



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Meeting with the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority
August 5, 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, August 5, 2008 at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. Suarez], County Administrator Dale K. Surrett, Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council & 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: Dick Mangrum – WGOG, Brett McLaughlin – Daily Journal and Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent.

Call to Order:

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

Discussion of I85 Sewer and Other Related Issues:

Mr. Bob Winchester, OJRSA Director, introduced Mr. Bob Froneberger, W. K. Dickson, who gave a brief PowerPoint presentation [filed with these minutes] to council regarding a waste water treatment & disposal system for the Golden Corner Commerce Park. Options presented included septic and package plants. Lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Blanchard questioned if after receiving a septic permit from DHEC construction could move quickly. He was assured by Mr. Froneberger that this option could be accomplished quickly. He also noted that this type of system would restrict the types of industry that the County would be able to attract initially to the Commerce Park.

Mr. Ables voiced concerns that the Council not solely focus on the Commerce Park to the detriment of the exits on I85. Mr. Froneberger noted that a small package plant at exit #1 on I85 was a very viable option and that it would allow the County to get up and running and also position the area for growth in the future.

Mr. Ables also addressed concerns regarding the variances between proposals and estimates for costs. Mr. Winchester noted that the original proposal pumped the sewage off site and the current proposal utilized on site collection with spray irrigation for the grey water.

Mr. Robert Royer addressed Council and the OJRSA to question if floor drains could be used easily by most industry if septic was put in place. Mr. Froneberger noted that only “dry industry” [warehouses, distribution centers, etc.] would be able to easily utilize septic. Mr.

Winchester noted that septic did work well for Lift Technologies who purchased the County's spec building.

Mr. Froneberger and Mr. Winchester assured Council that the system could easily be built in stages anticipating incremental capacity increases of +/- 25,000 gallons. Mr. Froneberger also noted that a Master Plan submitted with the first permit request for the system would be of benefit as it would speed the permit process for subsequent stages to be permitted. Some discussion also occurred regarding operating and maintenance [O&M] costs with Mr. Winchester noting that some costs would be the same regardless of the size of the plant as monitoring is required on a daily basis.

Mr. Froneberger noted that a typical permit process would be as follows:

- o Design: approximately +/- 4 months
- o DHEC Permitting: approximately +/- 4-6 months
- o Construction: a minimum of 6 months

Mr. Norton asked if a bid could be done during the permitting review process to shorten some of the time. Mr. Froneberger stated it could be done in this way with a proviso that any changes/modifications from DHEC would be addressed prior to the bid being awarded.

Mr. Jim Alexander, Economic Development Director, addressed Council noting that during his talks with prospective industries that they see both the Commerce Park and the exits on I85 as excellent locations. He did note that he has been told by these same prospective industries that they do not want septic as it won't work for them and that they don't want spray fields. Industry wants to move in with sewer in place to begin operations. Mr. Alexander noted that a company who would offer approximately 500 jobs is currently looking at Oconee County but they want sewer to move in. Mr. Blanchard asked the size building that this company is looking for. Mr. Alexander stated between 30,000-50,000 square feet with the ability to expand their facility.

Mr. Ables voiced concerns that Council has been reviewing proposals and options for sewer in excess of one year and that it was time for a decision to be made. Mr. Blanchard concurred and stated that sufficient information had been received for Council to review and make a decision.

No action was taken at this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Blanchard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council