



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
May 5, 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. Wayne McCall, District II

Oconee County Council met on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, 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.

Members of the press present: Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent, Carlos Galarza - Daily Journal, Ashton Hester- Keowee Courier, and Peter Kent- WSNW Radio.

Call to Order:

Mr. Dexter called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. McCall led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Minutes:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0 that the minutes from the **April 14, 2009 Regular Council Meeting** be adopted as printed.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 2 – 0 that the minutes from the **April 21, 2009 Public Hearing Meeting** be adopted as printed.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 0 that the minutes from the **April 21, 2009 Regular Council Meeting** be adopted as printed.

Point of Order:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 0 to amend the Agenda.

Mr. Dexter read from a statement that will be filed with the permanent record as part of the minutes summarizing Mr. Dexter's approval of the request of Mr. Dale Surrett to go on Administrative Leave, with pay, pending the Public Hearing to be held on May 12, 2009.

Mr. Dexter requested a motion be made to affirm and ratify the granting of Mr. Surrett's Administrative Leave, with pay.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0 to affirm and ratify the granting of Mr. Surrett’s Administrative Leave, with pay.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. John Little addressed Council stating his strong support of the Carolina Foothills Heritage Fair proposed to be held in Oconee County in October 2009.

Extended Public Comment Session:

Mr. Richard Ellison addressed Council with a presentation representing Technology Solutions of SC, also stating their ability and desire to provide services in the Oconee County Information Technology Department.

In this presentation, Mr. Ellison gave an overview of Technology Solutions of SC and the services/benefits that they could provide for Oconee County.

Leadership Oconee County Class Presentation to Council / Ms. Dawn Duncan, Class President

Mrs. Elizabeth Hulse, Clerk to Council addressed Council introducing Ms. Dawn Duncan, Class President of the 2009 Leadership Oconee County class.

Ms. Duncan addressed Council summarizing the 2009 Leadership Oconee County class project which beautified the welcome sign on Highway 123 as you enter the county from Clemson, SC. Ms. Duncan presented Council Chairman Dexter with an appreciation plaque from the class and a check in the amount of \$1,285.93, for ongoing upkeep by the Road Department.

ACOG Annual Report to Council / Mr. Steve Pelissier, Executive Director

Mr. Steve Pelissier, Executive Director of the Appalachian Council of Governments along with Mr. Joel Newton, Deputy Director addressed Council giving an overview of the services to Oconee County for the 2009 Fiscal Year and upcoming services for the 2010 Fiscal Year. Mr. Pelissier also gave a six-month highlight summary of the activities that the Appalachian Council of Governments was involved in from July- December 2008.

Mr. Dexter addressed Mr. Pelissier thanking the Appalachian Council of Governments for their contributions and support to Oconee County.

Consideration of the following Ordinances:

Ordinance #2009-05:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to approve on the First Reading of Ordinance 2009-05 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY”.

Discussion & Possible Action Items:

Approval for Funding Estimate for Special Election / up to \$15,000:

Mr. Dexter stated that this Action Item had been removed from consideration and will be addressed in the upcoming budget year.

Consent Agenda for Local Accommodations Tax – Arts & Historical Grant Approvals:

- [a] **Battle of Oconee Committee** / \$2,500 / Advertisement for Carolina Foothills Heritage Fair
- [b] **Battle of Oconee Committee** / \$2,500 / Advertisement for “Battle of Oconee” re-enactment
- [c] **Westminster Chamber of Commerce** / \$2,500 / Brochure & Map re: Westminster events
- [d] **Westminster Area Historic Preservation Society** / \$2,500 / Shelving in Barrett-Jones General Store Museum

[e] **Fair Play Fire Department** / \$2,500 / Newspaper Ads for 2010 Blue Grass & Gospel Festival
Mr. Dexter addressed Council asking if they had any questions regarding Action Items A thru E. Discussion followed between Mr. Suarez and Mr. Phil Shirley, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director about ATAX funds.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to approve the Arts & Historical Commission recommendations for the Local ATAX grants listed above.

Point of Order:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to amend the Agenda to consider the Sheriff’s Dept Grant Request.

Sheriff’s Department / FY 2009-Violence Against Women Act Grant / No Match:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to approve the Sheriff’s Office request to apply for the Fiscal Year 2009 Violence Against Women Act Grant.

Council Committee Reports:

Budget, Finance & Administration

Mr. Dexter read from a statement that will be filed with the permanent record as part of the minutes giving an overview of the Budget, Finance & Administration Committee Workshop Meetings.

Transportation

Mr. Thrift read from a statement that will be filed with the permanent record as part of the minutes giving a summary of discussions taken place at the Transportation Committee Meeting held on April 28, 2009.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to reconsider the bid approval and table the North Jenkins Road matter until further alternatives can be identified and discussed.

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare

Mr. McCall announced a Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

Commission / Board Reports to Council: *[none scheduled for this meeting]*

Board and Commission Appointments:

Arts and Historical Commission

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to appoint Ms. Bess Ciupak to the Arts and Historical Commission.

ATAX Commission

No action taken, deferred to June 2, 2009 meeting.

Library Board

Mr. Dexter stated that Hector Torres has resigned, if anyone is interested contact Mrs. Elizabeth Hulse. No action taken, deferred to June 2, 2009 meeting.

Old Business:

Ordinance 2009-03: Amendment to Zoning Enabling Ordinance 2007-18:

Mr. Dexter stated that the third reading of the Zoning Enabling Ordinance (ZEO) didn't take place because following its review by the Planning Commission it was too late to put on the Agenda. Mr. Dexter announced that the ZEO went into affect on May 1, 2009 and the amendments to the ZEO will go into affect pending the passing of the third reading tentatively to take place at the May 19, 2009 Council meeting.

National County Government Week:

Mr. Dexter also announced that May 3 – 9, 2009 was National County Government Week and thanked all Oconee County employees for all of their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

New Business:

[none scheduled for this meeting]

Executive Session:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to enter Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice and to discuss personnel and contractual matters.

Council entered Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:47 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Suarez, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved unanimously. Mr. Dexter stated that no actions were taken.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to authorize Mr. Tom Martin, Oconee County Attorney to handle the legal matters that were discussed in Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Thrift made a motion at 8:51 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCall that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Stacy Crosby
Sen. Administrative Asst.