

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, May 15, 2007 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, WSPA TV & WSNW Radio.

Members of the press present: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio, Brett McLaughlin – Daily Journal & Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier.

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

Minutes:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes of the may 1, 2007 meeting be adopted as presented.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Frank Kieninger addressed Council regarding a group of men in Seneca continuing to pray for Council Members.

Mr. C. W. Richards addressed Council regarding support for the proposed fire plan.

Public Comment Session Continued:

Mr. George Cleveland addressed Council regarding energy and crude oil prices, the Solid Waste Department and diversity training in Oconee County.

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council regarding the County Budget and the School District Budget.

Mr. Tom Stults addressed Council regarding the proposed fire protection plan stating that the Long Creek Fire Department would never deed their land and building to Oconee County.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding the proposed fire protection plan.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the proposed fire protection plan.

Parks, Recreation & Tourism:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 that \$5,000 in Local Accommodations Tax Funds be approved to partner with a \$2,500 Heritage Corridor Grant acquired by the Westminster Chamber of Commerce to complete an Oconee County resident survey on tourism. (See attached information)

Rock Quarry:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Ables voting against) that the bid for a water tanker package to be installed at the Rock Quarry be awarded to Diversified Fabricators, Inc., who was the only bidder, at a cost of \$44,949. (See attached bid)

Sheriff & Emergency Management:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 5 – 0 that the Sheriff's Department and Emergency Management be authorized to apply for a Department of Homeland Security Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program Grant which will be used to acquire law enforcement and emergency services equipment and technology. This grant requires no local match.

Sheriff:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Ables voting against) that the bid for the SERT Van be awarded to Bickford Vehicles, who was the only bidder, at a cost of \$116,095.64. (See attached bid)

Ordinance 2007-06:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-07, “OCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACCESS ORDINANCE” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2007-07:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-07, “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE OCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION DEPARTMENT” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2007-08:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-08, “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE OCONEE COUNTY SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION” be adopted on second reading.

Council Committee Reports:

Mr. Suarez informed Council he attended the Chamber of Commerce Economic Summit and he was particularly impressed with the portion regarding tourism.

Mr. Lyles informed those present that there would be a second interview of the Administrator candidate Thursday, May 24, 2007 at 1:00 pm.

Mr. Crumpton reported that the Road & Transportation Committee met May 8, 2007 and he would have a report on the roads to be paved/overlaid in the 2007-08 fiscal year at the next meeting.

Administrator Report:

Mr. Hendricks informed Council that the maintenance of effort for the School District will increase by \$2,321,155 this year for a total of \$52,781,055 in operational funds for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Administrator's Report Continued:

Mr. Hendricks also asked for an executive session to discuss contracts for the Magistrate's Office, DSS, Administrator, Sewer & Fire as well as to discuss the Tri County Landfill property.

Ordinance 2007-09:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-09, "AN ORDINANCE REGULATING BILLBOARDS IN OCONEE COUNTY" be adopted on first reading in title only and referred back to the Planning Commission.

Executive Session:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 5 – 0 that Council go into executive session.

Open Session:

When open session resumed, Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Oconee County agree to sell the Tri County Regional Landfill property as specified in the letter from Youngblood Development Corporation at \$5,500 per acre.

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Mr. Hendricks be authorized to enter into a contract with Trehel Corporation to complete the DSS Building.

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that the County enter into a lease agreement for a building next to Seneca City Hall to house the Seneca Magistrate Office. The lease for the first year will be \$9,600 and the cost for the second year will be \$12,000.

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 5:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green
Clerk to Council