina and although Council took no official action regarding this matter, they did express interest and cooperation.

**Ordinance 2002-05:**

Upon recommendation of Mr. Tom Hendricks, Planning Director, Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2002-05, "SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT CHAPTER OF LAND USE PLAN" be adopted on second reading.

**Educational Committee Regarding Form of Government:**

Upon recommendation of Mr. Bob Manka, Chair, Governmental Task Force Committee, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the following persons be appointed to the Educational Committee regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the Supervisor-Council and Administrator-Council forms of Government:

- Mr. Gary Duncan
- Mr. Jerry Edwards
- Mr. John Hostetler
- Ms. Barbara Sokol
- Mr. Neal Workman

**Rural Fire:**

Upon request of Mr. Dewitt Mize, Rural Fire Marshal, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the county title a 1977 vehicle back to the Oakway Fire Department.

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**Memorandum Agreement:**

Upon request of Mrs. Melissa Brown, Budget/Grants Supervisor, Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the attached "MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH CAROLINA BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL SERVICES THE SOUTH CAROLINA GEODETIC SURVEY SECTION AND THE COUNTY OF OCONEE, SOUTH CAROLINA" in the amount of \$15,000 be adopted.

**Parks & Recreation:**

Upon request of Ms. Vickie Satterfield, Deputy Parks Director, Council unanimously ratified the recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee to take up to \$30,000 from contingency for a Parks Master Plan.

Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 3 – 2 (Mr. Ables & Mr. Lyles voting against) that the bid for the master plan be awarded to Grant Cunningham who was low bid at \$24,800. (See attached bid sheet)

**Law Enforcement Center:**

Upon recommendation of Ms. Marianne Dillard, Procurement Director, Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that the bid for prescription services for the Law Enforcement Center be awarded to Sammeth Drug Store who was low bid at \$1.00 dispensing fee per prescription with delivery service. (See attached bid sheet)

**Ordinance 2002-06:**

Upon recommendation of Ms. Melissa Grant, Solid Waste Director, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2002-06, "AN ORDINANCE REORGANIZING THE OCONEE COUNTY SOLID WASTE COMMISSION AND REPEAL ORDINANCE 79-19, DATED NOVEMBER 6, 1979" be adopted on second reading.

**Resolution 2002-09:**

Also, upon recommendation of Ms. Grant, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 5 – 0 that Resolution 2002-09, "A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APRIL 2002 AS HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MONTH" be adopted on first and final reading.

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**Ordinance 2002-07:**

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Johns voting against) that Ordinance 2002-07, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A REFERENDUM TO ALLOW THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO VOTE TO RETAIN THE COUNCIL-SUPERVISOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT OR CHANGE TO THE COUNCIL-ADMINISTRATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT" be adopted on first reading.

**Rural Fire:**

Upon request of Mr. Bobby Williams, Chair, Rural Fire Commission, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 5 – 0 that they be allowed to place out for bid a 40'X60' building to house the HAZMAT truck and other equipment.

**Letter from Senator Thurmond:**

Mrs. Hughes informed Council she had received a letter from Senator Strom Thurmond in which he expressed his concerns regarding water resources in our county. Senator Thurmond also stated in his letter that the Habersham County Section 404 Permit Application had been withdrawn and the US Corps of Engineers have informed him that they are not aware of any actions being taken to transfer water from Lake Hartwell to Lake Lanier. (See attached letter)

**Sewer Commission Appointee:**

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Mr. Scott Parris be appointed to represent the City of Walhalla on the Sewer Commission.

**Budget & Finance Committee Meetings:**

Mr. Moore scheduled Budget & Finance Committee Meetings Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, & Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 each morning to discuss the proposed 2002-03 budget ordinance.

**Personnel & Intergovernmental Recommendations:**

Mr. Hamilton, Chair, Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee informed Council the committee had received a request to change the policy of the county to pay the insurance premium for retirees who retire from the county with concurrent service with the SC Retirement System to receive full benefits be changed to an employee receiving these same health insurance benefits when retiring from the county with twenty (20) years police retirement and twenty-three (23) years standard retirement. The committee recommended leaving the policy as is at this time.

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**Personnel & Intergovernmental Recommendations Continued:**

Mr. Hamilton also informed Council that the committee was recommending a hiring freeze on new county positions until December 31, 2002.

This recommendation was adopted 4 – 1 (Mr. Hamilton voting against).

Further, the committee recommends that the job description of each position that drives a county vehicle home include the reason for that, employee driving a county vehicle home. This recommendation was adopted 5 – 0.

**Planning Commission Appointee:**

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Mr. Tommy Abbott be reappointed to represent District IV on the Planning Commission.

**Roads & Transportation Committee:**

Mr. Ables informed Council it was the recommendation of the Roads & Transportation Committee that Ordinance 2002-08, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE SALE OF SURPLUS STONE, GRAVEL, AND LIKE PRODUCTS BY OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PRESCRIBE THE MANNER OF SUCH SALES AND THE PAYMENT AND ACCONING THEREFOR, AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 91-10" be adopted on first reading. Council unanimously adopted this recommendation.

Mr. Ables also informed Council it was the recommendation of the committee that the bid for overlay of county roadways be awarded to F & R Asphalt, Inc. who was low bid at \$385,925.56 and the bid for road paving (new work) be awarded to Tipton & Young Construction Company, Inc. who was low bid at \$1,757,076.65 for paving, \$11,400 for compaction test, \$2,400 for core testing and \$11,400 for nuclear testing. (See attached bid sheet)

This recommendation was adopted 4 – 1 (Mr. Johns voting against).

Upon recommendation of Mr. Hoyt Orr, Roads & Bridges Superintendent & Ms. Marianne Dillard, Procurement Director, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 5 – 0 that striping the overlay be awarded to F & R Asphalt, Inc. at a cost of \$12,420.40 and striping the new work be awarded to Tipton & Young Construction Company, Inc. at \$7,802.47. (See attached bid sheet)

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**Economic Development Appointee:**

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 5 – 0 that Mr. Robert Newmark be reappointed to represent District I on the Economic Development Commission.

**Public Comment Session:**

Mr. Steve Blackwell spoke in opposition of the change in the form of government in the county and the educational committee that was appointed by Council.

Mr. B. J. Littleton spoke in opposition of the redistricting lines informing Council he did not stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag because although he loved the flag, the pledge was meaningless. He also spoke regarding the charter service at the airport and against the GLOCK gun.

**Adjourn:**

Adjourn 9:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green  
Council Clerk