



**MINUTES**  
**OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**September 23, 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, September 23, 2008 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. Lyles & Mr. Crumpton], 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: Peter Kent-WGOG, Ashton Hester, Keowee Courier, Ray Chandler-Anderson Independent & Brett McLaughlin-Daily Journal.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mr. Ables led the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 0 that the amended minutes from the August 5, 2008 regular meeting and the minutes from the September 9, 2008 regular meeting be adopted as printed.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 2 – 0 [Mr. Suarez abstained – form filed with these minutes] that the minutes from the September 16, 2008 workshop meeting with the SDOC Board be adopted as printed.

**Public Comment Session:**

Mr. Phil Graham addressed Council regarding his support for the Zoning Enabling Ordinance [ZEO].

Mr. Devoe Blackston addressed Council regarding his concern that Council is moving too quickly on zoning in Oconee County.

Mr. Jack Dudley addressed Council regarding his support for second reading of the ZEO.

Mr. Dick Hughes addressed Council regarding his concern that Council is moving too quickly on zoning and the Council's role in zoning as outlined on page #15 of the ZEO.

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council regarding his concern that Council is moving too quickly on zoning in the county.

Ms. Linda Lovely addressed Council regarding her support for second reading of the ZEO noting that at the Planning Commission meeting the previous night that only 4-5 points of concern were addressed by the participants.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding his opposition to the ZEO and his concerns that additional development in Fair Play will adversely affect the road system.

### **Extended Public Comment Session:**

No Citizens spoke during the Extended Public Comment Session at this meeting.

### **Red Cross Funding Request from Council:**

Ms. Kathy Rogers, Red Cross Executive Director, supported her written request for funding to make roof repairs at their facility on Main Street, Walhalla. Ms. Rogers also introduced Ms. Tina Chastain, the new Board of Directors Chairperson to Council. Discussion regarding their funding request followed.

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 0 to authorize \$8,000 from Council's contingency account [010-704-60767].

### **Ordinances for Approval:**

#### **Ordinance 2007-18:**

Mr. Blanchard noted that it was Council's intention to move forward with second reading of the ZEO but that an additional Public Hearing would be scheduled and that work for finalize the document is still ongoing in the Planning Commission. Mr. Ables noted that one major difference in this document was the removal of the Highway 11 overlay district. Mr. Norton clarified Council's role in zoning noting that South Carolina State law states that zoning is strictly a Council function. The public can make suggestions and have input but it is ultimately Council's role and responsibility. Discussion followed.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2007-18** "ZONING ENABLING ORDINANCE" on second reading.

### **Ordinance 2007-21:**

Mr. Norton noted that the only changes made by the Planning Commission to the document were the removal of the corridor definition, the addition of Appendix A & B, and enlarging the Scenic Highway Committee by two at large members who would be appointed by County Council.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 3 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2007-21** “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM TO DESIGNATE OCONEE COUNTY’S SCENIC HIGHWAYS” on second reading.

### **Ordinance 2008-16:**

### **Ordinance 2008-17:**

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 0 to approve both **Ordinance 2008-16** “AN ORDINANCE BY OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AUTHORIZING AN INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT (PROJECT BOOMER); THE ENTERING INTO OF CERTAIN COVENANTS AND AGREEMENTS AND THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF CERTAIN INSTRUMENTS RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE AFORESAID INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT AND APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF THE FEE AGREEMENT DATED AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2007, INCLUDING CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO” and approve **Ordinance 2008-17** “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2006-27 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK” on second reading.

### **Ordinance 2008-18:**

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 3 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2008-18** “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2008-06, THE 2008-2009 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY” on second reading.

## **Items for Consideration by Council:**

### **2008-2009 Stop Loss Group Health Insurance Application/Contract:**

Mr. Norton briefly outlined the detail of this contract for Council noting that this health insurance contract covers the county for catastrophic employee claims.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 0 to authorize approval of the 2008-2009 Stop Loss Group Health Insurance Contract as outlined above.

### **ATAX Grant: Walhalla Merchant’s Association / \$2,500 / Advertising 2008 Oktoberfest:**

Mr. Blanchard noted that this request is being made very close to the actual event and that all future requests should be brought to Council well in advance of the actual event.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 0 to approve \$2,500 to the Walhalla Merchant’s Association for advertising Oktoberfest on Main Street.

### **ATAX Grant: Walhalla Civic Auditorium / \$1,395 / Advertising Oconee Magazine:**

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 3 – 0 to approve \$1,395 to the Walhalla Civic Auditorium for advertising in the Oconee Magazine.

**ATAX Grant: Blue Ridge Arts Council / \$788 / Holiday Arts & Gift Show Advertising:**

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 3 – 0 to approve \$788 for the Blue Ridge Arts Council for advertising their Holiday Arts & Gift Show.

**Oconee Magazine Advertising / \$2,250:**

Mr. Surrett noted that this advertising request is for a one third page ad to appear in 6 issues plus a two page article will appear about Oconee County.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 3 – 0 to approve \$2,250 for advertising in the Oconee Magazine as outlined above.

