



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
January 8, 2013

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 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]. In addition it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Ray Chandler/Anderson Independent, Ashton Hester/Keowee Courier & Norman Cannada/The Daily Journal.

Call to Order:

Prior to the election of a Chair, Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session [related to specific agenda items]:

None at this meeting.

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

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding his suggestion that the jail be managed by the county and not the sheriff's office; his concerns regarding conditions in the jail for visiting families, and he provided Council with a handout "Freemasonry & Christianity" [copy not maintained with these minutes].

County Council Response to Public Comment:

None at this meeting

Meeting Recess:

Mr. Martin announced a recess at 6:05 p.m.

Meeting Reconvene:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Barron led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Minutes:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. McCall abstained - form filed with these minutes] to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2012 workshop meeting as presented.

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2012 regular meeting as presented.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2012 workshop meeting as presented.

Election of Officers:

Prior to elections, Mr. Martin stated that the procedure to be utilized was to accept all nominations from the floor for officers and after nominations are closed to vote on each nominee.

Council Chairman

Mr. McCall nominated Mr. Joel Thrift for Chairman for 2013. No other nominations were received from the floor.

Mr. Barron made a motion to close the nominations and elect by acclamation Mr. Joel Thrift as Council Chairman for 2013. Mr. Corbeil seconded the motion which was approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Thrift abstained – form filed with these minutes]. At this point, Mr. Thrift took over chairing the meeting.

Mr. Thrift thanked Council for their continued confidence in his leadership noting that good work has been done in the past and with all of Council's commitment, time and efforts more will be accomplished in 2013.

Council Vice Chairman

Mr. Barron nominated Mr. Paul Corbeil for Vice Chairman for 2013. No other nominations were received from the floor.

Mr. Dexter made a motion to close the nominations and elect by acclamation Mr. Paul Corbeil as Council Vice Chairman for 2013. Mr. Barron seconded the motion which was approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Corbeil abstained – form filed with these minutes].

Council Chairman Pro Tem

Mr. Thrift nominated Mr. Wayne McCall for Chairman Pro Tem for 2013. No other nominations were received from the floor.

Mr. Thrift made a motion to close the nominations and elect by acclamation Mr. Wayne McCall as Council Chairman Pro Tem for 2013. Mr. Corbeil seconded the motion which was approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. McCall abstained – form filed with these minutes].

Re-Appointment of Appointed Officials

Clerk to Council

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to re-appoint Ms. Elizabeth G. Hulse as Clerk to Council for 2013.

County Attorney

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to re-appoint Mr. Tom Martin, McNair Attorneys, as the County Attorney for 2013.

Appointment of Council Committees for 2013 by Council Chairman

Mr. Thrift noted that the Committee assignments in 2012 worked well and that he wished to continue with the same assignments.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0, to approve the following recommendations made by Mr. Thrift for the 2013 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

Appointment of Council Representatives by Chairman:

South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments

Upstate Alliance Board of Directors

Oconee Alliance

Infrastructure Advisory Commission

Mr. Thrift noted that the external board assignments in 2012 worked well and that he wished to continue with the same assignments.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 3 – 0 – 2 [Mr. Corbeil & Mr. Dexter abstained – forms filed with these minutes], to approve appointment the following:

SC Appalachian Council of Governments: Mr. Reg Dexter

Upstate Alliance Board of Directors: Mr. Corbeil

Oconee Alliance Board of Directors: Mr. Corbeil & Mr. Dexter

Infrastructure Advisory Commission: Mr. Corbeil

Scheduling of Meeting for 2013:

County Council:

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil 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 2013.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to amend the schedule as follows: *Oconee County Council will meet in 2013 on the first and the third Tuesday of each month [excluding July and August which will meet only on the third Tuesday of the month] at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, South Carolina unless otherwise advertised. Council will conduct Public Comment beginning at 6:00 p.m. which may last up to forty minutes at which time Council may take a brief recess prior to moving on to the remainder of the agenda.*

Mr. Thrift called for the vote on the schedule as amended. The motion passed 5 – 0.

County Council Committees:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0, to adopt the Proposed 2013 Committee Meeting Schedule as presented.

Motion to Amend Agenda

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to amend the agenda to add presentation of service weapons to retiring Sheriff James Singleton & Chief Deputy Terry Wilson.

Presentation of Service Weapons

Mr. Thrift presented to retiring Sheriff James Singleton & Chief Deputy Terry Wilson their service weapons; thanking them for their many years of service and dedication to the citizens of Oconee County. Sheriff Singleton & Chief Deputy Wilson received a standing ovation from those present.

