

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Mr. Steven R. Moore, District I Mr. Kenneth E. Johns, Jr., District II
Rev. William "Bill" Rinehart, 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, May 20, 2003 at 3:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members except Mr. Johns present. 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: Ray Chandler – Daily Journal & Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio.

Other Organizations Notified:

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

Call to Order:

Vice Chair Ables called the meeting to order.

Invocation:

Mr. Rinehart gave the invocation.

Minutes:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 3 – 0 that the minutes of the special meeting held May 2, 2003, the regular meeting held May 6, 2003 and the special meeting held May 13, 2003 be adopted as printed.

Upstate Alliance:

Ms. Vickie Sosebee Upstate Alliance Committee Chair expressed appreciation to Council for their investment and participation in Upstate Alliance.

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Upstate Alliance Continued:

Mr. Sam Konduros, Upstate Alliance CEO presented the attached update including the goal of Upstate Alliance: "The Alliance's goal is to spearhead an aggressive, innovative and comprehensive global marketing strategy to attract new investment to the Upstate's 10-county region. By creating a powerful brand and image for the region, increased opportunity will ultimately lead to greater investment, enhancing prosperity and quality of life for the entire Upstate. This marketing program will help position the 10-county area as a premier region for global business.

Possible Vacancy in Supervisor's Office:

Mr. Steve Blackwell addressed Council regarding the possible vacancy in the Supervisor's Office. Mr. Blackwell informed Council the Supervisor is the executive branch of government and Council is the legislative branch and expressed an opinion that Council needed to find an executive to replace an executive should a vacancy occur in the Supervisor's Office.

Rural Fire:

After a brief discussion, Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 3 – 0 that Council accept the recommendation of the Rural Fire Commission to proceed with a referendum establishing a special tax district for the Keowee Key Fire District.

Upon recommendation of Mr. Bobby Williams, Rural Fire Chair, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 3 – 0 that a 1974 Ford Truck Model Number F11YR be titled back to the Cleveland Fire Department.

Solid Waste:

Upon request of Ms. Melissa Grant, Solid Waste Director, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 3 – 0 that the bid process be waived and Trehel Corporation be engaged for Transfer Station Repairs at a cost of \$36,116 plus \$1,250 for engineering fees due to the county's long term relationship with the company, the fact this company was involved in the original design of the Transfer Station and this cost is most likely better than we would receive if it were placed for bids. (See attached)

Also, upon request of Ms. Grant, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 3 – 0 that the proposal of Goldie & Associates for closure of Seneca Landfill, Phase II be adopted and forwarded to DHEC for approval.

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Solid Waste Continued:

Further, upon request of Ms. Grant, Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 2 – 0 (Mr. Rinehart out of room) that the attached Methane Well Remediation Plan for Seneca Landfill be adopted and forwarded to DHEC for approval.

Ordinance 2003-06:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 2 – 0 (Mr. Rinehart out of room) that Ordinance 2003-06, "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE TIME LIMITATIONS FOR RECEIVING TAX REFUNDS FROM OCONEE COUNTY, AND REPEALING OCONEE COUNTY ORDINANCE 95-8" be adopted on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2003-07:

Although Council had advertised a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2003-07, there was no one present with comments regarding the ordinance.

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 3 – 0 that Ordinance 2003-07, "OCONEE COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL ORDINANCE" be adopted on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2003-08:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 3 – 0 that Ordinance 2003-08, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH PICKENS COUNTY, DATED MAY 4, 1998 AND AMENDED ON DECEMBER 7, 1998, ON DECEMBER 21, 1999 AND APRIL 4, 2000; SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK BEING GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN PICKENS COUNTY AND OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS OF 1976 §4-1-170, ET SEQUITUR, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX TO THE COUNTIES AND RELEVANT TAXING ENTITIES; AND, TO PROVIDE THAT JOBS TAX CREDITS ALLOWED BY LAW BE PROVIDED FOR INDUSTRIES LOCATING IN SAID PARK, AND TO PERMIT A USER FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION" be adopted on first reading.

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Resolution 2003-16:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 3 – 0 that Resolution 2003-16, "A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL & THE OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGARDING UNFUNDED MANDATES" be adopted on first and final reading.

Executive Session:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 3 – 0 that Council go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter and an employment matter.

Open Session:

Solid Waste:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 3 – 0 that the County Attorney and Solid Waste Director negotiate reimbursement to a property owner adjacent to the Seneca Landfill where there is a migration issue.

Blood Connection Sub Lease:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 2 – 0 (Mr. Moore abstaining due to his being a member of the Hospital Board) Council approve a sub lease between Oconee Memorial Hospital and the Blood Connection.

Supervisor:

Mr. Ables informed Council the Governor had suspended Supervisor Hughes and named Mr. Harry R. Hamilton as Interim Supervisor, Council then voted unanimously that Mrs. Hughes return her keys to the administrative offices, the credit card and the county car be returned to the administrative offices, and further, that the alarm codes and computer passwords be changed.

Letter to Employees:

Upon recommendation of the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee, Council voted unanimously that the attached letter be forwarded to all county employees assuring them of no repercussions should they choose to talk with either the defense or the prosecution or not talk to anyone regarding the charges against Mrs. Hughes.

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Recommendation of Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee, Council voted unanimously to ratify the sale of the timber on county owned property adjacent to the hospital.

Recommendation of Budget & Finance Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee Council voted unanimously to place the attached list of roads to be overlaid out for bid.

SWAG Committee:

Mr. Norton informed Council the SWAG Committee would be meeting again on Thursday, May 22, 2003 and he hoped to have an agreement to present to Council at the first meeting in June.

Newry Project:

Mrs. Lombard, Finance Director, informed Council the County had won an Award of Excellence for the Newry Project.

Budget & Finance Meet:

The Budget & Finance Committee scheduled a meeting Thursday, May 22, 2003 at 9:00 AM in Council Chambers for the purpose of further discussing 2003-04 budget requests.

Statement:

Mr. Ables read the attached statement regarding the indictment of the County Supervisor.

Public Comment Session:

Mrs. Barbara Sokol asked if the County would be paying both Mrs. Hughes and Mr. Hamilton during his tenure in office, however, Council was unable to answer that question.

Mr. B. J. Littleton spoke in favor of the letter going to county employees; he also spoke regarding the fire departments and other recent actions of Council.

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Adjourn:

Adjourn: 5:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green, Clerk to Council