

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 17, 2003 at 3:00 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, Dave Williams – Anderson Independent & 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:

Interim Supervisor-Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order.

Invocation:

Mr. Rinehart gave the invocation.

Resolutions 2003-19 & 2003-18:

Mr. Ables presented Resolution 2003-19, "A RESOLUTION HONORING DR. DONALD C. GARRISON" to Dr. Garrison.

Mr. Ables presented Resolution 2003-18, "A RESOLUTION HONORING THE VILLAGE OF NEWRY" to Mr. Hershel Harper.

Minutes:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held June 3, 2003 be adopted as printed.

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Sewer Commission Budget:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Howard Adams, Chairman, Mr. Rhett Smith, Finance Chairman & Mr. Robert Winchester, Sewer Commission Superintendent, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that the attached 2003-04 fiscal year budget for the Sewer Commission be adopted.

Economic Annual Progress Report:

Mr. Shawn Colin, SC Appalachian Council of Governments, presented the attached "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2003 Annual Progress Report and Update" to Council.

Workforce Investment Act:

Ms. Julia Sermons, Director, Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board, presented the attached Modifications of the Local Five-Year Strategic Plan to Council.

Rock Building:

Mr. Steve Sokol addressed Council regarding a long-term lease between Oconee County and Patriots Hall Association for the "Rock Building" located on Short Street, Walhalla, SC.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that such a lease be approved contingent upon approval of the Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee.

Ozone Action Coordinator:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Tom Hendricks, Planning Director, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Mr. Art Holbrooks be appointed as the county's Ozone Action Coordinator.

Emergency Management Grants:

Upon recommendation of Ms. Linda Shugart, Grants Coordinator & Mr. Henry Gordon, Emergency Management Director, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the attached three grants – CERT Grant in the amount of \$5771, Supplemental Local Planning in the amount of \$16,021 and Citizen Corps in the amount of \$1,950 be adopted.

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Procurement:

Upon request of Ms. Marianne Dillard, Procurement Director, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that she be allowed to purchase a building, etc. at a cost of \$7,340 to be located at Vehicle Maintenance and used for items to be auctioned.

Solid Waste:

Upon recommendation of Ms. Melissa Grant, Solid Waste Director, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that the attached Groundwater Quality Assessment Work plan for Five Forks Landfill be adopted and forwarded to DHEC.

Mr. Moore asked the Supervisor to write a letter to the Oconee County Legislative Delegation regarding the short time frame in which we are given to return plans to DHEC.

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that the recommendation of the Solid Waste Commission to increase the cost of mulch \$3.00 per scoop be adopted. (See attached recommendation)

Law Enforcement Center:

Mr. John Murray, Emergency Communications Director, informed Council of needs for updating the communications center – Mr. Murray informed Council that we need management statistics, on line inventory of utilities, on line inventory of hazardous materials and on line inventory of fire station resources.

Vehicle Fee:

Council discussed the proposed vehicle fee to become effective January 1, 2004 to defray the loss of revenue in vehicle tax. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council to use Horry County as a model.

Equipment for Fire Truck (Contingency):

Upon recommendation of the Law Enforcement, Safety, Health, Welfare & Services Committee, Council voted unanimously to take \$17,600 from contingency for equipment for the fire truck house in the City of Walhalla.

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Retirement (Contingency):

Upon recommendation of the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee, Council voted unanimously to take up to \$1100 from contingency to pay the county portion of an employee wishing to buy approximately six weeks retirement.

Health Insurance:

Also, upon recommendation of the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee, Council voted unanimously that the county continue with Benefit Administrators, Inc. for the health coverage for county employees which is a name change from MCA, Inc.

Budget & Finance Committee Meeting:

The Oconee County Budget & Finance Committee scheduled a meeting Thursday, June 19, 2003 at 9:00 AM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC for the purpose of discussing FF&E for the Public Safety Facility.

Aeronautics:

An employee who was with Van Surdam has left that company and is now performing plane maintenance independently. This has caused some problems for Van Surdam and upon recommendation of Mr. Robert Banks, Airport Director, Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that the lease with Van Surdam for maintenance at the airport be referred to the Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee and the two percent that is paid to the county be held in escrow until the matter is resolved.

Public Buildings (Contingency):

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that \$3,000 be taken from contingency for utilities for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Interview Committee for Fire Chief:

Upon recommendation of Interim Supervisor Hamilton, Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the following persons be appointed as an interview committee for the Fire Chief Chairman, LEC Committee, Council Clerk, Emergency Management Director, Vice Chairman, Fire Chiefs & Chairman, Rural Fire Commission.

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Public Comment Session:

Ms. Kathryn McDeed voiced opposition to gold mining in the county.

Ms. Susie Cornelius spoke regarding sending a letter to DHEC, groundwater at Five Forks Landfill, giving consideration to another engineer other than Goldie & Associates and the vehicle fee.

Mr. B. J. Littleton spoke regarding the vehicle fee and state mandates.

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 5:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green, Clerk to Council