



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
June 2, 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, June 2, 2009 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. Suarez], Kendra Brown, Interim Administrator, 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 - WWNW Radio.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Minutes:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 0 that the minutes from the May 19, 2009 regular meeting be adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding the requested 208 designation for the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority in Ordinance 2009-12.

Mr. Francis X addressed Council regarding concerns related to Procurement policy as it relates to State Contracts and pricing.

Extended Public Comment Session:

No citizens signed up to speak at this meeting.

Presentation of the *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* to Finance:

Mr. Dexter asked members of the Finance Department present [Ms. Brown and Ms. Ladale Price] to step forward to accept the presentation of the *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* from the Government Finance Officers Association for FY 2008-2009. Ms. Brown commented that the previous Finance Director, Ms. Phyllis Lombard, led the department during this document's preparation and that she wanted Council to include her for recognition. Mr. Martin noted that this is a prestigious award and that this award recognizes the hard work and dedication of the Finance Department in making the budget accessible and easily understandable for the county's citizens.

Convention Visitor's Bureau [CVB] Update:

Mr. Ken Sloan, CVB Director, requested that his presentation be deferred to the June 16, 2009 meeting.

Consideration of the following Ordinances:

Ordinance 2009-05:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 0, to approve on second reading **Ordinance 2009-05** "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY".

Ordinance 2009-06:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0, to amend Section 26-3 in Ordinance 2009-06 as presented and read into the record [copy of change filed with these minutes].

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0, to approve on second reading **Ordinance 2009-06** "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2009 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2010" as amended and presented.

Ordinance 2009-07:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0, to approve on second reading **Ordinance 2009-07** "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2009 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2010."

Ordinance 2009-08:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0, to approve on second reading **Ordinance 2009-08** "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT AND TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2009 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2010."

Mr. Dexter reminded those present that a public hearing is scheduled regarding Ordinances 2009-05, 2009-06, 2009-07 & 2009-08 on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Ordinance 2009-12:

Mr. Dexter noted that this matter was discussed earlier also in the workshop meeting held at 5:00 p.m. with the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0, to approve on first reading [in title only] **Ordinance 2009-12** “AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE THE OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY AS THE SECTION 208 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AGENCY IN OCONEE COUNTY, TO PROHIBIT THE DISCHARGE OF POLLUTING SUBSTANCES AND TO SET PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.”

Resolutions for Consideration:

Resolution 2009-08:

Mr. Dexter asked Mr. Bill Nelson to step forward for Council to present to him **Resolution 2009-08** “A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO WILLIAM D. “BILL” NELSON FOR SERVICE ON THE OCONEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION”. Mr. Nelson’s wife was present for the presentation along with members of the Planning Department [Art Holbrooks] and the Planning Commission [Mr. Ryan Honea, Mr. Howard Moore, Mr. Tommy Abbott and Ms. Andrea Hiller].

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0 to approve on first and final reading **Resolution 2009-08** “A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO WILLIAM D. “BILL” NELSON FOR SERVICE ON THE OCONEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION”.

Resolution 2009-09:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 0 to approve on first and final reading **Resolution 2009-09** “A RESOLUTION OF THE OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL PRICE ON CERTAIN PRODUCT OF THE OCONEE COUNTY ROCK QUARRY”.

Items for Consideration by Council:

Economic Development / Santee Cooper Grant / \$18,600 / No Match

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 0 to authorize Economic Development to apply for the Santee Cooper Grant as outlined in the agenda item summary in the amount of \$18,600.

PO #44635: Change Order #4 / \$15,000 / Ard, Wood, Holcombe & Slate / Courthouse ADA Issues:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0 to approve Change Order #4 for Ard, Wood, Holcombe & Slate in the amount of \$15,000 to address Courthouse ADA issues as outlined in the agenda item summary.

PO #44582: Change Order #3 / \$6,500 / Ard, Wood, Holcombe & Slate / Emergency Services Headquarters / City of Westminster Station Joint Project:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0 to approve Change Order #3 for Ard, Wood, Holcombe & Slate in the amount of \$6,500 for the development of a preliminary floor plan and master site plan as outlined in the agenda item summary.

FY 2009 Forestry Commission Public Tree Management Grant:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 0 to authorize applying for the FY 2009 Forestry Commission Public Tree Management Grant.

Sheriff's Department / Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 0 to authorize applying for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant.

SC DNR Water Recreation Grant / \$14,000:

This request to apply for a grant was withdrawn from consideration by Council by the Oconee County Grants Coordinator.

Council Committee Reports:

Budget, Finance & Administration Committee:

Mr. Dexter updated those present regarding progress with finalization of the FY 2009-2010 budget. He stated that one additional meeting will be required and will likely be planned after the public hearing but prior to third and final readings.

Commission / Board Reports to Council:

No Commission or Boards report to Council at this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments:

No Commission or Boards appointment were made at this meeting.

Administrator's Report:

NACo Prescription Drug Card

Ms. Brown updated Council regarding savings to approximately 595 citizens in the amount of \$30,000.

Building Codes Seminars:

Ms. Brown notified Council that two Building Codes Seminars on June 9, 2009 and June 23, 2009 which are free of charge but require previous registration to attend.

Old Business:

Motion to Rescind:

Mr. Thrift stated that at the last meeting he made a motion to pay from the Council Contingency Account the sum of \$50 in order to assist an indigent citizen. Questions were raised if Council had the authorization to take this action and that it potentially set a precedent, therefore, Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0 to rescind the previous motion.

New Business:

No New Business was addressed at this meeting.

Executive Session:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0 to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advise and to discuss contractual and personnel matters.

Council entered Executive Session at 7:34 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:28 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Thrift, seconded by Mr. McCall, and approved unanimously.

Mr. Dexter stated that no actions were taken in Executive Session.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 0 to authorize funds from the Human Resources Contingency Account to make pay out to the former administrator as authorized in the settlement agreement and to authorize increased compensation [by 20% for the term of their appointments] to the interim administrator, Ms. Kendra Brown, and the assistant to the interim administrator, Ms. Elizabeth Hulse as approved at the meeting held on May 30, 2009.

Adjourn:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council