



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
February 10, 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 Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 4:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. Suarez], County Administrator Dale K. Surrent, Thomas L. Martin County Attorney 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]. 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 4:03 p.m.

Workshop Meeting regarding FY 2009-2010 Budget Priorities:

Receive Legal Advice from County Attorney:

Mr. Dexter asked for a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice from the County Attorney.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 4 – 0 to enter Executive Session for the reason stated above.

Council entered Executive Session at 4:04 p.m.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to return from Executive Session at 6:06 p.m.

Mr. Dexter stated that no action will be taken at this meeting on matters discussed in Executive Session.

Discuss Priorities for FY 2009-2010 Budget:

Mr. Dexter turned this portion of the meeting over to the Budget, Finance & Administration Committee chair, Mr. Blanchard.

Mr. Blanchard stated that the purpose of this discussion is to provide direction to the County Administrator regarding priorities and goals related to the FY 2009-2010 budget. Mr. Blanchard provided the Administrator and Council with a brief summary of his issues [filed with

these minutes] as an example of a type of direction. Mr. Blanchard asked each Council member to forward to Mr. Surrett their priorities so that when he begins meetings with staff he has a clear understanding of this Council's priorities for the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Blanchard suggested that the budget preparation be handled as in past years with the Administrator meeting with each department head or elected official and reviewing the budget, making suggestions for cuts [highlighted in red] and submitting all information to Council for the final decision. Council concurred after some discussion.

Mr. Surrett noted that the initial budget paperwork was sent to the departments in mid December 2008 and that meetings are slated to begin with department heads / elected officials in March. He also stated that between now and those meetings he will work very closely with the finance staff to review each budget to identify areas for recommended cuts.

Discussion followed regarding the detail with which Council wants to see the budget. Mr. Surrett stated that a detailed line by line budget will be presented to each member along with backup material as needed to explain request for things such as continuing education, capital expenses, new positions, new equipment, etc.

Discussion also took place regarding milage. Mr. Blanchard stated that in his opinion, the last Council made an error to not raise the milage as it locked this Council and further Council's to lower levels. Mr. McCall stated that he would not support a milage increase in these difficult economic times. Discussion followed. No decision was reached at this meeting regarding this issue.

Introduction of Ms. Kendra Brown / Asst. Administrator for Financial & Administrative Services / Review of 2nd Quarter Financial Statement & FY 07-08 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report [CAFR]:

Mr. Surrett introduced Ms. Kendra Brown to Council and reviewed with them her background and experience. He asked Council if they wished to have Ms. Brown discuss briefly both the 2nd quarter financial statement and the FY 07-08 CAFR at this meeting. Council stated they wished to review the material.

Ms. Brown provided Council with the following documents that she reviewed briefly:

- o Analysis of Undesignated General Fund Balance [ending 6/30/08] [1 page – filed with these minutes]
- o General Fund Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures & Charges [ending 12/31/08] [6 pages – filed with these minutes]
- o Comprehensive Annual Financial Report [CAFR] [ending 6/30/08] [booklet filed separately from these minutes]

Ms. Brown discussed the lower fees collected mainly attributed to the slow down in the economy with fewer building permits pulled. Discussion also took place regarding increasing the fund balance to have on hand additional months of operating cash.

Council thanked Ms. Brown for the information provided at this meeting and for their further review.

Adjourn:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion at 7:14 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCall that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council