

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 Monday, June 30, 2003 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members except Mr. Rinehart 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, Dave Williams – Anderson Independent & 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:

Interim Supervisor-Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order.

Invocation:

Mr. Ables gave the invocation.

Minutes:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held June 17, 2003 be adopted as printed.

Resolution 2003-20:

Mr. Steve Moore, Council Representative on the Hospital Board, presented Mr. W. H. Hudson with Resolution 2003-20, "A RESOLUTION HONORING MR. W. H. HUDSON" upon his retirement as President of Oconee Memorial Hospital.

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Resolutions 2003-21 - 2003-27:

The Council Members presented Resolutions 2003-21 – 2003-27, "RESOLUTIONS HONORING MS. BEVERLY CASEY, MS. CAROLYN HARRIS, MS. PATSY SMITH, MR. HOWARD HILLER, MR. LEE KEESE, MS. NINA HANKS & MR. JIM SMITH" upon their retirement.

Resolution 2003-28:

Mr. Lyles made a motion seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that Resolution 2003-28, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INDUCEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, AND VALENITE MANUFACTURING INC. WHEREBY, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, OCONEE COUNTY WILL EXECUTE A FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT FOR A PROJECT INVOLVING NOT LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$25,000,000) INVESTMENT" be adopted on first and final reading.

Veterans Park:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Jerry Dyar, Veterans Affairs Director, Mr. Joe Rawl & Mr. Philip Piazza, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 4 – 0 that the name "OCONEE COUNTY VETERANS PARK" be placed on the wall beside the courthouse.

Humane Society (Contingency):

Upon request of Ms. Lindsay Addis, Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that \$20,617 be taken from the 2003-04 contingency and given to the Humane Society for workers compensation, insurance, veterinary fees and the spay/neuter program.

County Financial Audit:

Upon recommendation of Ms. Marianne Dillard, Procurement Director & Mrs. Phyllis Lombard, Finance Director, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that Byerley & Payne audit the County's financial records for the year ending June 30, 2003 at a cost of \$28,000 plus travel expenses and assist the County with implementation of GASB 34 at a cost of \$35 - \$80 per hour. (See attached letter)

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Executive Session:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that Council go into executive session for the purpose of discussing an employment matter and receipt of legal advice.

Open Session:

Ordinance 2003-09:

Mrs. Lombard, Finance Director informed those present that Ordinance 2003-09, "THE 2003-04 OCONEE COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE" includes the following:

Section 22: In Department 705, Direct Aid, Revenue Sharing Funds have been continued to the cities by Oconee County for a number of years, however, it is the intent of Council that this be the last year such funds are given as the County no longer receives federal revenue sharing funds.

Section 25: A Road Maintenance Fee of Fifteen (\$15.00) dollars on each motorized vehicle licensed in Oconee County is scheduled to be included on motor vehicle tax notices which become due and payable January 1, 2004, and each month thereafter with the proceeds going into the County general fund and being specifically used for the maintenance and improvement of the County road system.

Also, the following footnote is included: Funding for furniture, fixtures and equipment is necessary for the Emergency Services Facility currently undergoing construction. It is the intent of Council to fund \$270,000 for this purpose from General Fund Balance.

The budget also includes \$35,435,398 in County operational funds, \$53,445,215 school funds, \$3,642,081 solid waste funds and \$3,241,935 rock quarry funds.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 3 – 0 (Mr. Moore abstaining due to his brother serving as commission member) that the budget be amended to take \$4,200 from miscellaneous capital improvements for the purpose of increasing the pay for Planning Commission Members from \$100 per year to \$25 per meeting due to the number of meetings relating to the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Moore also asked that it be a part of the public record that he abstained from voting on any hospital issues, as he is a member of the Oconee Memorial Hospital Board.

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Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2003-09, "THE 2003-04 OCONEE COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE" be adopted on third and final reading as amended.

Income Sources:

Mr. Hamilton requested the Intergovernmental Committee explore sources of income for the county.

Ordinance 2003-10:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2003-10, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PERSONNEL POLICIES ORDINANCE 97-14, PERSONNEL POLICIES & PROCEDURES" be adopted on first reading.

Capital Improvement Plan:

Mr. Hamilton, Interim Supervisor assigned the Capital Improvement Plan to the Planning Commission.

Blood Drive:

Mrs. Phyllis Lombard, Finance Director, informed those present there would be a blood drive for Kenneth F. Williams, Sr., County Auditor, Tuesday, July 1, 2003.

Professional Line Item Description Change:

Upon request of Mrs. Lombard, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that a line item description change for the professional line item be adopted changing the amount of funding to Moreland/Altobelli from \$65,000 to \$85,000 to assist the county's compliance with GASB 34 inventory of county roadways.

SHARE:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 4 – 0 that the attached mission statement for SHARE be adopted.

Department of Social Services:

There was a brief discussion regarding space needs at the Department of Social Services, however, this is addressed in the Capital Improvement Plan.

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Public Comment Session:

Ms. Susie Cornelius spoke regarding the Capital Improvement Plan and asked that Council reconsider fiscal autonomy for the School Board.

Public Comment Session Continued:

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the County Engineer, fiscal autonomy for the School Board, the Department of Social Services and the Humane Society.

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 7:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green, Clerk to Council