

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. George C. Blanchard, District I Mr. Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr., District II
Mr. Mario Suarez, 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, February 20, 2007 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members except Mr. Blanchard 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, WSPA TV & WSNW Radio.

Members of the press present: Peter Kent – WGOG Radio, Brett McLaughlin – Daily Journal, Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier & Dave Williams – Anderson Independent.

Other Organizations Notified:

Also notified were the Oconee County Tax Payers Association & Citizens for Recreation Center.

Call to Order:

Chairman Lyles called the meeting to order.

Pledge to US Flag:

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

Minutes:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 that the minutes of the February 6, 2007 meeting be adopted as presented.

Plaque given to Mr. Ables:

Chairman Lyles presented Mr. Ables a plaque of appreciation for serving as Chairman of County Council from April 20, 2004 through December 31, 2006.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Keith McDonald addressed Council expressing concerns over the development of Monte Lago.

Mr. Larry Linson addressed Council regarding taxes in the County.

Mr. Clark Dean addressed Council regarding the development of Monte Lago.

Ms. Linda Lovely addressed Council regarding the proposed settlement between Oconee County and Marick Home Builders.

Mr. George Cleveland addressed Council regarding Economic Development in Oconee County.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the Democratic Party being the enemy of the United States.

Ms. Charmagne Burns addressed Council regarding the prayer issue and asked them to consider another vote regarding prayer.

Presentation of Audit:

Ms. Lori Smith & Mr. Jim Manley of ElliottDavis Accountants and Business Advisors presented the audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2006 to Council. Ms. Smith referenced the unqualified opinion issued by the firm regarding the County's financial statements.

Ms. Smith also stated the liabilities had decreased and the fund balance was in a good range.

Public Hearing RE: Land & Building – 110 Commerce Way, Westminster:

At this time Council conducted a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding the sell of +/- 9.34 acres and related improvements including a speculative building located at 110 Commerce Way, Westminster, SC.

Mr. Larry Linson stated the selling of the land and building would be congratulations only if the County recouped all funds expended on the land and building.

Ms. Susie Cornelius stated the County did not need to be in the real estate business.

Public Hearing RE: Land & Building – 110 Commerce Way, Westminster continued:

To Mr. George Cleveland's inquiries, Mr. Hendricks stated the land and building would be sold to Roebuck Builders who would be renovating it for a company that did not wish to be named at this time; initially there will be ten new jobs; the water issue has been resolved and the anticipated selling cost will cover expenses, but there will be no profit realized. The funds will be placed back into Economic Development.

Mr. Bo Horne stated the County did not need to be in the real estate business.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 that the above mentioned acreage and building be sold to Roebuck Builders and Mr. Hendricks be authorized to sign the sales contract on behalf of the County.

Public Hearing RE: Ordinance 2006-30:

Next Council conducted a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding proposed Ordinance 2006-30, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 99-14, UNIFIED PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE CHAPTER 7, TATTOOING FACILITIES WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF OCONEE COUNTY"

There was no one present with written and/or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2006-30.

Professional Consulting Services for County:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 that the County award the bid for on-call professional services to the following firms in the categories as shown and that the County Administrator be authorized to renew the contract for up to four one-year periods, provided their work is satisfactory:

Category A: Transportation – B. P. Barber & Associates, Inc. and Davis & Floyd, Inc.

Category B: Stormwater – B. P. Barber & Associates, Inc., Davis & Floyd, Inc. and Goldie & Associates

Category C: Roads & Bridges – Davis & Floyd, Inc. and Goldie & Associates

Professional Consulting Services for County continued:

Category D: Environmental – B. P. Barber & Associates, Inc., Davis & Floyd, Inc. and Goldie & Associates

Category E: Engineering – B. P. Barber & Associates, Inc., Davis & Floyd, Inc. and Goldie & Associates

Category F: Surveying – Stephen R. Edwards & Associates and Gregory B. Sosebee & Associates

Category G: Design/Build – Art, Wood, Holcombe & Slate, Inc., J. Davis Construction, Inc. and Trehel Corporation

There is no retaining fee for these companies and when services are needed a specific scope of work will be defined and a “not to exceed” cost established based on the fee schedules submitted in accordance with the RFQ. Work authorizations exceeding \$25,000 will be brought to Council for approval prior to work commencing. (See attached)

Law Enforcement Center:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 that the attached warranty agreement on the elevators at the Law Enforcement Center with Schindler Elevator Corporation be approved to be paid on an annual basis which will give the County a three percent discount resulting in an annual fee of \$1,955.52.

Clerk of Court:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 that the Clerk of Court’s Office be authorized to lease two copiers from Mita/Kearns at a cost of \$184.50 each per month. (See attached)

Ordinance 2006-30:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-30, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 99-14, UNIFIED PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE CHAPTER 7, TATTOOING FACILITIES WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF OCONEE COUNTY” be adopted on third and final reading.

Work Session of County Council:

Mr. Suarez urged the public to attend discussions of Council regarding planning/zoning in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Mr. Lyles announced there would be a work session of Council Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at 10:00 am in Council Chambers for such a discussion.

Council Committee Reports:

Recommendation of Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee:

Upon recommendation of the Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee, Council voted unanimously to donate 15 – 20 pews from the old courthouse to the old St. John's Episcopal Church when it is moved to City of Walhalla property.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Hendricks informed Council that Solid Waste is not an enterprise fund and will never be an enterprise fund as it is losing money at a rate of \$2,613,202 annually. (See attached report)

Council Meeting Dates & Times:

It was the consensus of Council to change the times of the Council Meetings to the first Tuesday at 7:00 pm and the third Tuesday at 3:00 pm in order not to conflict with the School Board Meetings.

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 8:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green
Clerk to Council