**Heritage Corridor Ambassadors Tour / \$1,000:**

Mr. Blanchard noted that this tour has become very popular with this being its fourth year in operation. He noted that this year's tour is already sold out.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 0 to approve \$1,000 for staff to hold the Heritage Corridor Ambassadors Tour to be held on October 8, 2008.

**Rock Quarry: Palmetto Pride FY 09 Tree Grant Request:**

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 0 to approve the Rock Quarry to apply for the Palmetto Pride FY 09 Tree Grant.

**Procurement: Bid 08-03: OC Commerce Center Detention Pond Modification / \$28,000:**

Mr. Surrett noted that funding for this would come from the Economic Development mill line item.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 0 to authorize awarding Bid 08-03 to Fowler Corporation of Anderson, SC in the amount of \$28,000 for modification to the Oconee County Commerce Center Detention Pond as outlined above.

**Procurement: Bid 08-06: Food Products/Supplies for LEC / \$150,000:**

Mr. Surrett noted that the listing provided is based on South Carolina Department of Correction minimum standard for providing meals for inmates and charged individuals. The low bidder was US Foodservice in the amount of \$122,385.14. Discussion followed. Mr. Blanchard noted that he had talked with Major Pruitt regarding some items and that he had been assured that requested items were mandated and necessary and that staff would purchase supplies and food very judiciously.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 0 to award Bid 08-06 to US Foodservice for an estimated amount of \$122,385.14 for a period of one year with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods.

**NACo Prescription Discount Card:**

Mr. Norton gave a brief outline of the National Association of Counties [NACo] Prescription Discount Card plan noting the following benefits to Oconee County citizens:

- Free enrollment
- Average of 20% savings
- No limits, age requirement or income requirement
- Can be used at any participating pharmacy or drug store
- Can be used for mail order to increase potential savings up to 50%

Mr. Norton noted that this program can not be used in conjunction with another prescription discount plan but if a citizen's plan does not cover a specific medication this card can be presented to determine if a discount is available.

Mr. Surrett noted that if approved it would take between 8-10 weeks to receive the discount cards. Cards would be available to the general public at various public buildings to be identified and one card would be distributed to each child attending school for their families use.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 3 – 0 to authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract with NACo for their prescription discount card.

### **Council Committee Reports:**

#### **Transportation:**

Mr. Crumpton was not present at this meeting - no report presented.

#### **Law, Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee Report:**

Mr. Blanchard had no report at this meeting.

#### **Budget, Finance & Administration:**

Mr. Ables had no report at this meeting.

#### **Planning & Economic Development:**

Mr. Suarez had no report at this meeting.

#### **Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management:**

Mr. Lyles was not present at this meeting – no report presented.

### **Commission / Board Reports to Council:**

There were no reports presented at this meeting.

Mr. Blanchard noted that the Planning Commission met the previous night with the planning consultant working on the ZEO. He noted that Council appreciated all the hard work the commission has put in and that this is an example of how to do things correctly and work together for Oconee County.

### **Board & Commission Appointments:**

There were no appointments at this meeting.

### **Administrator's Report:**

#### **Register of Deeds / Sole Source Vendor / Document Scanning:**

Mr. Surrett noted that \$81,000 had been budgeted for scanning documents in the Register of Deeds office. Cott Systems, a sole source vendor, has begun the process and identified records between January 1, 1965 and December 31, 2001 for scanning. They have estimated that approximately 473,602 images will be created at an estimated cost of \$78,144. This is provided as an updated regarding a budgeted item.

**Old Business:**

**Lake Hartwell Study / Mike Grey:**

Mr. Blanchard noted that Mr. Grey had appeared before Council at the March 4, 2008 meeting to request funding for a study of Lake Hartwell. Mr. Grey has approached and received funding from all other counties involved and is requesting that Oconee County honor its commitment at the time and approve funding of \$26,000 for county's portion of the study.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 0 to approve funding \$26,000 from Council's contingency account [010-704-60767] for the Lake Hartwell study as outlined above.

**New Business:**

**Council Workshop Schedule:**

Mr. Blanchard announced the following two public workshops for October 2008:

- o **Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers to discuss regulations and facility guidelines for the LEC with a representative from the South Carolina Department of Corrections.
- o **Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers to discuss the staffing study and recommendations for the LEC with a representative from the South Carolina Association of Counties.

**Standard Housing Abatement Draft Ordinance:**

Mr. Blanchard noted that he had reviewed a draft Standard Housing Abatement Ordinance prepared by Mr. Norton. Mr. Blanchard returned the document to Mr. Norton for some minor changes and asked that he forward to the Planning Commission for their review and input.

**Town of West Union / Magistrate Judge coverage:**

Mr. Norton noted that the Magistrate judges have served the town in the past for to hear minor town issues. The Town of West Union is asking to reinstate this contract. Judge Gerrard, Chief Magistrate, has reviewed the contract and has not objections.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 3 – 0 to authorize the County Administrator to execute a contract for magistrate judge service for the Town of West Union.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Blanchard asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ables made a motion at 7:17 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Elizabeth G. Hulse  
Clerk to Council