



A G E N D A

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

November 19, 2013

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices
415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC

Call to Order

Public Comment Session / Agenda Items & Non Agenda Items *[time permitting]*

Agenda & Non Agenda Items: Combined both are limited to a total of forty (40) minutes, four (4) minutes per person.

Council Member Comments *[Council may take a recess after Public Comment & Council Comments]*

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Approval of Minutes: November 5, 2013 Regular Meeting

Presentations to Council *[max. 2 per meeting / max. 10 minutes per presentation]*

Capital Project Sales Tax Commission Update

Ms. Thelma Miller & Mr. Glen McPheeters

Oconee County Economic Development Commission / Oconee Alliance Merger Update

Mr. Robert Halfacre & Mr. Scott Moulder

Administrator Report & Agenda Summary

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2013-33 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FOR THE CITY OF SENECA AND AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENT AGREEMENT OR EMBODYING DOCUMENT INCLUDING THE TERMS OF ANY AGREEMENT, WITH EACH; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO"

Third & Final Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2013-33 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FOR THE CITY OF SENECA AND AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENT AGREEMENT OR EMBODYING DOCUMENT INCLUDING THE TERMS OF ANY AGREEMENT, WITH EACH; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO"

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 2013-08 "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 26-11, ENTITLED IDENTIFY ROADS IN THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM, OF DIVISION 1, ENTITLED UNIFIED ROAD STANDARDS FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF OCONEE COUNTY, OF CHAPTER 26, ENTITLED ROADS AND BRIDGES, OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMEND THE OFFICIAL OCONEE COUNTY ROAD MAP INCORPORATED THEREIN; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO"

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition. This agenda may not be inclusive of all issues which Council may bring up for discussion at this meeting. Items are listed on Council's agenda to give public notice of the subjects and issues to be discussed, acted upon, received as information and/or disposed of during the meeting. Items listed on Council's agenda may be taken up, tabled, postponed, removed or otherwise disposed of as provided for under Council's Rules, and Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition, if not specified under Council's rules.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2013-36 “AN ORDINANCE TO CONDITION FUTURE PAYMENTS TO THE OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY ON THE RECEIPT AND SUFFICIENCY OF DETAILED INVOICES FROM THE OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY; TO FORMALLY REQUEST THAT A MEMBER OF THE OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPRESENT OCONEE COUNTY AT ANY AND ALL FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Merger of the OC Economic Development Commission & Oconee Alliance

The Oconee County EDC and Oconee Alliance request Council's consent to move forward with the merge.

Revised Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] with Tri County Technical College

For each fiscal year, beginning with 2006 and continuing through 2009, the annual tax millage levied and collected specifically to provide the County's annual support of Tri-County Technical College (TCTC) exceeded their annual request. In fiscal year 2010, these “excess funds” were identified and totaled \$785,341. On May 18, 2010, the County and the College executed a MOU that outlined possession and usage of these excess funds. In 2011, TCTC had a shortfall in revenue collection and was able to use \$20,405 of the excess funds to offset the shortfall. The current balance of the excess funds is \$764,936 and must be returned to the County. As a result, a revised MOU between Oconee County and TCTC outlining the terms affecting these funds must be executed. The agreement provides for the future use of the excess funds which includes the County's intent to provide funding of \$75,000 from these funds for a pre-engineering study for a new TCTC student success center.

Since discovery in fiscal year 2010, the excess funds were classified as a prepaid on the County's special revenue fund, Tri-County Technical College Special Revenue Fund #250. This special revenue fund solely accounts for the tax collections for the County's support of TCTC. The deposit of these funds will eliminate the prepaid item and be added back to the cash for this fund. The use of the monies within this fund is legally restricted, in that they can only be disbursed by the County for operational and capital support for TCTC. No revenues or expenditures will be affected by this refund.

