



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
September 1, 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. Paul Corbeil, District I
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

Oconee County Council met on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, 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, Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier & Carlos Galarza - Daily Journal.

Call to Order:

Mr. Dexter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Welcome Council District I Representative:

Mr. Dexter welcomed on behalf of the full Council and citizens of Oconee County, Mr. Paul Corbeil, newly elected District I Representative.

Minutes:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 [Mr. Corbeil did not vote as he was not a member for this meeting] that the minutes from the August 18, 2009 regular meeting be adopted as printed.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 0 [Mr. Corbeil did not vote as he was not a member for this meeting / Mr. Suarez abstained as he was absent from this meeting] that the minutes from the August 21, 2009 meeting be adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

There was no Public Comment at this meeting.

Extended Public Comment Session:

There was no Extended Public Comment at this meeting.

Public Hearings:

Mr. Dexter opened the Public Hearing regarding:

- [1] **Ordinance 2008-21** ‘AN ORDINANCE REPLACING ORDINANCE 2005-06, THE FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE’
- [2] **Ordinance 2009-16** ‘AN AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 32 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY, AS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIED PERFORMANCE STANDARDS REGULATING CERTAIN BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES GREATER THAN SIXTY-FIVE FEET (65’) IN HEIGHT PROPOSED FOR ANY LOCATION IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF OCONEE COUNTY, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO’
- [3] **Ordinance 2009-17** “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 BUDGET APPROPRIATES ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. Dexter noted that no citizen signed up to speak at these public hearings. He then opened the floor to anyone arriving late to speak – no citizen spoke at this time.

No written comments were submitted for inclusion with these minutes.

Mr. Dexter closed the public hearings regarding Ordinance 2008-21, 2009-16 and 2009-17.

Consideration of the following Ordinances:

Ordinance 2008-21:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2008-21** ‘AN ORDINANCE REPLACING ORDINANCE 2005-06, THE FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE’ on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2009-16:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2009-16** ‘AN AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 32 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY, AS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIED PERFORMANCE STANDARDS REGULATING CERTAIN BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES GREATER THAN SIXTY-FIVE FEET (65’) IN HEIGHT PROPOSED FOR ANY LOCATION IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF OCONEE COUNTY, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO” on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2009-17:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2009-17** “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 BUDGET APPROPRIATES ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY” on third and reading.

Ordinance 2009-15:

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 to table discussion of **Ordinance 2009-15** “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OCONEE COUNTY ZONING ENABLING ORDINANCE, ORDINANCE 2007-18, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY, AS TO REZONE A SERIES OF PARCELS SPECIFIED HEREIN, AND TO RATIFY AND AFFIRM ALL OTHER PROVISIONS OF

ORDINANCE 2007-18 NOT AMENDED OR MODIFIED HEREBY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO” and to send the Ordinance to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation based on a forthcoming legal opinion from county attorney, Tom Martin.

Appointment of Council Committees by Council Chairman:

Mr. Dexter made the following recommendations:

- **Budget, Finance & Administration Committee:** All members; Mr. Dexter to chair
- **Transportation Committee:** Mr. Corbeil, Mr. McCall; Mr. Thrift to chair
- **Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management:** Mr. Corbeil, Mr. Thrift; Mr. Suarez to chair
- **Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare:** Mr. Thrift, Mr. Suarez, Mr. Dexter to chair
- **Planning & Economic Development:** Mr. Dexter, Mr. McCall; Mr. Corbeil to chair

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to approve the recommendations of the Chair for appointments for committee assignments.

Appointment of Council District I as Representative to Outside Organizations by Council Chairman:

Mr. Dexter made the following recommendations:

- **Upstate Alliance Board of Directors:** Mr. Corbeil to replace Mr. Dexter

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 to approve the recommendation of the Chair for appointment to the Upstate Alliance Board of Directors.

