



**MINUTES**  
**OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**April 15, 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 on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Dale K. Surrett and Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council 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: Dick Mangrum-WGOG Radio, David Williams-Anderson Independent & Brett McLaughlin-Daily Journal.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. noting that this was a one hour meeting. He asked that demonstrations be limited to allow for the maximum number of speakers.

**Public Hearing: Ordinance 2007-18 “ZONING ENABLING ORDINANCE”:**

Mr. Larry Linsin addressed Council regarding his concerns about vague language in the ordinance and that Council is moving too quickly without sufficient work being done to pass this ordinance.

Mr. Bill Graham addressed Council regarding his support for the Zoning Enabling Ordinance [ZEO] and asked that Council keep in the lake overlays as they are integral to maintaining the quality of Lake Keowee.

Mrs. Donna Linsin addressed Council regarding her concern about vague language and Council’s quick process to pass this ordinance.

Mr. Jim LaRue addressed Council and read from a handout [filed with these minutes] regarding his support for the ZEO and lake overlays.

Mr. Jerry Barnett addressed Council regarding his opposition to the ZEO and overlays and stated that he feels that Council is being influenced by a small special interest group.

Mr. David Bassett addressed Council and read from a handout [filed with these minutes] regarding his support for the ZEO and the positive effect the ZEO will have on economic development in the county.

Mr. John Little addressed Council and read from a handout [filed with these minutes] asking Council to slow down on the ZEO and his concern that passage will create greater costs to the citizens to implement and monitor zoning in the county.

Mr. John Kelley addressed Council and read from a handout [filed with these minutes] regarding his support for the ZEO as a 4<sup>th</sup> generation resident and that he wants to ensure that we preserve our natural resources for future generations.

Mr. Tom Markovich addressed Council regarding his concerns that the ZEO does not sufficiently address all aspects of zoning in Oconee County. He requested additional work be done on the document to include specific definitions regarding planning districts.

Ms. Martha File addressed Council and read from a handout [filed with these minutes] in support for the ZEO. She stated that through zoning we can promote tourism and preserve our natural resources.

Mr. Chuck Pinion addressed Council in opposition to the ZEO and asked that they slow the approval process down. He stated concerns that the restrictions as outlined will be broadened in the future to infringe on citizens rights to do with their land as they wish.

Mr. Joe Bailey addressed Council in support of the ZEO; stating that things change fast and Oconee County has to change with the times.

Mr. Gordon Towe addressed Council regarding his concerns about the ZEO and the Highway 11 overlay. He stated no objection to the lake overlay but felt that the Hwy 11 overlay was too restrictive and unwanted by the citizens who live along this roadway.

Mr. Richard Heller addressed Council in support for the ZEO and overlays stating that without action by Council to protect the land and natural resources in Oconee County we could face unwanted development and be unable to stop it.

Mr. Phillip Bearden addressed Council regarding his opposition to the ZEO and overlay on Highway 11, noting that many citizens feel compensation should be made if the overlay is approved.

Ms. Mary Alice Wald addressed Council Council and read from a handout [filed with these minutes] to encourage continued dialog between opposing parties; stating that this dialog is a way of working toward a middle ground.

Mr. Jack Lombard addressed Council in opposition to the ZEO and overlay on Highway 107.

Mr. Jerry Savercool addressed Council regarding his support for the ZEO and overlays noting that we need to protect what we have. Community based zoning is the way that individual land owners can work together to protect their land and lifestyles.

Mr. Devoe Blackston addressed Council in opposition to the ZEO and the lake overlay.

Mr. Joel Stoudemire addressed Council in support for the ZEO noting that further work with other adjoining counties might be beneficial to identify how they addressed some of the citizen concerns that are facing the Council.

**Written Comments:**

At this time Mr. Blanchard asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments for inclusion in the record of this meeting. Ms. Sally Price submitted written comments regarding Ordinance 2007-18.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Blanchard noted that there were in excess of 200 citizens who came out for this public hearing and he thanked those present for their comments and participation in the meeting. He noted that there were six [6] citizens that were unable to address Council as time did not permit, but that in an effort to allow all citizens the opportunity to address Council, that these six citizens will be allowed to speak during the regular Council public comment session at the meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Chambers.

Mr. Blanchard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Elizabeth G. Hulse  
Clerk to Council