



**MINUTES**  
**OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**September 4, 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 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, Assistant Administrator Glenn Breed, Executive Assistant Amanda Brock 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.oconeese.com/council](http://www.oconeese.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, Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier & Mike Eads - The Daily Journal.

**Call to Order:**

Mr. Thrift called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Prior to Public Comment, Mr. Corbeil reminded those present that Council passed Ordinance 2012-06 which prohibits citizens from engaging in partisan political activity during the Public Comment portion of Council meetings. He requested that all citizens be respectful of this during the election cycle.

**Public Comment Session [related to specific agenda items]:**

Ms. Rosemary Bailes, School District of Oconee [SDOC] Board Member, addressed Council requesting that Council increase school millage to fully fund their FY2013 budget.

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

Mr. Donnie Fricks presented Council with a photograph [copy filed with these minutes] and the American Flag flown in the photo in Afghanistan; asking that it be flown at a 9/11 memorial event to remember those currently serving in our military and those who gave their lives for our country. Council thanked Mr. Fricks and Mr. Thrift accepted the flag stating it would be flown appropriately.

Mr. Doyle Carr addressed Council in opposition to the passage of Ordinance 2012-12.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council in support of flying the flag presented by Mr. Fricks and the poor conditions for visitors at the county detention center.

Mr. Larry Biggers addressed Council utilizing two handouts [copies filed with these minutes] voicing opposition to the construction of a new Oconee County Public Library in Seneca.

**County Council Response to Public Comment:**

None at this meeting.

**Meeting Recess:**

Mr. Thrift announced a recess at 6:16 p.m.

## **Meeting Reconvene:**

Mr. Thrift reconvened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

## **Pledge of Allegiance:**

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

## **Minutes:**

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2012 regular meeting as presented.

## **Administrator's Report & Agenda Summary**

Mr. Moulder along with Mr. Breed briefly reviewed with Council and for the public's benefit specifics related to the following matters before Council at this meeting:

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Resolution R2012-12 | ✓ Ordinance 2012-29 |
| ✓ Resolution R2012-13 | ✓ Ordinance 2012-25 |
|                       | ✓ Ordinance 2012-30 |

In addition, Mr. Moulder reviewed the following Action Items before Council.

1. ITB 12-02 / Prescription Drugs / Detention Center / \$100,000
2. Auditor / Oconee County Millage Presentation for Tax Year 2012
3. Eight Vehicles for Sheriff's Office / \$203,992
4. Sewer Agreement

## **First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions**

**Resolution R2012-12** "A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF ROADS IN LAUREL RIDGE SUBDIVISION AS OCONEE COUNTY PUBLIC ROADS, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A SIGNAGE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH REGARD TO SUCH ROADS"

Mr. Martin noted prior to the vote that the Agenda Item Summary [copy filed with these minutes] outlines the due diligence performed by staff regarding the roads outlined in this Resolution.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to approve

**Resolution R2012-12** on first and final reading.

**Resolution R2012-13** "A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE EMERGENCY SERVICES STAFF AND ALL OCONEE COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE VOLUNTEERS"

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to approve

**Resolution R2012-13** on first and final reading as captioned above.

Mr. Thrift stepped forward while the full resolution was read into the record by the Clerk to Council. All members of the Emergency Services team present in Chambers were requested to stand to be acknowledged by the citizens present as the Resolution was read. After the reading those present received a standing ovation from Council, staff and the citizens.

Mr. Breed noted that he has worked with several jurisdictions and that our team is comprised of compassionate, dedicated people; noting it was his honor to be part of their team. Mr. Thrift thanked all the staff, volunteers and especially the families for the sacrifices they make to keep Oconee County safe for all the citizens.

## **Public Hearing regarding the Following Ordinances:**

**Ordinance 2012-29** "AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2012, OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$1,600,000; FIXING THE FORM AND CERTAIN

DETAILS OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNTY COUNCIL TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO”

Mr. Thrift opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Thrift noted that no citizen signed up to speak on this ordinance; therefore, he opened the floor for any comments. None were received.

Mr. Thrift asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Thrift closed the Public Hearing for this Ordinance.

### **Third & Final Reading of the Following Ordinances**

**Ordinance 2012-29** “AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2012, OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$1,600,000; FIXING THE FORM AND CERTAIN DETAILS OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNTY COUNCIL TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO”

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2012-29** on third and final reading.

### **Second Reading of the Following Ordinances**

[Note: Public Hearings will be scheduled at or before third & final reading for the following ordinances as required]

**Ordinance 2012-25** “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 38 “ZONING” OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, INCLUDING ALL ZONING MAPS INCORPORATED THEREIN AND THEREBY, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” *[Mt. Springs Rezoning Request]*

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2012-25** on second reading.

