

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, August 29, 2006 at 3:00 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, WSNW Radio & WIRX Radio.

Members of the press present: Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent, Brett McLaughlin – Daily Journal & Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier.

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. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that minutes of the regular meeting held August 15, 2006 be adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding jail conditions and taxes.

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council regarding bids for a computer mass appraisal system for the Assessor's Office and reassessment.

Jefferson Plantation Roadway:

After a brief discussion, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Moore voting against) to allow a variance on the width of a roadway in Jefferson Plantation from twenty-two feet to twenty feet as this is a minor roadway.

Assessor's Office:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the bid for a computer assisted mass appraisal system for the Assessor's Office be awarded to Manatron, Inc. who was low bid at a total cost of \$220,000. (See attached bid sheet)

ATAX Grants:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that the attached ATAX Grant in the amount of \$5,500 be awarded to the Apple Festival Committee for advertising and promotion of the 2006 Apple Festival.

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that the attached ATAX Grant in the amount of \$10,000 be awarded to the Oconee Community Theater for billboard advertising of upcoming shows.

Commission Appointments:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that Ms. Camille Terry be appointed as the District I Representative on the Parks & Tourism Commission.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Ms. Bettina George be appointed as the At Large Representative on the Parks & Tourism Commission.

Council Committee Reports:

There were no Council Committee reports.

County Administrator Report:

Mr. Hendricks informed Council of a proposed agreement with Mr. John Harris to maintain the 400 acres at Fair Play. Mr. Harris has \$1,000,000 general liability insurance coverage.

Mr. Hendricks also informed Council that the low bid on the fire truck was over the budgeted amount, it was the consensus of Council to allow Mr. Hendricks to remove some of the equipment in order to award a bid within the budgeted amount. This will be brought to Council at the September 19, 2006 meeting.

Mr. Hendricks further informed Council he had received a letter from the City of Seneca stating they no longer have need of the County ladder truck and a letter from the City of Westminster requesting that the ladder truck be housed in Westminster. Mr. Hendricks will present a proposed contract between Oconee County and the City of Westminster for the housing of this ladder truck to Council at the September 19, 2006 meeting.

Mr. Hendricks informed Council he had a tentative agreement with the Oconee County Humane Society in which the Humane Society will lease the County the property on Highway 123 for ninety-nine (99) years at \$1.00 per year. The County will refurbish the building for Animal Control operations and upon completion of the Animal Control facility the County will construct an approximately 12,000 square foot building for the Humane Society's headquarters and adoption facility. A proposed contract will be presented to Council at the September 19, 2006 Council meeting.

Mr. Hendricks informed Council that tentative plans for the Department of Social Services facility would be presented to them before the end of September 2006.

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee Meeting:

Mr. Lyles scheduled a Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee meeting Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at 6:00 pm to discuss the DSS & Animal Control facilities.

Administrator's Report Continued:

Mr. Hendricks recommended to Council that Parks, Recreation & Tourism, Library, Information Technology, GIS, Registration & Elections, Register of Deeds, Facilities Maintenance, Health & Social Services Liaison and Arts & Historical Society Liaison no longer be under the Community Services Director, but report directly to the Administrator.

Administrator's Report Continued:

Mr. Hendricks presented the Oconee County Economic Base Analysis and Tax Exportation Technical Memorandum prepared by Wilber Smith Associates to Council for their review.

Mr. Hendricks also informed Council they would be receiving "Methods for Providing Fire Protection in Oconee County" prepared by the County Attorney.

Gravel for Hospice House (Contingency):

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that funds in the amount of \$2,805 be taken from contingency for gravel for the Hospice House located on hospital property.

Commerce Park:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Mr. John Harris be contracted to provide maintenance on the commerce park at Fair Play. (See attached)

Community Services Director:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 to affirm Mr. Hendricks' recommendation that Parks, Recreation & Tourism, Library, Information Technology & GIS, Registration & Elections, Register of Deeds, Facilities Maintenance, Health & Social Services Liaison and Arts & Historical Society Liaison no longer be under the Community Services Director, but report directly to the Administrator.

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee Meeting:

Mr. Crumpton scheduled a Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee meeting Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Savannah River Basin Board:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Moore, it was the consensus of Council that the Planning Commission make a recommendation for a County representative on the Savannah River Basin Board.

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Executive Session:

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

Open Session:

When open session resumed there was no action regarding the executive session.

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 4:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green,
Clerk to Council