



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
January 3, 2012

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Council Chairman
Mr. Paul Corbeil, District I, Vice Chairman
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II, Chairman Pro Tem
Mr. Archie Barron, District III
Mr. Reg Dexter, District V

Oconee County Council met on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, Thomas L. Martin County Attorney, County Administrator Scott Moulder and Clerk to Council, Elizabeth G. Hulse 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.oconeesc.com/council]. In addition it was made available [upon request] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio, Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent & Carlos Galarza - Daily Journal.

Call to Order: Mr. Martin, County Attorney, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Extended Public Comment Session: None scheduled for this meeting.

Public Comment Session [related to specific agenda items]: None at this meeting.

Public Comment Session [related to non-agenda items]:

Mr. Donald Rochester addressed Council voicing concerns with treatment by county staff and litigation against the county.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council requesting recording systems for the county's magistrate courts.

County Council Response to Public Comment: None at this meeting.

Meeting Recess: Mr. Martin announced a recess at 6:12 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Reconvene: Mr. Martin reconvened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Thrift led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Election of Council Officers

Council Chairman

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, to elect Mr. Joel Thrift as Council Chairman for 2012. No other nominations were received. Mr. Martin called for the vote. Mr. Thrift was elected Chair on a 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Thrift abstained – form filed with these minutes] vote. Mr. Thrift conducted the meeting from this point forward.

Council Vice Chairman

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, to elect Mr. Paul Corbeil as Council Vice Chairman for 2012. No other nominations were received. Mr. Thrift called for the vote. Mr. Corbeil was elected Vice Chair on a 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Corbeil abstained – form filed with these minutes] vote.

Council Chairman Pro Tem

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, to elect Mr. Wayne McCall as Council Chairman Pro Tem for 2012. No other nominations were received. Mr. Thrift called for the vote. Mr. McCall was elected Chairman Pro Tem on a 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. McCall abstained – form filed with these minutes] vote.

Re-Appointment of the Following Appointed Officials

Clerk to Council

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, to reappoint Ms. Elizabeth Hulse as Clerk to Council for 2012. No other nominations were received. Mr. Thrift called for the vote. Ms. Hulse was reappointed as Clerk to Council on a 5 – 0 vote.

County Attorney

Prior to the vote, Mr. Martin excused himself from the room for discussion / vote regarding this position.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, to reappoint Mr. Tom Martin, McNair Attorneys, as the County Attorney for 2012. No other nominations were received. Mr. Thrift called for the vote. Mr. Martin / McNair Attorneys was reappointed as the County Attorney on a 5 – 0 vote.

Mr. Martin returned to Chambers for the remainder of the meeting.

Appointment of Council Committees by Council Chairman:

Mr. Thrift noted that the Committee assignments in 2011 worked well and that he wished to continue with the same assignments; therefore, he made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0, to approve the following recommendations made by Mr. Thrift for the 2012 County Council Committees:

Budget, Finance & Administration:

Mr. Dexter, Chairman
All Council members on Committee

Transportation:

Mr. Thrift, Chairman
Mr. Corbeil
Mr. McCall

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management:

Mr. Barron, Chairman
Mr. Corbeil
Mr. McCall

Planning & Economic Development:

Mr. Corbeil, Chair
Mr. Barron
Mr. Dexter

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare:

Mr. McCall, Chairman
Mr. Barron
Mr. Thrift

Mr. Thrift stated after these appointments that he wished to commend his fellow council members on their hard work last year. He noted that Council members do this job at great personal expense as their current salary does not cover mileage and other out of pocket expenses throughout the year. He also noted that several council members have availed themselves of training offered by various organizations to include the South Carolina Association of Counties and he stated that this training provides opportunities to identify best practices in other counties that could be used in Oconee.

Appointment of Council Representatives by Chairman:

Upstate Alliance Board of Directors

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Corbeil abstained – form filed with these minutes], to approve appointment of Mr. Paul Corbeil to the Upstate Alliance Board of Directors.

Oconee Alliance

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 3 – 0 – 2 [Mr. Corbeil & Mr. Dexter abstained – forms filed with these minutes], to approve appointment of Mr. Paul Corbeil and Mr. Reg Dexter to the Oconee Alliance Board of Directors.

Infrastructure Advisory Commission

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Corbeil abstained – form filed with these minutes], to approve appointment of Mr. Paul Corbeil to the Infrastructure Advisory Commission.

