

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 16, 2002 at 3:00 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, Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier & Amanda Rylander- Daily Journal.

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. Hamilton gave the invocation.

Minutes:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 - 0 that the minutes of the March 5, 2002 meeting be adopted as presented.

DHEC Request:

Upon request of Mr. Mark Barenbrock & Mr. Bob Hutchinson of the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control, Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 - 0 that up to \$2,000 be taken from contingency for the removal of gas tanks from tract of land that has been abandoned and needs to be placed on the tax books. DHEC will relieve the county of any liability in the removal of these tanks and remediation of the soil.

Public Hearing – Ordinance 2002-04:

The first item on the agenda was a public hearing regarding Ordinance 2002-04, "OCONEE COUNTY SUPPLEMENTAL ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001-02".

Ms. Susie Cornelius spoke in opposition of the ordinance not being completed earlier for review.

Upon recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee, Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 2002-04 on third and final reading and that the bid process be waived and Rural Fire be allowed to purchase radios at a cost not to exceed \$30,000. Further, the Council requests that Communications & Rural Fire send a letter of explanation why the Supervisor was not informed that there were volunteer without radios and assure this would never happen again.

Financial Status:

Mrs. Phyllis Lombard, Finance Director, presented the attached financial status of the county to Council, which states in part:

- Oconee's 2001 current year taxes are at an overwhelming 98% collection rate
- The current revenues are in excess of \$4,000,000 over expenditures
- The current bank balance is \$17,574,064
- The March general fund investments total \$8,000,000
- The unreserved fund balance is \$8,434,179

Workforce Investment Board:

Upon request of Ms. Julia Sermons, Director, Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board, Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 - 0 that the attached modification to the Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board five-year plan be adopted.

Planning Grant:

Upon request of Mr. Steve Pelessier, SC Appalachian Council of Governments, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 5 - 0 that Oconee County once again act as the lead county for the regional planning grant.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting**April 16, 2002****Solicitor's Office (Contingency):**

Upon request of Ms. Chrissy Adams, Deputy Solicitor, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 - 0 that \$2,800 be taken from contingency for meals, motels, mileage, etc. for trial witnesses.

Manufacturer's Exemption:

Mr. Kenneth F. Williams, County Auditor informed Council he had received a request for the extension of a manufacturer's exemption to an unrelated purchaser for Beacon Manufacturing Co. Council deemed it appropriate not to take action on this request until Mrs. Hughes had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the company controller.

Ordinance 2002-06:

Upon request of Ms. Melissa Grant, Solid Waste Director, Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 - 0 that Ordinance 2002-06, "AN ORDINANCE REORGANIZING THE OCONEE COUNTY SOLID WASTE COMMISSION AND REPEAL ORDINANCE 79-19, DATED NOVEMBER 6, 1969" be adopted on third and final reading.

Hazardous Waste Day:

Ms. Grant also reminded Council of the Hazardous Waste Day April 27, 2002 at Walhalla Middle School.

Removal of Trees at High Falls Park:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Tom Hulse, High Falls Park Superintendent & Ms. Marianne Dillard, Procurement Director, Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 4 - 1 (Mr. Moore voting against) that the bid for removal of trees at High Falls Park be awarded to Franklin Collins who was the only person/company to respond to the inquiries regarding this matter and also that Mr. John Little be asked to verify the amount of timber to be cut.

Rock Quarry:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Tommy Crumpton, Rock Crusher Director & Ms. Marianne Dillard, Procurement Director, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 5 - 0 that the design/build for the office scale house at the quarry be awarded to Trehel at a cost of \$2,500. (See attached bid sheet)

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting**April 16, 2002****Public Safety Facility:**

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 - 0 that the contract with Freeman/White, Inc. for construction of the public safety facility building be tabled until Council receives a balanced budget.

Courthouse Change Order:

Upon request of Mr. Robert Banks, County Engineer, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 - 0 that the attached change order in the amount of \$102,431 for security at the new courthouse be adopted.

Courthouse Contingency:

Mr. Banks also informed Council that there is approximately \$390,837 remaining in the funds transferred from fund balance for the design of the courthouse, site preparation, etc.; upon his request Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 - 0 that these funds be transferred into the courthouse contingency funds providing that any funds not used in the courthouse project go back into the general funds account.

Eagle Ridge Airport:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Banks and request of Dr. Ed Byars, Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 - 0 that he attached changes regarding Consent Order #95-CP-37-48 be adopted.

Impact Fees Regarding Newry Sewer:

Council deemed it appropriate to delay any action regarding the attached invoices for tap fees for the Newry Sewer until the County Attorney reviews the Intergovernmental Agreement.

Resolution 2002-17:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 - 0 that Resolution 2002-17, "A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FUNDING FOR SAVANNAH RIVER BASIN COMPREHENSIVE STUDY" be adopted on first and final reading.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting**April 16, 2002****Ordinance 2002-07:**

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, 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 second reading.

Ordinance 2002-08:

Upon the recommendation of the Roads & Transportation Committee, Council voted unanimously to adopted 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 ACCOUNTING THEREFOR, AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 91-10" be adopted on second reading.

Rock Building:

Mrs. Hughes informed Council she had received a letter from the Walhalla Women's Club urging the "Foxfire concept" for the Rock Building.

Comprehensive Infrastructure Master Plan:

Mr. Paul Lewis, Goldie & Associates presented the attached Oconee County Comprehensive Infrastructure Master Plan to Council in which Goldie is proposing the following:

- Assessment of Oconee County's separate elements
- Combination of these elements into a single road map for future
- Serve as a guide for future development and investment decisions
- Present a holistic vision for Oconee County's future, as well as concrete strategies to carry out the vision

After considerable discussion, Mrs. Hughes assigned this matter to the Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee.

LEC Meet:

Mr. Johns scheduled a Law Enforcement, Safety, Health, Welfare & Services Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at 4:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting**April 16, 2002****Letter of Support:**

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 - 0 that Council adopt a letter of support of the naming of the intersection of SC Highways 11 & 28 the "General John A. Wagner Exchange".

Committee Meetings:

The following committee meetings were scheduled May 7, 2002 in Council Chambers:

- Roads & Transportation – 5:30 PM (or immediately following LEC)
- Personnel & Intergovernmental: - 6:30 PM
- Law Enforcement, Safety, Health, Welfare & Services: - 4:30 PM
- Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds: - 3:30 PM

Task Force Report:

Mr. Jim Alexander, Facilitator, Economic Development Task Force Committee presented the attached report of the committee to Council.

Public Comment Session:

Ms. Susie Cornelius expressed disappointment at having Goldie & Associates address Council without them being placed on the agenda, she also expressed appreciation to Council for conserving our natural resources and expressed disappointment that the contract for Freeman/White was placed on the agenda saying it was too early.

Mr. B. J. Littleton spoke regarding impact fees for Walhalla, border patrol, changing the number of Council Members to seven or nine if the proposed redistricting lines are approved by the Justice Department. He also expressed an opinion that DHEC had known about the gas tank removal approved earlier for quite some time. He asked Council to rethink the action taken on the radios for Rural Fire. Mr. Littleton also presented the attached to Council regarding the US Flag in Council Chambers.

Budget & Finance Committee Meets:

Mr. Moore, Chairman, Budget & Finance Committee scheduled meetings April 23rd & 24th for the purpose of discussing department requests.

Adjourn:

Adjourn 7:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green
 Council Clerk