Items for Consideration by Council:

Mission / Goals / Structure / Meeting Schedule for the Blue Ribbon Panel re: I-85 & GCCP Sewer Options for Oconee County:

Mr. Thrift announced the Mission Statement of the Blue Ribbon Panel as follows: To review pertinent information related to proposed sewer in Oconee County as related to I-85 Corridor and Golden Corner Commerce Park; and to make recommendations to County Council what they identify as the best option in this area. Mr. Thrift also noted that we have numerous studies on hand for their use. Again he stated that it is their role to study and make recommendations to Council within 90 days.

Mr. Thrift announced their first meeting to be held jointly with Council for Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

- **Council District I Appointees to Panel**

Mr. Corbeil recommended: Mr. Charles Chamberlain & Mr. Randy Renz

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 to approve Mr. Corbeil’s recommendations to the Blue Ribbon Panel

Open Administrator’s Position Progress & Updating of Timeline:

Mr. Dexter noted that the candidates have been narrowed down to 5-6 candidates. Discussion took place regarding the timing of background checks and telephone interviews.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to: [1] switch #5a & #6 on the “Procedures: Administrator Search” worksheet, [2] have two Council members [Dexter & Corbeil] compile the questions received from the citizen committee for use during telephone interviews, [3] set two days for telephone interviews with remaining candidates, and [4] schedule Executive Session Council meetings for the purpose of conducting the confidential telephone interviews on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

PRT / Chau Ram Disc Golf Course:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to authorize the PRT Director to work with the City of Westminster to develop a Disc Golf Course at Chau Ram County Park.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM: Local ATAX / Arts & Historical Grants:

- Walhalla Garden Club / \$1,500.00 / Video on the “Story of the Oconee Bell”
- Pendleton District Commission / \$824.48 / Purchase an enamel-coated steel flat file case to house the Pendleton District Commission Archives Map and oversized document collection
- Full page advertising with the Greenville CVB guide

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to approve the three consent agenda items listed above as outlined on the agenda item summaries.

Roads & Bridges / 22’ Samurai boom Mower with 5’ Rotary Head installed on a John Deere 6330 Tractor / \$90,784.85 & Approval of Budget Justification:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 to approve purchase of a 22’ Samurai Boom Mower with 5’ Rotary Head [to be installed on a John Deere 6330 Tractor] in the amount of \$90,784.85 from Alamo Industrial Inc. of Sequin TX, per state contract 08-S7683-A13729.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0 to approve the budget justification to spend an additional \$11,844.85 on the tractor and boom attachment.

Courthouse / Change Order #5 / PO 44635 / \$10,000

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 to approve Change Order #5 in the amount of \$10,000 to Ard, Wood, Holcombe & Slate as outlined in the agenda item summary.

Council Committee Reports:

Transportation Committee: Mr. Thrift read from a prepared statement regarding activities of the committee.

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee: Mr. McCall read from a prepared statement regarding activities of the committee.

Planning & Economic Development Committee: Mr. Dexter read from a prepared statement regarding activities of the committee. Council affirmed the recommendations from the committee unanimously.

Commission / Board Reports to Council:

Scenic Highway Committee:

Mr. Luther Lyle, Vice Chairman, addressed Council reading from a one page handout [filed with these minutes] updating Council on their accomplishments and mission.

Board & Commission Appointments:

There were no Board or Commission appointments at this meeting.

Administrator's Report:

Census 2010:

Ms. Brown briefly updated Council regarding some kick off activities of the group and passed out to each Council member a 2010 Census T-shirt and water bottle.

Emergency Services / Capital Lease for Equipment / Change Notification

Ms. Brown notified Council that the previously approved capital lease for equipment for Emergency Services would be altered as some equipment would not be available during the lease period.

H1N1 / Swine Flu Update:

Ms. Brown notified Council that hand wash stations have been installed in most county buildings as a preventative measure as we enter flu season.

Old Business:

No Old Business was addressed at this meeting.

New Business:

No New Business was addressed at this meeting.

Executive Session:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a contractual & personnel matter.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:358 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 9:26 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Suarez, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0.

Mr. Dexter stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 to authorize the County Attorney, Tom Martin, to proceed with negotiations as discussed in Executive Session and if successful authorize payment from Council Contingency account.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 to direct staff to handle other personnel matters discussed in Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council