Presentations to Council:

Oconee County Economic Development Commission Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Richard Blackwell, Economic Development Director, introduced Mr. Kyle Talente, Vice President & Principal, RKG Associates, Inc. who addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation and an Executive Summary handout [copies filed with these minutes]. Council thanked Mr. Talente for his presentation; noting that action is scheduled for later in the meeting.

Administrator’s Report & Agenda Summary

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

Ordinance 2012-38

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

- 1. Adoption of the Oconee County Economic Development Commission Strategic Plan.

Third & Final Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

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 2012-38 "AUTHORIZING THE SALE, BY OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE "COUNTY"), OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON (THE "PROPERTY"), AND THE GRANT BY THE COUNTY OF CERTAIN EASEMENTS AFFECTING REAL PROPERTY, OWNED BY THE COUNTY AND LOCATED IN THE CITY OF WALHALLA, SOUTH CAROLINA (THE "CITY"), TO OCONEE COURTHOUSE VENTURES, LLC (THE "COMPANY"), ALL PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE ENTERED INTO BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE COMPANY; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ONE OR MORE INCENTIVE AGREEMENTS BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE COMPANY FOR THE PURPOSES OF MAKING AVAILABLE TO THE COMPANY CERTAIN PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FUNDS, INCLUDING THE PROPERTY

AND THE PROJECT IN A MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS OR INDUSTRIAL PARK (THE “PARK”), AND MAKING AVAILABLE TO THE COMPANY CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PARK WITH ONE OR MORE ADJOINING COUNTIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCLUDING THE PROPERTY AND THE PROJECT WITHIN THE PARK; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE CITY RELATING TO THE INCLUSION OF THE PROPERTY AND THE PROJECT IN THE PARK AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF PARK REVENUES; AUTHORIZING, RATIFYING AND AFFIRMING ALL PRIOR ACTS OF OCONEE COUNTY AND ITS OFFICERS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS WITH REGARD TO THE FOREGOING; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS OR CERTIFICATES NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOREGOING; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2012-38** on second reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Adoption of the Oconee County Economic Development Commission Strategic Plan

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to support and adopt the five-year Economic Development Strategic Plan as presented in the Executive Summary and to schedule a workshop on Tuesday, January 15, 2012 to review the plan in greater detail.

Board & Commission Appointments

None at this meeting; however, the following Boards and/or Commissions require appointment and/or re-appointment for their members between January-June 2013:

- ~ Aeronautics Commission [3 seats, 1 At Large Seat]
- ~ Arts & Historical Commission [3 seats, 1 At Large Seat]
- ~ Board of Zoning Appeals [3 seats, 1 At Large Seat]
- ~ Building Codes Appeal Board [3 seats]
- ~ Capital Project Advisory Committee [1 At Large Seat]
- ~ Conservation Bank Board [3 seats, 2 At Large Seat]
- ~ Economic Development Commission [3 seats]
- ~ Library Board [6 At Large Seat]
- ~ Planning Commission [3 seats, 1 At Large Seat]
- ~ Parks, Recreation & Tourism Commission [3 At Large Seats]
- ~ Scenic Highway Committee [1 At Large Seat]

NOTE: Council unanimously approved requiring that all interested candidates [either in appointment OR reappointment] **MUST** complete the Board & Commission Questionnaire and forward the completed form to the Clerk to Council in order to be considered for appointment/reappointment.

Appointments tentatively scheduled for January 22, 2013 as follows:

- Planning Commission Economic Development Commission
- Library Board Board of Zoning Appeals

Appointments tentatively scheduled for the February 2013 meetings as follows:

- Aeronautics Commission Arts & Historical Commission Building Codes Appeal Board
- Capital Project Advisory Committee Conservation Bank Board PRT Commission
- Scenic Highway Committee

Old Business

None at this meeting.

New Business

2013 County Council Retreat

Mr. Thrift announced that Oconee County Council has scheduled a Retreat Special Meeting for Tuesday, February 7, 2013, 9:00 a.m., Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC for the purpose of discussing short and long term planning. He noted that the public are invited to attend the meeting however an opportunity for public comment will not be offered at this meeting.

Certified Work Ready Community

Mr. Richard Blackwell introduced the initiative to Council and requested that this issue be added to the January 22, 2013 agenda for a resolution/adoption letter.

Adjourn

Mr. McCall made a motion, approved unanimously 5 - 0, to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council