

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, October 1, 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 (via mail): Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Daily Journal, Anderson Independent, WGOG Radio, WYFF TV & WLOS TV.

Members of the press present: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio, Dave Williams – Anderson Independent, Amanda Rylander – Daily Journal & Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier.

Other Organizations Notified:

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

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor-Chair Hughes

Invocation:

Mr. Hamilton gave the invocation.

Certification Presentation:

Mrs. Hughes presented the Certification of Governmental Finance Officers to Mrs. Phyllis Lombard, Oconee County Finance Director.

Safety Facility Building:

Mr. Paul Bonsall & Mr. Daron Speight of Freeman & White updated Council on the Public Safety Facility Building. The plans call for the addition to the building to have 46,550 square feet with brick siding and an asphalt shingle roof to tie in with the roof on the current building. The projected completion date is December 2004. The expected cost is \$5,738,625. (See attached breakdown)

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Public Safety Facility Continued:

Council asked that they receive a monthly summary on the progress of the project from the County Engineer.

Sheriff Department Grant:

Upon recommendation of Chief Deputy Pruitt, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 5 – 0 that a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant in the amount of \$38,861 with a 10% local match be adopted. The match is in the Sheriff Department budget.

County Flag:

Mr. Bob Lipscomb and Mr. Steve Brewer addressed Council regarding the method used to choose the county flag. Mr. Lipscomb informed Council that rule #14 states the decision of the judges is final. He also stated the county started using the "Golden Comer" slogan in 1972 and the county was established in 1868.

After considerable discussion, several Council Members stated they felt Council should make the final decision regarding the flag; however, Mr. Hamilton felt we should abide by the decision of the committee. (See attachment)

Mr. David McMahan again stated he did not feel the flag was appropriate, as it did not represent who the people of Oconee County are. He also stated the Oconee Bell can be found in several states as well as foreign countries. He again reiterated the "Golden Comer" slogan began when realtors used it to sell properties in the county. (See attachment)

After more discussion, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Hamilton voting against) that the matter regarding the flag be tabled and no action be taken at this time.

Solid Waste:

Ms. Melissa Grant, Solid Waste Director presented the attached Seneca Landfill Methane/Blower Flare Status report to Council:

- Passive methane venting system installed during landfill closure in 1998
- Engelhard Corporation studied the feasibility of designing methane extraction system in 1999
- Engelhard declined to proceed due to capital expenditures and uncertainty of methane generated over life of landfill
- Perimeter methane extraction system completed July 2002

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Solid Waste Continued:

- Engelhard working on technology to make methane a more effective fuel source
- High oxygen reading detected initially; modified wells to stop intrusion of air
- Methane levels dropped steadily; probably due to drought
- Average of 78,000 cubic feet of landfill gas per day influencing / extracted from approximately 18.6 acres
- Potential increase of production to approximately 230,000 cubic feet if mined center of landfill, 44% lower than initially expected by Engelhard study
- Capital costs reduced from 1998 since much of the system is already installed; new payback period for industry utilizing methane will be less in three years. (See attached)

Temporary Personnel (Contingency):

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that \$3,500 be taken from contingency for temporary personnel in Building Codes due to one of the employees being out for medical leave.

Ordinance 2002-14:

Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, Council unanimously adopted Ordinance 2002-14, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2001-05, AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAX TO APPLY TO ALL ACCOMMODATIONS LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE" on first reading in title only.

Roads & Transportation Recommendation:

Upon recommendation of the Roads & Transportation Committee, Council voted unanimously to rescind the vote of September 18, 2002 to engage Moreland-Altobelli Engineering Firm to design Rocky Gap Roadway and to take out the water restrictions on the right-of-way form and assure the McLees Family the roadway elevation will change no more than is absolutely necessary for the paving of the roadway.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Jerry Price, Mr. Greg O'Kelley & Mr. Allen Hinson addressed Council regarding Evergreen Subdivision stating they have a court order for the county to stay off that roadway. However, Mr. Norton, County Attorney informed them Oconee County was not named in that court order and it is his opinion that Oconee County does have a right-of-way there, he further suggested that the property owners and/or Mr. Rogers appeal that court decision to determine if the county does have a right-of-way on that roadway.

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Mr. Luther Lyle addressed Council regarding the county flag stating the winning flag was not the flag that was submitted.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the agenda and several other county issues.

Executive Session:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Council go into executive session for the discussion of legal and personnel matters.

Open Session:

Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the recommendation of MGT that the E-911 Technicians salary be frozen at this time as there was an error in the recommendation of that salary.

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 9:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green
Council Clerk