Appalachian Council of Governments

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Dexter abstained – form filed with these minutes], to approve appointment of Mr. Reg Dexter to the Appalachian Council of Governments Board of Directors.

Scheduling of Meeting for 2012:

County Council:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0, to adopt the existing meeting schedule [Council will meet twice a month; except for July and August when they will only meet on the third Tuesday of the month] for 2012.

County Council Committees:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0, to adopt the Amended/Proposed 2012 Committee Meeting Schedule as listed below:

January 10th, April 10th, July 10th & October 9th

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare 5:30 p.m.

Transportation 6:30 p.m.

February 14th, May 8th, August 14th & November 13th

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management 5:30 p.m.

Budget, Finance & Administration 6:30 p.m.

During Budget review additional meetings will be scheduled

March 13th, June 12th, September 11th & December 11th

Planning & Economic Development 5:30 p.m.

Minutes: Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2011 regular meeting as presented.

Presentation by Outside Organization:

McAbee, Talbert & Halliday, PA – Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Audit Presentation

Mr. Chuck Talbert & Ms. Gretchen Taylor addressed Council highlighting points of interest in three documents:

- 2010-2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report [CAFR] [copy maintained in the Finance Department, Clerk to Council office and on disk filed with these minutes]
- Report to County Council [copy filed with these minutes]
- December 21, 2011 McAbee, Talbert & Halliday letter to Oconee County Council [copy filed with these minutes]

Mr. Talbert noted that Oconee County received an unqualified “clean” opinion.

Mr. Thrift thanked Mr. Talbert, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Moulder, Ms. Brown and the Finance staff for a job well done.

Consideration of the Following Ordinances:

Ordinance 2011-25

Mr. Moulder addressed Council requesting that Council table Ordinance 2011-25 pending further research regarding parcels included that may belong to the Oconee County Joint Sewer Authority. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift tabled discussion until January 17, 2012 of **Ordinance 2011-25** “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” *[Council Initiated Public & Recreation Lands Request]*.

Discussion & Possible Action Items

ITB 11-12 / Security Fence / Airport / \$129,085

Mr. Moulder and Mr. Kevin Short, Airport Director, addressed Council regarding this agenda item.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to award ITB 11-12 for security fencing at the airport to A&T Fence, Inc of Lavonia, GA; in the amount of \$129,085, which includes a ten percent contingency.

Board & Commission Appointments

None scheduled for this meeting.

Commission & Board Reports to Council:

None scheduled for this meeting.

Council Committee Reports:

None scheduled for this meeting.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Moulder addressed Council regarding two issues:

- [1] Congratulations to the Finance Staff for receiving a clean FY 2011 Audit, and
 - [2] Introduction of the Assistant Administrator for External and Emergency Services,
- Mr. D. Glenn Breed.

Old Business:

Follow-Up Report regarding Potential Sewer Partnership / Mr. Moulder

Mr. Moulder addressed Council regarding funding options related to a partnership with the School District of Oconee [SDOC] for sewer development from the new Walhalla High School down Highway 11. He noted that after further review by the engineer costs are anticipated to be between \$1 million and \$1.3 million dollars but he was identifying \$1.5 million to cover any unexpected circumstances.

Mr. Moulder identified the following available funds to meet the needs as identified by the engineer [up to \$1.5 million dollars]:

- \$300,000 Monies over and above those needed for debt repayment for High Point / Point West
- \$500,000 Economic Development Fund Balance
- \$250,000 General Fund balance monies generated by FY 2011 in excess of the current fund balance policy as established by Council

Lastly, he noted that excess funds from High Point / Point West could also be designated in FYI 2012-2013 in the approximate amount of \$300,000.

Mr. Corbeil and Mr. Dexter both questioned if these funds would hamper development at the Golden Corner Commerce Park [GCCP]. Mr. Moulder noted that he is continuing to work to identify a way to develop sewer in the southern end of the county. He noted that funding is not the only issue to be addressed related to the GCCP. Issues related to who will build, operate, own and fund are all things that still need to be worked out with the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority [OJRSA]. Lastly, he noted that specifics related to the relationship between the OJRSA and the county need to be worked out. Mr. Moulder noted that there is a lot of work to be done; that he continues to make this a priority and that he is also frustrated that this project has not yet moved forward.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 1 [Mr. Dexter opposed] to direct the Administrator to move forward, committing up to \$1.5 million dollars, to partner with the School District of Oconee County for sewer development from the new Walhalla High School down Highway 11.

Adjourn:

Mr. McCall made a motion, approved unanimously to adjourn at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council