



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Meeting with the Oconee County Planning Commission
January 29, 2008

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. George Blanchard District I, Chairman
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

Oconee County Council met with members of the Oconee County Planning Commission on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Dale K. Surret, Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council & Mr. Bradley A. Norton, County Attorney present.

Members of Planning Commission Present: Chairman, Tommy Abbott, Mr. Bill Evatt, Mr. Randy Abbott, Mr. Ryan Honea, Mr. Rex Ramsey, Mr. Howard Moore, Mr. Art Holbrooks, Planning Director and Mr. Aaron Gadsby, Planning Department.

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: David Williams–Anderson Independent and Dick Mangrum-WGOG Radio.

Call to Order:

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Planning Commission presentation to Council:

Chairman Blanchard recognized Mr. Art Holbrooks, Planning Director, who gave a brief presentation to Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [filed with these minutes] highlighting key topics and areas of work. He reminded those present that the Zoning Enabling Ordinance [ZEO] basically lists the entire county as an un-zoned district. Mr. Holbrooks reviewed the overlays to include an economic overlay in the I-85 area, proposed signage standards and the scenic highway overlay. Lastly he reviewed the Future Land Use Map noting that this map must be amended into the Comprehensive Plan prior to passage of any zoning ordinance.

Mr. Holbrooks also stated that one of the Commissions goals was to conduct public meetings in the communities to review plans and obtain feedback regarding their desires

for their individual communities. Mr. Abbott noted that this is intended to be citizen initiated zoning – not Planning Commission or County Council initiated zoning.

Chairman Abbott asked that Council to allow the Commission time to work on this issue noting that it may take many months to do the job correctly. Chairman Blanchard noted that Council was in agreement to allow the Commission time to do the job and would support their efforts to keep the process moving. He asked the Commission members what resources and/or tools they needed to keep moving forward at this time. Mr. Evatt noted that Mr. Holbrooks and the Planning Department are doing an excellent job and that the Commission recognizes that the department is receiving a lot of pressure from many civic groups at present regarding this issue. He assured Council that if resources and/or tools were needed that they would be requested through the Planning Director.

Discussion continued regarding designations on the Future Land Use Map. Mr. Blanchard asked the Commission to take their time; make any changes they felt appropriate and bring it back to Council when they feel they have it right.

Mr. Blanchard noted that future meetings would allow time for the public to comment but that this meeting was designed to be a fact gathering meeting between the Commission members and Council and that future meetings with the Planning Commission will be scheduled.

Adjourn:

Chairman Blanchard adjourned Council at 5:53 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council