



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Called Meeting
March 20, 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 Friday, March 20, 2009 at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. Blanchard & Mr. Suarez], 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]. 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 5:05 p.m.

Workshop Discussion with Mr. Roberto Sala regarding Solid Waste:

Mr. Sala reviewed with Council a solid waste system currently in use in Italy that converts all garbage into electricity with no pollution. He stated that the system has no burning waste and that the reaction produces hydrogen, CO₂ and steam. Mr. Sala stated that the advantages of this system are that it can process all forms of waste with the exclusion of metal, batteries and stone. The system is a three stage process: [1] removal of the metals, stones, etc [this process is done manually by highly trained staff]; [2] the waste material is reduced to “dust”; and [3] the dust is placed into a reactor which heats [at temperatures up to 2,000 Celsius] the material to create hydrogen. There is also a cooling system very similar to that used by Duke Energy at the nuclear plant here in Oconee County. Again, Mr. Sala stated that there is no ash, smoke or other pollutants – this system is 100% clean.

Mr. Sala stated that he represents Magnolia, a company based in Switzerland, and that their goal is to identify ideas and better ways for living that are good for both the environment and people. Magnolia wants to participate in this project and they have sufficient capital to invest and build this plant that would be the first in the United States to use hydrogen.

The business plan is to collect the garbage and to sell electricity produced at a low cost. The company wishes to also build a research center and training facility with the first plant created in the States. Both of these facilities would gain world wide recognition.

Mr. Sala also spoke and gave a short PowerPoint presentation [filed with these minutes] outlining a portion of the process. Various types of facilities and designs were discussed.

Mr. Sala addressed several questions from the Council members; Mr. Derek Hodgin, Mayor of Westminster; and Mr. Swain Still, Solid Waste Director. Discussion took place regarding EPA permitting and various licensing issues in the United States.

Mr. Dexter stated that he would like to see additional information and that the Council would formulate questions to be sent via email to Mr. Sala. Mr. Dexter thanked Mr. Sala for his time and informative presentation.

Adjourn:

Mr. Thrift made a motion which was approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council