

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, June 3, 2003 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: 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:

Interim Supervisor-Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order.

Invocation:

Mr. Rinehart gave the invocation.

Minutes:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held May 20, 2003 be adopted with the correction that the motion regarding the special fire district at Keowee Key was not the recommendation of the Rural Fire Commission.

ATAX Grants:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Gerald Foster, ATAX Committee, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the attached two (2) ATAX Grants be adopted: one in the amount of \$16,798 to South Cove Park and one in the amount of \$3,000 to Westminster Depot.

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Fire Equipment:

Mr. Ronald Butts, Interim Fire Marshall & Mr. Brad Free, Walhalla Fire Chief addressed Council regarding equipment needed for the new fire truck in Walhalla. After a brief discussion in which Mr. Free informed Council he had removed this truck from service due to a lack of equipment, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the Law Enforcement, Safety, Health, Welfare & Services Committee discuss this matter June 17, 2003 at 2:00 PM.

Grants Information:

Ms. Linda Shugart, Grants Coordinator & Chief Deputy Wilson addressed Council regarding the attached Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs Grant in the total amount of \$44,127 for a Criminal Domestic Violence Investigator. Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that this grant be adopted.

Ms. Shugart also presented the attached information regarding South Carolina Office of Rural Health, South Carolina Rural Access to Emergency Devices Grant Program, which Oconee County has been invited to participate in.

Cameras for Courtroom:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Carl Hayden, Information Technology Director, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that two way cameras be installed in the Law Enforcement Center linking the courtroom and the Seneca Magistrate's Office at a cost of \$28,000 which will be paid by the state be accepted.

Phone System:

Mr. Hayden also informed Council he would like to upgrade the phone system at the Pine Street Administrative Offices and eventually upgrade the phone system at the Law Enforcement Center at an approximate cost of \$50,000, however, he did not have firm figures to present to Council at this time and he was presenting this as information only. In upgrading the phone system, it would save the county money in the long run.

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County Maps:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Carl Hayden, Information Technology Director, Mr. Jim Alexander, Economic Development Director & Ms. Marianne Dillard, Procurement Director, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that due to the good relationship between Oconee County and Kingfisher Maps, Inc., the layout of their map being well received, Kingfisher and the county using the same software, Economic Development having quick access to their maps and Kingfisher being a local company, the bid process be waived and the County negotiate with Kingfisher Maps, Inc. for the updating of the county maps

Parks:

Upon recommendation of Ms. Vickie Satterfield, Parks Director, Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 - 0 that the attached Description Revision Form for line item 010 202 50850 in the amount of \$20,000 be adopted.

Also, upon recommendation of Ms. Satterfield & Ms. Dillard, Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that the bid for a rental shelter at South Cove Park be awarded to Feltman Brothers, Inc. who was low bid at \$46,789, contingent upon approval of the Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee.

Communications (Contingency):

Upon recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee, Council voted unanimously to continue with the encryption of radios and other tasks associated with completing the voting network with Gunby Communications, Inc. at a total cost of \$68,287.65, which is the final phase of the bid, which was awarded May 31, 2000. (See attached)

Upon request of Mr. Murray, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that \$6,500 be taken from contingency for maintenance on equipment for the Communications Department in the current fiscal year.

Commission Appointment:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Mr. Dewitt Mize be chosen as the Supervisor's appointee on the Rural Fire Commission.

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Ordinance 2003-09:

Upon recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee, Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 2003-09, "THE 2003-04 OCONEE COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE" on second reading.

Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee Recommendations:

Upon recommendation of the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee, Council voted unanimously to adopt a policy of county financial assistance to employees who desire legal representation when questioned by either party concerning the pending charges against Mrs. Hughes. This assistance will be administered through Interim Supervisor Hamilton's office and any employee wishing to utilize these services needs to contact Mr. Hamilton.

Also, upon recommendation of the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee, Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2003-17, "A RESOLUTION SUSPENDING POLICY 3-3 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL" on first and final reading.

Roads & Transportation Committee Recommendations:

Upon recommendation of the Roads & Transportation Committee, Council voted unanimously to accept the roadways in Moonlight Bay on Keowee Subdivision.

Also, upon recommendation of the Roads & Transportation Committee, Council voted unanimously to take \$21,000 from the 2002-03 road paving funds for the cost of reconstructing Lobloly Pine Dr. & Coneross Pointe Dr. in the 2001-02 paving contract. (See attachment)

Further, upon recommendation of the Roads & Transportation Committee, Council voted unanimously to place twelve (12) miles of overlay be placed out for bid.

Main Courtroom:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the main Courtroom be named after Mr. William H. Ballenger.

SWAG Committee:

Mr. Norton, County Attorney, informed Council the SWAG Committee was close to an agreement and he hoped to get it to Council for review in the next week.

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Public Comment Session:

Ms. Susie Cornelius spoke regarding the capital improvement plan, the budget and bond issues.

Mr. B. J. Littleton spoke regarding a physician for inmates, the convenience centers and the policy adopted for employees.

Physicians Contract:

Upon recommendation of the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee, Council voted unanimously to renew the contract with Dr. Booker for services for the inmates at a cost of \$10,000 per year.

Supervisor's Salary:

Also, upon recommendation of the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee, Council voted unanimously that the Interim Supervisor's salary be \$79,995 per year.

Executive Session:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Council go into executive session regarding a contractual matter and an employment matter.

Open Session:

Contractual Matter:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the freeze on Library Funds at First Citizens Bank be lifted and the Library apply for their own federal identification number.

Tuition for Employees:

Mr. Hamilton referred a tuition program for employees to the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee.

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Adjourn:

Adjourn: 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green, Clerk to Council