

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 20, 2004 at 3:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members except Mr. Rinehart 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, Ray Chandler – Daily Journal & 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. Moore gave the invocation.

Minutes:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held January 6, 2004 be adopted as printed.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting January 20, 2004

Resolution of Sympathy 2004-01:

Mr. Moore, District I Council Member, presented the attached *Sympathy of Resolution* to the family of the late Mr. Coyt Wilbanks.

"Oconee Bell" as Official Flower:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that the "Oconee Bell" be adopted as the official flower of Oconee County.

Mrs. Louise Bell, Chair, Arts & Historical Commission, presented Council with a framed picture of the "Oconee Bell" to be hung in a prominent location at the Administrative Offices.

Public Hearing RE: Timber:

Council then held a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding the sale of timber at the Pine Street Administrative Offices, the Tamasee Road Department equipment storage area, the County Farm area and the DAVCO Building site.

There was no one present with written and/or oral comments regarding the sale of this timber.

DYS Funds (Contingency):

Upon request of Chief Deputy Terry Wilson, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that \$9,000 be taken from contingency and placed in the DYS Detention Center line item.

Leroy Roadway:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that the bid process be waived and Leroy Roadway be added to the current contract of Thrift Development at a cost of \$75,617 to the county and a cost of \$46,742 to the landowner due to there being some roadways that will have to be removed from the contract because of utilities, the cost given for the paving Leroy Roadway being consistent with the current contract, the special circumstances that allowed the county to obtain a right-of-way that we would have otherwise been unable to obtain, a landowner being willing to pay for the preparation of the new portion of the roadway for paving and the fact that this is a high maintenance roadway. (See attached quote)

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting January 20, 2004

Communications Consultant (Contingency):

Upon recommendation of Mr. John Murray, Communications Director & Ms. Marianne Dillard, Procurement Director, Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 3 – 1 (Mr. Moore voting against) that the bid for a technology consultant be awarded to Synergem Emergency Services LLC who was low bid at \$99,360 with \$3,845 being taken from contingency and \$17,500 of this cost being budgeted in the 2004-05 fiscal year budget.

Timber Bids:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that the sale of timber located at the County Farm be awarded to Thrift Brothers Lumber at \$97,750, the sale of timber at DAR Road Department equipment site be awarded to Steed Timber Co. at \$15,200 and the sale of the timber at the Pine Street Administrative Offices (DSS site) be awarded to Thrift Brothers Lumber Company, Inc. at \$7,850 with \$3,500 being set aside as a contingency fund for research, etc. pending the approval of the landowner and receipt of their portion of the funds.

Emergency Management Personal Protective Equipment:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that the bid for Homeland Security Grant Items for Emergency Management personal protective equipment be awarded as delineated on the attached sheet pending approval of SLED grant:

Airgas Safety:	\$ 8,223.39
Aramco:	\$ 3,331.65
Dawson Associates:	\$37,039.80
Exclusive Selections:	\$ 5,229.23
Fisher Safety:	\$27,356.14
W. W. Grainger:	\$ 243.18
Safeco, Inc.:	\$ 1,299.32
Global Protection:	\$11,838.20
GRAND TOTAL:	\$94,560.92

House at Airport:

Ms. Dillard, Procurement Director, informed Council that an individual had contacted her regarding renting the house at the airport, however, this individual informed Ms. Dillard he would pay \$400 a month for rent and make the house livable at his own expense, but he was not willing to pay a security deposit nor did he feel that he should be required to pay liability insurance on the property.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting January 20, 2004

House at Airport Continued:

After a brief discussion in which some of the Council Members felt the cost of the insurance premium could be deducted from his rent, Mr. Lyles suggested that the County Attorney and Procurement Director prepare a lease for the Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee's consideration.

Mr. Lyles scheduled a meeting of that committee Tuesday, February 3, 2004 at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers.

Ordinance 2004-01:

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

Sewer Commission Appointment:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that Mr. Tommy Crumpton be appointed to represent the City of Walhalla on the Sewer Commission.

Interim Supervisor's Salary (Contingency):

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that \$7,807 be taken from contingency for the Interim Supervisor's salary to be paid through Columbia Staffing so that his salary will not interfere with his retirement. (See attached memo from County Attorney)

Kenneth F. Williams Bench:

Upon recommendation of the Kenneth F. Williams Committee, Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that the portion of Resolution 2003-34 stating the bench in memory of Mr. Williams be placed at High Falls Park be rescinded and the bench be placed at the Tax Center.

Ordinance 2004-03:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2004-03, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 4-3 OF ORDINANCE 97-14" be adopted on first reading in title only.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting January 20, 2004

Budget & Finance Meet:

The Oconee County Budget & Finance Committee scheduled a meeting Tuesday, February 3, 2004 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers.

County Employees:

Mr. Moore asked for a listing of county employees that are related.

Law Enforcement, Safety, Health, Welfare & Services Committee Recommendation (Contingency):

Upon recommendation of the LEC Committee, Council voted unanimously to take \$8,767 from contingency for a part time clerical position in the Sheriff's Department.

Also, the recommendation of the LEC Committee that a one-time grant of \$3,000 to the Rural Fire Districts and a one-time grant to the Rescue Squads be referred to the Budget & Finance Committee.

Golf Cart Request at Parks:

Mr. Patton Butts addressed Council regarding the use of golf carts at the Parks. This matter was referred to the Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee.

Vehicle Policy/Moratorium:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that the current policy of insuring county vehicles for liability insurance be adhered to and also that the moratorium on capital expenditures be removed since the amendment to the 2003-04 financial plan has been adopted.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the three-minute time limit for anyone to speak to Council during the public comment session, the insuring of county vehicles and the old courthouse.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting January 20, 2004

Ordinance 2003-25:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 3 – 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 DELINQUENT TAX DIVISION, A DIVISION OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT FOR OCONEE COUNTY" be adopted on third and final reading.

Adjourn:

Adjourn 4:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green, Clerk to Council