The Memorandum of Understanding was prepared by the county attorney and reviewed by TCTC prior to submission to Council for approval.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve and authorize execution of the MOU as presented.

Creation of the Oconee County Tourism Alliance

Tourism brings in over \$52 million annually in visitor spending to Oconee County, which is a 20.65% increase since 2006 (\$43 Million). The Mountain Lakes CVB, originally started as a 3 year trial, has proven extremely effective with an impressive return on investment. Oconee currently invests \$166,200 annually into the CVB operations through Accommodations Taxes. A large portion of that is utilized to pay for two full time employees. This request is to adopt the existing CVB staff as county employees into the PRT department. By merging those employees into PRT, we make available additional resources with our Accommodations taxes to grow our annual marketing plan, increase our efforts of recruiting tourism to Oconee and take the next step in growing tourism and product development for Oconee County.

The Mountain Lakes CVB will retain its non-profit status and Board of Directors for operations with the two employees becoming County employees under the PRT Department.

The CVB will pay the County their current payroll expenses for the remaining 2014 fiscal year. Oconee County will add the two employees into the PRT department during the 2014-15 budget process.

\$152,083 increase in salary line item to add the CVB staff into the PRT budget.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the creation of the Oconee County Tourism Alliance effective January 1, 2014 as outlined above.

Lake Hartwell Access Areas request from US Army Corp of Engineers

US Army Corp of Engineers, by letter, has asked Oconee County to consider leasing up to 7 additional access areas on Lake Hartwell. Due to Federal budget constraints, seven (7) access areas have been placed on the possible closure list and are being offered by lease to County government in order to keep access open around the lake. Oconee currently has a lease through June 30, 2017 for eight (8) access areas including Holders, Seneca Creek, Timberlake, Lake Shore, Barton's Mill, Port Bass, Mountain Bay and South Union. The proposed request would add the following by lease: Lawrence Bridge Recreation Area, Martin's Creek, FairPlay Recreation Area, Choestoea, Mullin's Ford Recreation Area, Tabor and Hwy. 123 Fishing Pier. Current sites are cleaned 5 times a week during peak times and 2-3 days a week during non-peak times.

Staff has taken several members of Council on a site visit to each of the 15 access areas and recommends keeping the 8 most used sites open, which will permanently close the following ramps-Holders, Timberlake, LakeShore and Barton's Mill. The Corp of Engineers is going to keep the following access areas open-Hwy 123 Fishing pier, Tabor and Martin's Creek.

Estimated to add \$32,136 in annual part time personnel costs for cleaning and maintenance. PRT will work with Sheriff's office to offset as much as possible for litter control. Other additional cost will be a maintenance vehicle, trailer, mower, weedeater's and cleaning supplies. We are currently looking for internal vehicles and trailer that could serve this purpose, but a new mower will need to be purchased to keep up with additional Recreation areas.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council terminate the existing lease and creating a new lease with the Corp of Engineers that will lease the following access areas for a period of ten (10) years...Lawrence Bridge, Seneca Creek, FairPlay, South Union, Choestoea (ramp/parking only), Mullins Ford and Mountain Bay. {Mullins Ford will be operated seasonally April-September and Mountain Bay will be sub-leased to Foxwood Hills POA}.

Old Business *[to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion, if required]*

New Business *[to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion, if required]*

Council Committee Reports

Transportation Committee / Mr. Thrift

Board/Commission Appointments

- Transit Advisory Task Force Committee *[3 unincorporated area appointments]*
- Arts & Historical Commission *[District 3 Seat Open]*

Adjourn

Assisted Listening Devices [ALD] are available to accommodate the special needs of citizens attending meetings held in Council Chambers. ALD requests should be made to the Clerk to Council at least 30 minutes prior to the meeting start time.

Oconee County Council & Committee meeting schedules and agendas are posted at the Oconee County Administration Building & are available on the County Council Website. *[All upcoming meetings will be held in Council Chambers unless otherwise noted]*