



**MINUTES**  
**OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**with UPSTATE ALLIANCE**  
**January 29, 2009**

**MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr. Reg Dexter, District V, Council Chairman  
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Mario Suarez, District III, Chairman Pro Tem  
Mr. George Blanchard District I  
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

Oconee County Council met on Thursday, January 29, 2009 at 4:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. Suarez, Mr. Blanchard & Mr. McCall], County Administrator Dale K. Surrett and Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council present.

**Press:**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [[www.oconeese.com/council](http://www.oconeese.com/council)]. In addition it was made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent & Carlos Galarza - Daily Journal

**Call to Order:**

Mr. Dexter called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. noting that a quorum was not present but that no action was scheduled therefore the meeting would continue to receive information only.

**Workshop Discussion with Upstate Alliance Representative regarding Oconee County's participation in the "Upstate Reality Check" program:**

Mr. Dexter recognized Mr. Hal Johnson, CEO and President of Upstate Alliance, who addressed Council regarding a program called "Upstate Reality Check" which pulls together representatives from the 10 upstate counties in the Alliance for a one day workshop meeting to discuss growth issues that will affect us all in the coming years. Mr. Johnson gave a brief history regarding the inception of the program, noting that Urban Land Institute [ULI] is the group that will be hosting/facilitating the workshop meeting. He stated that it is estimated that the population of the upstate will grow by 265,000 people by 2030. Mr. Johnson ran a short video [copy available for viewing in the Clerk to Council office] showing how this program worked in the Charleston area.

In addition, several handouts were distributed [filed with these minutes and distributed to Council members not in attendance] outlining the program and the county's participation.

Mr. Johnson asked that Oconee County agree to participate with her sister counties by selecting 40 representatives to participate in a one day meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at the Carolina First Center beginning at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will include a work session and speakers talking about growth. The cost for the County to participate is \$1,000.

Discussion followed regarding the County's and local municipality's participation in the program. Mr. Dexter thanked Mr. Johnson for his time and informative presentation.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Dexter adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Elizabeth G. Hulse  
Clerk to Council