

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, June 20, 2006 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members except Mr. Moore 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 & Brett McLaughlin – Daily Journal.

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. Lyles led the pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

Minutes:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 3 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held June 6, 2006 be adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Al Tossie addressed Council regarding reassessment of properties in Oconee County.

Public Comment Session Continued:

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council regarding citizens having a two way conversation with Council and the Delegation.

Mr. Tom Markovich addressed Council regarding proposed Ordinance 2006-20, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6 OF ORDINANCE 99-14, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ORDINANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 7 AND ABOLISHING CHAPTER 7".

Mr. George Blanchard addressed Council regarding proposed Ordinance 2006-19, "AN ORDINANCE FORMALLY ADOPTING VALUES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY ASSESSOR AND SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE BASED ON A DECEMBER 31, 2005 VALUATION DATE FOR TAX YEAR 2006". Mr. Blanchard also addressed Council regarding the delaying of reassessment of properties in Oconee County.

Mr. Jim Doyle addressed Council requesting a delay of reassessment on properties in Oconee County.

Mr. Bo Horne addressed Council requesting a delay of reassessment on properties in Oconee County.

Mr. John Powell, Tri County Board of Realtors, addressed Council requesting a delay of reassessment on properties in Oconee County.

Mr. John Little addressed Council requesting a delay of reassessment on properties in Oconee County.

Mr. John Adams expressed appreciation to Council for support of the Library in the proposed appropriations ordinance.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding a freeze on hiring of County personnel and taxes.

Ordinance 2006-13:

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

Ordinance 2005-15:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 3 – 1 (Mr. Rinehart voting against) that Ordinance 2006-15, “THE 2006-2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY” be adopted on third and final reading. However, adoption of the ordinance failed as it requires a super-majority vote in the affirmative to become effective.

Homestead Exemption:

Mr. Crumpton then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that the County Attorney write the Legislative Delegation a letter on behalf of Council requesting that the homestead exemption be raised from \$50,000 to \$100,000 with a guaranteed annual escalation factor to cover inflation, and also adjusted upward anytime the county implements reassessment.

Ordinance 2006-16:

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

Ordinance 2006-19:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-19, “AN ORDINANCE FORMALLY ADOPTING VALUES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY ASSESSOR AND SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE BASED ON A DECEMBER 31, 2005 VALUATION DATE FOR TAX YEAR 2006” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2006-20:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-20, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6 OF ORDINANCE 99-14, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ORDINANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 7 & ABOLISHING CHAPTER 7” be adopted on first reading.

Solid Waste:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that the bid for a wheel loader for Solid Waste be awarded to Linder Industrial Machinery Co., who was low bid at \$100,542. (See attached bid sheet)

Solid Waste Continued:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 that the bid for compactors and containers for Solid Waste be awarded to Bakers Waste Equipment, who was low bid at \$83,697.50. (See attached bid sheet)

ATAX Grants:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that an ATAX Grant in the amount of \$4,563 be awarded to the Walhalla Merchant's Association for promotion and hosting of "Music Fest in July".

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that an ATAX Grant in the amount of \$10,000 be awarded to the Walhalla Merchant's Association for the purpose of purchasing a multi-purpose entertainment stage.

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 that an ATAX Grant in the amount of \$24,000 be awarded to the Seneca Chamber of Commerce for promotion and hosting of the "Steam Fling Celebration".

Council Committee Reports:

There were no Council Committee reports.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Hendricks informed Council that the convenience centers would be closed Tuesday, July 4, 2006 and reopen on Wednesday, July 5, 2006.

July 4th Meeting:

Mr. Ables informed those present the first meeting in July would fall on July 4th, therefore the meeting would be moved to June 27, 2006 at 3:00 pm.

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green,
Clerk to Council