

Included below are

**MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 17, 2007**

And

**MINUTES
JOINT OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
with SEWER TRANSITION COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 17, 2007**

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. George Blanchard District I
Mr. Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr., District II
Mr. Mario Suarez, District III
Mr. Marion E. Lyles, District IV, Chairman
Mr. H. Frank Ables, Jr., District V

The Oconee County Council met Tuesday, July 17, 2007 at 3:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Dale K. Surrett, Clerk to Council & Mr. Norton, 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: Brett McLaughlin–Daily Journal, Dave Williams–Anderson Independent, Ashton Hester–Keowee Courier & Dick Mangrum–WGOG Radio.

Other Organizations Notified:

Also notified was the Oconee County Tax Payers Association.

Call to Order:

Chairman Lyles called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Dale K. Surrett, County Administrator, lead the pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

Minutes:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held June 19, 2007 be adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Larry Linson addressed Council regarding a sign ordinance and adherence to the published County Council agenda.

Mr. C. W. Richards addressed Council regarding the Rural Fire Protection Plan. Mr. Richards also requested of Council a formal statement regarding how this Plan will benefit the Fire Departments and the communities they serve within the Rural Fire District.

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed the Council regarding various issues to include the Stumphouse Tunnel and the Planning Commission.

Mr. George Cleveland addressed the Council regarding extension of the Public Comment Session to five [5] minutes per person for a total of forty-five [45] minutes.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding the need to provide the public with Cost / Benefit Analysis for all Fee in Lieu of Tax agreements being considered by Council.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the Bible and the United States Constitution.

Items for Consideration by Council:

Ms. Veronda Holcombe-Lewis addressed council to request authorization for Emergency Services to Apply for 2007 Hazardous Material Emergency Planning Grant in the amount of \$11,400 [with a local match of \$9,950]. Ms. Holcombe-Lewis noted that donations have been received from local business partners and the local match would be less than the \$9,950 initially requested.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 5 – 0 authorizing Application for the 2007 Hazardous Material Emergency Planning Grant in the Amount of \$11,400 with a local match of less than \$9,950.

Ordinance 2007-10:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-10, “ROAD NAMING AND ADDRESSING ORDINANCE OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA” be adopted on the third and final reading.

Ordinance 2007-11:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-11, “AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE OCONEE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM COMMISSION, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 2003-26, AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE OCONEE COUNTY PARKS AND TOURISM COMMISSION, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 2003-27, AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE OCONEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION” be adopted on the third and final reading.

Ordinance 2007-12:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-12, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2004-16, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2002-14, AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAX TO APPLY TO ALL ACCOMMODATIONS LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY” be adopted on the third and final reading.

Ordinance 2007-13:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-13, “AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE AMENDMENT BY AND BETWEEN JOHNSON CONTROLS BATTERY GROUP, INC. AND OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (JOHNSON CONTROLS BATTERY GROUP, INC. PROJECT), PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SOUTH CAROLINA CODE ANNOTATED, SECTION 4-12-30 (1976) AS AMENDED” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2007-14:

Mr. Blanchard voiced his concern that a cost / benefit analysis on this Ordinance had not been provided to Council prior to this meeting. Mr. Blanchard requested that a cost / benefit analysis be provided all Council members prior to third and final reading of this Ordinance.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 3 – 2 [Mr. Blanchard and Mr. Suarez voting against] that Ordinance 2007-14, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT PHOENIX PLUS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES RELATED TO THE PROJECT” be adopted on the second reading.

Ordinance 2007-15 [In title only]:

Mr. Norton addressed Council regarding this Ordinance noting that the company does not want their name made public at this time. Mr. Norton read Ordinance 2007-15 [in title only], “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT SENTRY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES RELATED TO THE PROJECT”.

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-15 [in title only] be adopted on the first reading.

Resolution 2007-04:

Mr. Norton read Resolution 2007-04 to Council and those present.

Mr. William Kenny appeared on behalf of Bluecross/Blueshield to thank the Council for it’s consideration of this Resolution; noting that Seneca, Westminster and Walhalla had already adopted the resolution.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5- 0 that Resolution 2007-04, “AN OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL RESOLUTION COMMENDING BLUECROSS/BLUESHIELD OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE ROSA CLARK FREE MEDICAL CLINIC AND OTHER CHARITABLE INITIATIVES ACROSS THE PALMETTO STATE WHICH PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF WELL-REASONED, LONG-RANGE HEALTHCARE POLICIES FOR THE FAMILIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA” be approved on the first and final reading.

