

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, January 6, 2004 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members except Mr. Johns present. Mr. Norton, 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: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio, Dave Williams – Anderson Independent, Rolann Lee – Westminster News & 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. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 4 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held December 2, 2003, the minutes of the special meeting held December 9, 2003 and the minutes of the special meeting held December 12, 2003 be adopted with the correction to the December 12, 2003 minutes that the Sewer Commission, not DHEC being the agency to approve the SWAG Agreement.

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Tri County Technical College:

Dr. Ronnie L. Booth, President, Tri County Technical College, addressed Council regarding a 7,500 square foot training facility dedicated for training for new and expanding businesses and industries in the tri county area. The proposed building consists of two classrooms with 750 square feet each and an open lab area consisting of 6,000 square feet with the cost to each of the counties being \$100,000 each. (See attachment)

After a brief discussion, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that this request be referred to the Planning Commission.

Public Hearing RE: Ordinance 2003-16:

Council held a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2003-16, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2003-09, OCONEE COUNTY FINANCIAL PLAN".

There was no one present with written and/or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2003-16.

Council, then unanimously adopted Ordinance 2003-16 (titled above) on third and final reading.

Public Hearing RE: Ordinance 2003-25:

Council then held a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding 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 DELINQUENT TAX DIVISION, A DIVISION OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT FOR OCONEE COUNTY".

There was no one present with written and/or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2003-25.

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 4 – 0 that third and final reading of Ordinance 2003-25 (titled above) be postponed until January 20, 2004 due to some of the language needing to be clarified.

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Law Enforcement, Safety, Health, Welfare & Services Committee:

Mr. Rinehart, Chair, LEC Committee scheduled meetings of that committee every second Friday of the month at 10:00 AM in Council Chambers until further notice.

Ordinance 2003-26:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 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" as amended be adopted on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2003-27:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 4 – 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 third and final reading.

Probate Judge Office:

Mr. Hamilton, Interim Supervisor informed Council it was the recommendation of the administration that the Probate Judge's Office be completed as per the attached drawing and the work be contracted out to be completed by hopefully by June. Council was in agreement with this plan.

Department of Social Services (Contingency):

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that \$3,550 be taken from contingency and placed in the Department of Social Services pauper funeral line item.

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Tax Collector's Office:

Upon request of Mrs. Phyllis Lombard, Finance Director, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 3 – 1 (Mr. Lyles voting against) that desks, chairs, files, a bookcase, updating of phone system, etc. for the Tax Collector's Office be purchased at a cost of \$7,705.07 with the funds coming from the delinquent tax sales. (See attached)

Roads & Transportation Committee Recommendation:

Upon recommendation of the Roads & Transportation Committee, Council voted unanimously that \$4,000 for rock crushing equipment plus an additional \$30,000 for transportation of the equipment be taken from the same line item the forty-ton rock truck was purchased from be adopted.

Ordinance 2004-01:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2004-01, "AN ORDINANCE CREATING A COUNTY APPOINTED LAKEVIEW ASSISTED LIVING COMMISSION" be adopted on first reading in title only.

Resolution of Sympathy:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 4 – 0 that the County adopt a Volunteer Resolution of Sympathy.

SC Appalachian Council of Governments Board:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 4 – 0 that Mr. Robert Gaillard be reappointed as the Oconee County Citizen Member on the SC Appalachian Council of Governments Board.

Public Comment Session:

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding her willingness to serve as a member of the Lakeview Assisted Living Commission and the location of the annual SC Association of Counties Conference.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the three-minute time limit for anyone to speak to Council during the public comment session.

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Executive Session:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that Council go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, legal matters and contractual matters.

Open Session (Contingency):

When open session resumed, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 4 – 0 that \$5,000 be taken from contingency to hire Patrick K. Hughes, Sr. to evaluate the ten fire trucks delivered to Oconee County between June and August, 2002.

Adjourn:

Adjourn 9:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green, Clerk to Council