**Ordinance 2012-30** “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE “COUNTY”) TO PURCHASE OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE COUNTY (THE “PROPERTY”); AUTHORIZING THE SALE OR CONVEYANCE OF A PORTION OF SUCH PROPERTY; AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2012-01 OF THE COUNTY TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE AND ENTER INTO ALL NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOREGOING AND TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOREGOING; RATIFYING THE ACTIONS OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND OTHER COUNTY OFFICIALS AND STAFF UNDERDTAKEN WITH RESPECT TO THE FOREGOING; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE FOREGOING”

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2012-30** on second reading.

## **First Reading of the Following Ordinances**

None Scheduled at this meeting.

### **Discussion Regarding Action Items**

#### **ITB 12-02 / Prescription Drugs / Detention Center / \$100,000.00**

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to award of ITB 12-02, Prescription Drugs for the OCDC to I.H.S. Pharmacy of Rainsville, AL, for the estimated annual amount of \$100,000.00. Staff also recommends that the County Administrator is authorized to renew this bid for an additional four years, as long as the amount does not exceed the medical amount budgeted for the Detention Center.

#### **Auditor / Oconee County Millage Presentation for Tax Year 2012**

Mr. Ken Nix, County Auditor, addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] regarding millage for 2012. Mr. Nix noted that the Duke Energy assessment was \$11.4 million dollars less necessitating either a millage increase or budget reductions for the county and the SDOC. Mr. Nix provided four options to Council for their consideration. Discussion followed including issues related to the disconnect in state legislation related to county budget passage and corporate income tax filings and the option of working with the Department of Revenue and Duke Energy to better estimate increases or decreases prior to setting the county budget.

Mr. Thrift asked Dr. Michael Lucas, SDOC Superintendent, to address Council regarding their needs. Mr. Thrift noted that he had contacted the SDOC Board Chair, Mr. Andy Inabinit, requesting that an additional review be made of their budget to identify any areas where cuts could be made to eliminate the need to raise millage. Dr. Lucas stated that review was conducted and that they were requesting that millage be set to cover their budget as approved in Ordinance 2012-02. He utilized a handout [copy filed with these minutes] showing previous years savings and reductions; noting that they could not reduce any more this year without impacting student services. Lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion to approve no change in millage for the County and to fund the SDOC at last years approved amount. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 1 [Mr. McCall opposed] to approve no change in millage for the County and to approve an additional 8.7 mills for the SDOC for 2012.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve 14.5 mills for the Keowee Fire Tax District for 2012.

A copy of the final approved millage will be filed with these minutes.

#### **Eight [8] Vehicles for Sheriff's Office/ \$203,992.00**

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to approve the purchase of Sheriff's fleet vehicles [as listed on the agenda item summary – copy filed with these minutes] to Love Chevrolet, of Columbia, SC, in the amount of \$203,992.00, per State Contract numbers 4400002990, 4400002966, 4400004322.

Mr. Dexter suggested to the County Administrator that any unused portion of this budget line item be allocated to the millage shortfall for County operations.

#### **Sewer Agreement**

Mr. Moulder noted that the agreement would be three party; County, City of Seneca and the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority [OJRSA]. He noted that he has worked closely with the City of Seneca Administrator, Greg Dietterick, and his staff and an agreement has been reached. Negotiations

with the OJRSA are ongoing but close to a conclusion. Mr. Moulder stated that if approved he hoped to have design work begun within a few months.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate and sign contracts for sewer construction for the Golden Corner Commerce Park and the southern end of Oconee County based on previous discussions regarding negotiations as discussed in executive session.

### **Council Committee Reports**

None scheduled for this meeting.

The Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting scheduled for September 11, 2012 has been cancelled.

### **Board & Commission Appointments**

None scheduled for this meeting.

### **Commission & Board Reports to Council**

None scheduled for this meeting.

### **Old Business**

None scheduled for this meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **Metropolitan Planning Organization [MPO] / 2010 Census Data**

Mr. Moulder stated that no Council action is required at this time regarding this issue.

#### **SCAC Steering Committee's Draft Position Papers**

Mr. Dexter distributed to Council [copy filed with these minutes] the Revenue, Finance & Economic Development Steering Committee draft position paper & Mr. Thrift distributed to Council [copy filed with these minutes] the Land Use, Natural Resources & Transportation Steering Committee draft position paper requesting Council members feedback regarding the key issues addressed prior to their meetings in Columbia next week.

### **Executive Session**

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

Council entered Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:59 p.m., on a motion from Mr. Dexter, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0. Mr. Thrift stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 authorize the County Administrator to execute a settlement and release agreement regarding the contractual matter as discussed in Executive Session.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Elizabeth G. Hulse  
Clerk to Council