

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, December 2, 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: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio & 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. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes of the November 18, 2003 Council meeting be adopted as printed.

Public Hearing RE: Ordinance 2003-22:

Council then held a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2003-22, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AS LESSOR AND JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC.; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES".

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Public Hearing RE: Ordinance 2003-22 Continued:

To Ms. Susie Cornelius inquiry, Mr. James Alexander, Economic Development Director assured her if she would come by his office he would explain the fee-in-lieu to her.

There was no one present with written comments.

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2003-22 (titled above) be adopted on third and final reading.

Public Hearing RE: Ordinance 2003-23:

Council then held a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2003-23, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC. FOR GRANTING CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDITS TO JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC."

There was no one present with written and/or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2003-23.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2003-23 (titled above) be adopted on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2003-25:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Johns voting against) that Ordinance 2003-25, "AN ORDINANCE TO ABOLISH THE OFFICE OF TAX COLLECTOR FOR OCONEE COUNTY AND TO DEVOLVE THE POWERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FORMERLY EXERCISED BY THE OFFICE OF TAX COLLECTOR FOR OCONEE COUNTY UPON THE FINANCE DIRECTOR FOR OCONEE COUNTY" be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2003-26:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2003-26, "AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE OCONEE COUNTY PARKS AND TOURISM COMMISSION, AND REPEALING OCONEE COUNTY ORDINANCE 99-6, AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE OCONEE COUNTY TOURISM PROMOTION COMMISSION" be adopted on second reading.

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Ordinance 2003-27:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2003-27, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 99-7 AS TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE COMMISSION CREATED THEREUNDER FROM THE OCONEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO THE OCONEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNCTION, POWERS AND DUTIES THEREOF AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO" be adopted on second reading.

Library Microfiche Cabinet:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that a microfiche cabinet at the Walhalla Library be donated to Clemson University Library contingent upon it not being needed by the Oconee County School District.

Inmate Phone Service:

Upon recommendation of Ms. Marianne Dillard, Procurement Director, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that phone service for inmates be awarded to T-Netix, the only company to submit a quote for the service.

Planting of Acreage:

Upon recommendation of Ms. Dillard, Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Mr. John Little, Forester for Oconee County, contract with a company and oversee the re-seeding, etc. of the acreage where county timber has been harvested and this be paid for from the timber proceeds at an approximate cost of \$5,600.

Register of Deeds:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Council support the proposed legislation to increase the recording fees by \$3.00 with \$2.00 of the fee going to the Register of Deeds Office and the County retaining \$1.00 of this fee in the general fund.

Budget & Finance Recommendations:

Council voted unanimously to accept the following recommendations of the Budget & Finance Committee:

- (1) The job description presented to Council for the Tax Manager to work under the direction of the Finance Director be adopted.

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Budget & Finance Recommendations Continued:

- (2) \$30,000 be taken from contingency for equipment for Emergency Management and this be handled as an emergency purchase as we have some equipment that is not working properly
- (3) The public hearing for the 2003-04 budget amendment be advertised for the first meeting in January 2004.
- (4) A copy of the amendment be placed in all the Libraries.
- (5) The freeze on direct aid be lifted on the following agencies:

OMH Ambulance Service
Anderson/Oconee Speech/Hearing
Public Defender
Board of Disabilities
Anderson/Oconee Mental Health
City of Seneca
City of Walhalla
City of Westminster
Town of Salem
Town of West Union
Senior Solutions
Master-in-Equity
Lakeview Rest Home
SC Upper Piedmont Heritage Association
Oconee Heritage Center Museum

Information Technology & Other Capital Expenditures:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the freeze on capital equipment for the Information Technology Department be lifted and any other capital needs be considered on a one by one basis until the Amended Budget has been adopted.

Roads & Transportation Recommendation:

Upon recommendation of the Roads & Transportation Committee, Council voted unanimously to accept the relocation of Leroy Road contingent upon the property owners (Mr. & Mrs. Polk) being responsible for the moving of all utilities and their paying in advance for the roadway to be paved.

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Public Comment Session:

Mr. Bobby Bugg addressed Council regarding the consideration of water slides at the County Parks. Mr. Bugg was advised that he needed to address the PRT Commission.

County Seal:

Mr. Rinehart announced a luncheon at noon on Friday, December 12, 2003 at the Administrative Offices followed by the unveiling of the County Seal at James M. Brown Elementary School at 1:30 PM.

Public Comment Session Continued:

Mr. Larry Linson addressed Council regarding the cost to renovate office space for the Probate Judge Office.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding the Pendleton District Workforce, the need for impact fees for new developments, Duke Power giving \$25,000 to the Keowee Key Fire Department, the Planning Commission, etc.

Mr. Steve Sokol addressed Council regarding Parks & Tourism and making sure the County offers fee-in-lieu only to companies that will enhance Oconee County.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding Magistrate fees, fire departments, Lakeview Rest Home, the old courthouse, etc.

Executive Session:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Council go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter.

Open Session (Contingency):

When open session resumed, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that \$5,700 be taken from contingency for O&M on the HAZMAT Building.

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Adjourn:

Adjourn 8:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green, Clerk to Council