

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Steven R. Moore, District I Mr. Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr., District II
Rev. William S. "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, May 16, 2006 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members present. County Administrator Ron Rabun, Clerk to Council & Mr. Norton, County Attorney were also present.

Press:

Members of the press notified (via mail): Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Daily Journal, Anderson Independent, WGOG Radio, WYFF TV, WLOS TV, WSNW Radio & WIRX Radio.

Members of the press present: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio, Dave Williams – Anderson Independent, FOX News and WYFF TV.

Other Organizations Notified:

Also notified were the Oconee County Tax Payers Association, Citizens for Recreation Center and the Oconee County Democratic Party.

Call to Order:

Chairman Ables called the meeting to order.

Invocation:

Mr. Rinehart gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Norton led the pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

Minutes:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held May 1, 2006 be adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Bill Rinehart addressed Council regarding the Budget, Finance & Procurement Committee Meeting held May 11, 2005. As a Councilmember Mr. Rinehart expressed concern that procedure was interpreted to have been violated in the memo that was released regarding the holiday schedule and that as a taxpayer he was embarrassed by the issue raised in the elimination of Martin Luther King holiday.

Mr. Dwight James, SC NAACP, addressed Council regarding the elimination of the Martin Luther King holiday reflecting negatively on Oconee County and South Carolina.

Mr. George Cleveland addressed Council regarding the Department of Social Services Building conditions.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding the criteria for a salary study for county employees.

Ms. Beverly Jenkins addressed Council regarding the Martin Luther King holiday.

Rev. W. C. Honeycutt addressed Council regarding the elimination of the Martin Luther King holiday and the elimination of Good Friday as a County holiday.

Mr. Roger Norwood addressed Council regarding the public's perception of their actions.

Ms. Ruth Tolbert addressed Council regarding the Seneca Library.

Ms. Paula Truelove addressed Council regarding the Seneca Library.

Mr. Richard Truelove addressed Council regarding the Seneca Library.

Mr. David Thornton addressed Council regarding the Seneca Library.

Mr. Daniel Delgado addressed Council regarding the Seneca Library.

Ms. Maria Delgado addressed Council regarding the Seneca Library.

Mr. Wayne Richard addressed Council regarding the Seneca Library.

Ms. Loretta Jenkins addressed Council regarding the Martin Luther King holiday,

Public Comment Session Continued:

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding county employees' salaries and the Martin Luther King holiday.

Resolution 2006-11:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Resolution 2006-11, "A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM D. BRYSON" upon his retirement as a county employee be adopted on first and final reading. Mr. Mack Kelly, Public Works Director, presented this resolution to Mr. Bryson.

Introduction of Roads & Bridges Manager:

Mr. Mack Kelly, Public Works Director, introduced Mr. Thom Moxley, Roads & Bridges Manager to Council.

Public Works Proclamation:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the attached proclamation declaring May 21 – May 27, 2006 as "Public Works Awareness Week in Oconee County" be adopted.

Public Hearing RE: Ordinance 2006-02:

At this time Council conducted a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2006-02, "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN EXTENSION OF TIME OF THE INVESTMENT PERIOD UNDER THE EXISTING FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAXES ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP L.P. AND OCONEE COUNTY".

There were no oral comments regarding Ordinance 2006-02, however Ms. Susie Cornelius presented the attached written statement to Council.

Library (Contingency):

Mr. Rinehart brought it to the attention of Council and the members of the Library Board present that on February 7, 2006 Council requested the following action referencing the feasibility study for the Seneca Library:

"Mr. Rinehart asked that the scope include the following statement: Evaluate the structural and design feasibility of renovating existing downtown structures in harmony with long range development plans."

Library Continued:

After a brief discussion, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Crumpton voting against) that up to \$2,500 be taken from contingency for the purpose of exploring if there are other feasibility options for location of the Seneca Library in conjunction with discussions with the City of Seneca.

The Library Board then presented three options to Council for their consideration at the present Seneca Library Location:

Option 1 – Construction of a new 24,700 square foot single-story building with a connector to the existing 8,300 square foot renovated building at a cost of \$6,294,750 for the building and \$1,320,000 for the furnishings and technology.

Option 2 – Construction of a new 33,000 square foot two story building with partial basement, abandonment of the present building at a cost of \$6,167,700 for the building and \$1,320,000 for the furnishings and technology.

