



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
June 26, 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 Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. Crumpton], County Administrator Dale K. Surrett, Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council & Ms. Karen Ballenger [sitting in for Mr. Bradley A. 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: Peter Kent – WSNW Radio, Brett McLaughlin – Daily Journal and Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent.

Call to Order:

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Mr. Blanchard noted that this meeting would be brief with a limited number of agenda items and that all public comment should be related to the FY 2008-2009 budget ordinances only.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Public Comment Session:

Mr. W. C. Richard addressed Council regarding his opposition to incurring long term debt for capital projects which have not been fully discussed with the public.

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council regarding his concerns that Oconee County live within their budget and not issue any bonds for capital projects.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding her concerns that Council has not fully discussed the capital projects included in the budget for FY 2008-2009 and that planning needs to be short term in nature.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding his opposition to closing the manned convenience centers on Wednesday.

Ordinances for Approval:

Ordinance 2008-06:

Mr. Surrett noted that all changes from the last budget workshop had been made and incorporated into the revised agenda item distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that **Ordinance 2008-06** “THE 2008-2009 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY.” be adopted on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2008-09:

Mr. Surrett noted that no changes had been made to this ordinance since last reading.

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 1 [Mr. Ables voting against that **Ordinance 2008-09** “THE 2008-2009 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE” be adopted on third and final reading.

Items for Consideration by Council:

PRT: PARD Grant Request for \$15,000 for South Cove Campsite Renovations:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 to approve application for the SC PARD grant in the amount of \$15,000 for rebuilding campsites at South Cove County Park.

Sheriff’s Department: Homeland Security Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program [CEDAP] FY 2008-2009 Grant:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to approve application for the CEDAP FY 2008-2009 Grant.

County’s Property & Casualty Insurance Update:

Mr. Surrett addressed Council regarding potential savings to the County that have been identified by the Risk Manager, Sheila Wald. Discussion followed and it was agreed to address the issue further at the next meeting on Tuesday, July 1, 2008.

Notice to City of Seneca re: Fire Contract:

Mr. Surret addressed Council regarding the approach of the end of the contract period between the City of Seneca and the County where the city provides fire protection to unincorporated portions of the county. The contract has a one year notice provision and Mr. Surret requested instruction from Council if they intended to issue notice. Discussion followed and it was the consensus of Council to take no action for the coming year.

Executive Session:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel and contractual matter.

Council entered Executive Session at 6:35 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Blanchard noted that no action will be taken on matters discussed in Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Blanchard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council