Resolution 2007-05:

Mr. Blanchard voiced his concern that a cost / benefit analysis on this Resolution had not been provided to Council prior to this meeting.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 4 – 1 [Mr. Suarez voting against] that Resolution 2007-05, “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INDUCEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT SENTRY, WHEREBY, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, OCONEE COUNTY WILL EXECUTE A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT FOR A PROJECT INVOLVING NOT LESS THAN THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$30,000,000) INVESTMENT) be approved on the first and final reading.

Council Committee Reports:

Tourism Committee Report:

Mr. Blanchard reported that the last meeting was very productive with goals being established. They had a breakout session in which they discussed a possible upcoming function to support County tourism and the possibility of the County establishing a Convention / Visitor Bureau.

Delegation Office to meet with Constituents:

Mr. Blanchard explained that in an effort to be more accessible to their constituents that the Council will be utilizing Judge Macaulay's old office in the Delegation Office on Short Street to meet with the public to address their questions and/or concerns. The Council will use the Delegation Office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. The process will work as follows:

- Council members are responsible for providing their schedules to the Clerk to Council for scheduling purposes.
- The public should contact the Clerk to Council to schedule time with the Council members.
- The Clerk to Council will notify each Council member when an appointment has been scheduled.

Road Committee Report:

Mr. Crumpton noted that several road issues were discussed in their meeting that preceded Council's meeting. No actions were taken.

Administrator Report:

Mr. Surrett thanked Mrs. Phyllis Lombard, who acted as Interim Administrator, her staff and all county employees for a smooth transition. He noted that he is meeting with all departments.

Mr. Surrett having previously met with the Sewer Commission, presented to Council an Option Agreement to create a Joint Authority Water and Sewer System which would allow the County's Sewer Commission to apply to the Secretary of State to become an independent entity. Mr. Norton stated that the County currently has no assets with the Sewer Commission and the transfer of any assets would be paid for by user fees, grants and loans.

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the Option Agreement be approved on first reading.

Old Business:

Mr. Blanchard noted that he made a presentation to several groups as chair of the Public Safety Committee regarding the Rural Fire District Plan. Mr. Blanchard noted the benefits of this Plan will be to hopefully lower ISO ratings for local industries, have the ability to draw business into the County, would provide more and better training for the 450 +/- volunteer fire fighters, and it includes the development of a comprehensive fire plan for the future.

Mr. Ables addressed those present and thanked Mrs. Opal O. Green for her years of service to the county as Clerk to Council. Mr. Ables noted that Ms. Green had been a real asset to the County and County Council over the years.

New Business:

Mr. Crumpton addressed Council regarding Ordinance 2007-02, "DORCHESTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, LAWFUL EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE".

Mr. Blanchard noted that Oconee County could not implement this Ordinance as written as the Oconee County does not issue business licenses. Mr. Blanchard noted that after review the Council they might consider language to state that the County expects all contractors to recruit and hire only legal citizens. No further action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Lyles, on behalf of the County Council, commended Mrs. Phyllis Lombard, who acted as Interim Administrator, along with her staff for her hard work and guidance during the transition.

Mr. Blanchard addressed Council and asked if Oconee County should consider a temporary moratorium on high-density, high-rise developments until the County, through the Planning Commission, can address zoning issues in the County. No action was taken on this matter.

Executive Session:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter between the County and Jacob Utilities, LLC.

Council returned to chambers at 4:45 p.m. Chairman Lyles stated that no action was taken by Council.

Adjourn:

Council adjourned at 4:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council

MINUTES
JOINT OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
with SEWER TRANSITION COMMITTEE
JULY 17, 2007

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. George Blanchard District I
Mr. Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr., District II
Mr. Mario Suarez, District III
Mr. Marion E. Lyles, District IV, Chairman
Mr. H. Frank Ables, Jr., District V

The Oconee County Council met with members of the Sewer Transition Committee in Executive Session on Tuesday, July 17, 2007 at 12:30 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Dale K. Surrett, Clerk to Council & Mr. Norton, 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.

Member of the press present: Dave Williams–Anderson Independent.

Call to Order:

Chairman Lyles called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Executive Session:

Mr. Blanchard made an immediate motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Council go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter.

Council returned to chambers at 1:50 p.m. Chairman Lyles stated that no action was taken by Council.

Adjourn:

Adjourn 1:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council