

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, December 17, 2002 at 3:00PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, 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: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio, Dave Williams – Anderson Independent, Ashton Hester & Ray Chandler – Daily Journal.

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. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held December 3, 2002 be adopted as printed.

Resolution 2002-25:

- Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 (Mr. Hamilton abstaining) that Resolution 2002-25, “A RESOLUTION HONORING MR. HARRY HAMILTON” be adopted on first and final reading. Mrs. Hughes presented the resolution to Mr. Hamilton.

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Auditor’s Office (Contingency):

- Upon request of Mr. Kenneth F. Williams, County Auditor, Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that \$5,250 be taken from contingency for the purchase of software to comply with Section 56-3-210, 1976 SC Code of Law, as amended allowing the general public to purchase temporary tags from the Auditor’s Office and the fee for the tag be \$5.00.

Public Safety Facility:

- Mr. Paul Bonsall, Freeman/White presented the attached update on the Public Safety Facility to Council. The bid items contain the following: Building addition – 46,550 square feet, existing building renovations – 11,970 square feet and alternate No. 2 – additional site work – 46,550 square feet. This project is expected to be placed out for bid January 6, 2003. The estimated cost of the project is \$6,475,906 which is approximately \$700,000 over budget. (See attachment)

Mrs. Hughes assigned any substantial changes to be made to the plans of the Public Safety Facility to the Budget & Finance Committee.

Title III Expenditures:

- Mr. Jason Caudill and Mr. Howard Hiller presented the attached report to Council regarding expenditures of the Title III funds. The expenditures include three parts: I – Programming, II – Youth Programming and III – Partnerships Formed.

Rock Building:

- Upon request of Mr. Bud Lorsch, Mr. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that the Rock Building Renovation Committee be given until January 21, 2003 to present their plan to Council.

Solid Waste:

- Mr. Brad Norton, County Attorney, informed Council that in the past Oconee County has allowed municipalities to deposit residential and commercial waste at the landfill at no cost. However, the landfill has now been closed and Oconee County is paying \$27.65 per ton to have waste transported to Homer, GA. Commercial haulers are charged \$35.00 per ton to deposit waste at the transfer station and the cost to the county is approximately \$33.00 per ton.

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Solid Waste Continued:

Several years ago Westminster made the decision to enter into a contract with Waste Management for the hauling of their residential and commercial waste. Westminster is now considering hauling residential waste again, they received bids for the hauling of commercial waste and the City of Seneca is low bid. At the present time Walhalla and Seneca are depositing commercial waste free at the landfill.

At this time there are three options open to the county:

- (1) If the municipality picks up commercial waste outside the city limits, charge that municipality the tipping fee
- (2) Let all commercial haulers inside the municipalities deposit waste free
- (3) Charge all commercial haulers the tipping fee

After a brief discussion, Mrs. Hughes delayed any action regarding the matter until January 21, 2003. (See attached report)

(Mr. Lyles left at this time)

Rock Quarry:

- Upon request of Mr. Tommy Crumpton, Rock Quarry Director, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, approved 4 – 0 that the Rock Quarry be permitted to purchase a diesel engine, 4-cylinder, 33 HP Miller Big 40 CAT welder at a cost of \$8,749.47. The funds for this purchase will come from the capital expenditures line item. (See attached request)

Ordinance 2002-16:

- Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 3 – 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 second reading.

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Ordinance 2002-15:

- Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2002-15, “AN ORDINANCE KNOWN AS 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 third and final reading.

County Flag:

- Mr. Ables informed those present that the committee to choose a county flag has not been formed at this time and will not be formed until after the new Council Member takes office.

Mr. Carroll Gambrell stated Council was swayed by distortions and false claims, the Oconee Bell grows almost exclusively in Oconee County, the “Golden Corner” slogan was first used by the Oconee County Economic Development Commission, the contest was a design element contest and was open to all citizens. Mr. Gambrell also stated the citizens have already accepted the flag.

Cell Phone Service:

- Mrs. Lombard, Finance Director, informed Council the study regarding cell phones and pagers has been completed needs to be reviewed by the Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee Meeting.

Lakeview Rest Home (Contingency):

- Upon request of Mrs. Lombard, Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 4 – 0 that \$8,500 be taken from contingency for an HVAC system at Lakeview Rest Home.

Letter of Support:

- Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 4 – 0 that the City of Walhalla be sent a letter of support for a grant over a five-year period in the total amount of \$500,000 for a fire truck.

Personnel & Intergovernmental Recommendation:

- Upon recommendation of the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee, Council voted unanimously that funding of the staffing study be delayed until after the county audit is received.

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Roads & Transportation Recommendations:

- Upon recommendation of the Roads & Transportation Committee, Council unanimously adopted the following recommendations:

- (1) The county supply gravel for Walhalla High School, Fair Oak Youth Center and blade and gravel the roadway to Lighthouse Care Center if it is an eleemosynary organization
- (2) The Road Department move forward with the relocation of a portion of WA 91 as time allows
- (3) Old Chapman Bridge Roadway be removed from the current paving contract and be re-bid as the scope of work has changed since it was bid the first time
- (4) A bond on the sub-grade, paving, seeding, etc. be accepted on the roadways in Eleven South Subdivision
- (5) The Road Department maintain Lone Wolf Roadway
- (6) A letter be sent to Summit Subdivision permitting child-proofing of the catch basins

Public Comment Session:

- Mr. Lawrence Kolze addressed Council regarding the county flag.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding solid waste and suggested a dedicated sales tax to alleviate some of the problems, she also suggested that all roadways should be treated the same.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council suggesting work on Short Street be halted until a decision is made regarding the Rock Building, he also expressed dislike for the Oconee Bell flower.

Adjourn:

- Adjourn: 5:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green

Council Clerk