

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, November 19, 2002 at 3:00PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Wallhalla, SC with all Council Members and the County Attorney was also 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: None

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.

Minutes:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 (Mr. Hamilton abstaining due to his not being present at the 11/12/02 meeting) that the minutes of the regular meeting held November 12, 2002 be adopted as printed.

Oconee Community Theater:

Mr. Steve Brewer, General Manager, addressed Council regarding the advantages of a Performing Arts Center in Oconee County. Mr. Brewer asked that the county contribute \$500,000 for this project. Mr. Hamilton challenged Council to support this project.

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Ordinance 2002-16 & Resolution 2002-24:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Hamilton voting against) that Ordinance 2002-16, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUSPENSION OF SUNDAY WORK PROHIBITIONS UNDER SOUTH CAROLINA LAW DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER" be adopted on first reading and Resolution 2002-24, "A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF SUNDAY WORK PROHIBITIONS UNDER SOUTH CAROLINA LAW DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER" be adopted on first and final reading.

Discussion Regarding Abandoned Mobile Homes, Etc.:

Mr. Bret Caulder, Building Codes Director, informed Council his office receives an average of two calls per week regarding abandoned mobile homes, vehicles, etc.

Consideration of City of Westminster Request:

Mr. Caulder also addressed Council regarding the request of the City of Westminster for the county to issue their permits. After a brief discussion, Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 to proceed as is for the present time and an agreement be brought to Council for their consideration.

Solid Waste:

Upon request of Ms. Melissa Grant, Solid Waste Director, Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that Ms. Grant proceed with discussions with Engelhard Corporation regarding the methane recovery project at the Seneca Landfill.

Ordinance 2002-15:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2002-15, "AN ORDINANCE TO DEFINE AND REGULATE THE USE OF ALL OCONEE COUNTY PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS DESIGNATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CITIZENS OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, REPLACING ORDINANCE 92-3" be adopted on second reading.

County Flag:

Mr. Ables requested the composition of the county flag committee be tabled at this time.

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Old Courthouse:

Mr. Robert Banks, County Engineer, presented the attached report on the old courthouse to Council stating that it was not feasible to locate the Sheriff or any part of the Sheriff's Office into the old courthouse.

Fire Study (Contingency):

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 3 – 2 (Mr. Hamilton & Mr. Johns voting against) that \$65,000 be taken from contingency for MGT to conduct a fire study for the county.

Rock Building:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that the Rock Building Renovation Committee present Council with a financial plan for the abatement of the asbestos, the materials for the renovation and the future use of the Rock Building by the first meeting in January, 2003 and if Council does not approve the plan the building will be torn down within two weeks of the presentation of the plan.

Clerk of Court:

Upon request of Mrs. Sallie Smith, Clerk of Court, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that \$11,572 from the courthouse contingency be used for the purchase of a mobile filing system in the new courthouse. (See attachment)

Parks & Recreation:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that \$5,700 be given to the Fair-Oak Youth Center from line item 010 202 30905. (See attachments)

Executive Session:

Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that Council go into executive session following the public comment session for the purpose of discussing two contractual matters.

Public Comment Session:

Ms. Susie Cornelius presented the attached comments.

Mrs. Louise Bell encouraged Council to give the Rock Building Preservation Committee an additional thirty days to formulate a plan.

Mr. B. J. Littleton took issue with the abandoned mobile homes, etc. and expressed an opinion that Building Codes needs to be friendlier.

Executive Session:

Council went into executive session at this time (see motion above).

Open Session:

When open session resumed, Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the county purchase property for the rerouting of Rock Crusher Roadway at a cost of \$5,000.

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that PVC pipe be used in the design of the Tamasee Convenience Center.

Adjourn:

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 5:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green
Council Clerk