Option 3 – Construction of a new 33,000 square foot single story building, demolition and removal of the existing building at a cost of \$6,221,490 for the building and \$1,320,000 for the furnishings and technology.

The Library Board recommended option #3, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that \$45,000 be taken from capital projects for schematics and placing this project out for bid.

Ordinance 2006-02:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-02, “AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN EXTENSION OF THE TIME OF THE INVESTMENT PERIOD UNDER THE EXISTING FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAXES ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP L.P. AND OCONEE COUNTY” be adopted on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2006-13:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-13, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2003-12 WHICH ESTABLISHED THE KEOWEE FIRE TAX DISTRICT AND THE KEOWEE FIRE COMMISSION” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2006-14:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, defeated 3 – 2 (Mr. Ables & Mr. Rinehart voting for / Mr. Crumpton, Mr. Moore & Mr. Lyles voting against) that Ordinance 2006-14, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE IX, SECTION 9 OF ORDINANCE 2003-07, OCONEE COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL ORDINANCE” (attachment 2 of attached agenda item summary) be adopted on second reading.

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-14, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE IX, SECTION 9 OF ORDINANCE 2003-07, OCONEE COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL ORDINANCE (attachment 1 of the attached agenda item summary) be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2006-15:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Crumpton voting against) that Ordinance 2006-15, “THE 2006-2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2006-16:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-16, THE 2006-2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TRI COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE” be adopted on first reading.

Ordinance 2006-17:

The first reading of Ordinance 2006-17, “AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUSPENSION OF SUNDAY WORK PROHIBITIONS UNDER SOUTH CAROLINA LAW DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST” was tabled pending further study.

Law Enforcement Center (Contingency):

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that \$30,000 be taken from contingency and placed in the Law Enforcement Center medical line item to cover costs for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Aeronautics:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that the bid for aviation fuel at the Oconee County Regional Airport be awarded to Eastern Aviation Fuels, Inc. at a cost of \$399,025 with option 1 (supply and installation of the self service/credit card Avgas pump / cost of pump is \$22,625; Eastern will pay 50% (\$11,312) of cost, balance paid per gallon payback @ \$.05/gallon until County's portion is paid). (See attached bid sheet)

Pendleton District Workforce Board:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that the attached annual modification to the Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board Five Year Plan be adopted.

Road & Transportation (Contingency)

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that \$40,000 be taken from contingency for the purpose of placing tar and gravel on Timberlake Drive (SE 147).

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the County Attorney initiate proceedings to abandon Moccasin Flower Road (WA 318) back to the citizens on that roadway as per their request.

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that charges for the SC Department of Highways to dispose of tires at the landfill be waived due to their collection of tires from the highways.

Budget, Finance & Procurement Committee Recommendation:

Mr. Moore informed those present it was the recommendation of the Budget, Finance & Procurement Committee that the County adopt the State of South Carolina holiday schedule which would be a part of the appropriations ordinance to be adopted on third and final reading Tuesday, June 20, 2006. Mr. Moore also announced a budget work session Thursday, May 25, 2006 at 10:00 am in Council Chambers.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Rabun reported to Council that Mr. Clay Killian, Aiken County Administrator is coming to Oconee County May 24, 2006 for the purpose of discussing their success in the Capital Projects Referendum.

Administrator Report Continued:

Mr. Rabun also informed Council he was planning to take some time out of the office during the Memorial Day weekend.

Further, Mr. Rabun publicly apologized for sending the memorandum prematurely regarding the change in the County holiday schedule.

Board Reappointment:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Mr. Hugh Foster be reappointed as the organized labor representative on the Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board.

Rosa Clark Clinic (Contingency):

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that up to \$15,000 be taken from contingency for an HVAC system for the Rosa Clark Clinic.

Resolution 2006-12:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that Resolution 2006-12, “A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A PROGRAM TO DIVERT PERSONS SENTENCED FOR CHILD SUPPORT DELINQUENCIES AND WORK TRAINING PROGRAM UNDER THE WORK FORCE INVESTMENT ACT” be adopted on first and final reading.

Public Safety Sub Committee:

Mr. Crumpton, Chair, Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee informed Council that Mr. Norton would be drafting an ordinance setting up a Public Safety Sub Committee and returning it to the Committee for approval and recommendation to Council.

Bar Association Resolution:

Mr. Norton read the attached resolution from the Oconee County Bar Association in support of restoring the Martin Luther King holiday.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting

May 16, 2006

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green,
Clerk to Council