



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
November 19, 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, County Administrator Scott Moulder, Assistant Administrator Glenn Breed, Thomas L. Martin County Attorney, 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, Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio & Norman Cannada -The Daily Journal.

Call to Order: Mr. Thrift called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session [related to specific agenda items]:

Ms. Donna Linsin addressed Council in opposition to the merger of the Economic Development Commission and Oconee Alliance.

Mr. Brit Adams addressed Council in opposition to the merger of the Economic Development Commission and Oconee Alliance, lack of public hearings for FILOT's and other financial incentive deals, and the potential one cent sales tax.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council in opposition to the merger of the Economic Development Commission and Oconee Alliance.

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

Mr. John Dalen addressed Council voicing concerns that the county is not collecting all available Register of Deeds recording fees. He also provided Council with a CD with research articles regarding this topic [copy of CD filed with these minutes].

Mr. Ward Fetrow addressed Council in opposition to additional land purchases, FILOT agreements and the potential one cent sales tax.

Mr. Ben Turetzky, FOLKS Director, addressed Council reading from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] regarding a request to change wording for Section 38-2.7 of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances.

County Council Response to Public Comment:

Mr. McCall updated those present regarding women's self-defense classes available through the Sheriff's Office. In addition, he summarized a workshop that he conducted in conjunction with the Sherriff's office on Tuesday, November 12, 2013.

Mr. Dexter questioned staff regarding when public hearings are conducted by County Council. Mr. Martin, County Attorney, noted that it is the practice of Council to hold public hearings for all ordinances even though they are not required to do so by law. He noted that the public is provided input on all ordinances at each reading and during each public hearing.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Minutes: Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2013 regular meeting as presented.

Presentation by Outside Organizations

Capital Project Sales Tax Commission [CPSTC] Update

Ms. Thelma Miller, Vice Chair, and Mr. Glen McPheeters addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting the following activities of the CPSTC:

- Brief History
- Commission Membership
- Commission Role & Responsibilities
- County Council's Role
- Actions to Date
- Submission Documentation
- Public Awareness Program
- Timeline

Ms. Miller also introduced other members of the CPSTC present; Ms. Brenda Davis & Ms. Mollie Smith. Council thanked Ms. Miller and the Commission for their thorough presentation.

Oconee County Economic Development Commission / Oconee Alliance Merger Update

Mr. Robert Halfacre, Alliance Chair, and Mr. Moulder addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting the following:

- Background
- New Focus
- New Roadmap
- Next Steps

Mr. Moulder stressed the importance of this merger to facilitate greater public-private partnerships in Oconee County. Council thanked Mr. Moulder and Mr. Halfacre for their thorough presentation.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to approve the merger as outlined at this 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:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Public Hearings | Council Committee Report |
| Third and Final Reading for Ordinance | Board/Commission Appointments |
| Second Readings for Ordinances | Executive Session |
| First Readings for Ordinances | |
| Discussion / Action Items | |

Mr. Breed provided Council with additional information related to Ordinance 2013-08 noting the work of staff to prepare a comprehensive county road map.

Public Hearing and 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”

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Thrift opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance.

No citizens addressed Council regarding this ordinance.

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 regarding **Ordinance 2013-33**.

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”

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2013-33** 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 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”

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2013-08** on second reading.

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.”

Council discussed various issues related to this ordinance including but not limited to lack of detailed invoices for monies spent for improvements in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2013-36** on first reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Merger of the OC Economic Development Commission & Oconee Alliance

Council took action regarding this matter directly following the presentation [see page 2 for motion/action].

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

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to authorize execution of the MOU as presented.

Creation of the Oconee County Tourism Alliance

Mr. Phil Shirley, PRT Director, addressed Council regarding this agenda item. Lengthy discussion followed including concerns regarding increasing county personnel count, reasons to wait to discuss during normal budgeting cycle, etc.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr McCall, approved 4 – 1 [Mr. Corbeil opposed] to table this matter to the next meeting to allow for further study by Council.

Lake Hartwell Access Areas request from US Army Corp of Engineers

Mr. Phil Shirley, PRT Director, addressed Council regarding this agenda item.

Mr. Baron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to terminate the existing lease and create a new lease with the Corp of Engineers as outlined on the agenda item summary.

Old Business

None at this meeting.

New Business

Ordinance to allow for Pre-Payment of Property Taxes

Mr. McCall requested that Council consider an ordinance to allow for county citizens to pre-pay property taxes in quarterly payments. Discussion followed.

Council directed the Administrator to discuss with the County Treasurer and report at the next meeting regarding potential costs associated with this proposed new program.

Council Committee Reports

Transportation Committee / Mr. Thrift

Mr. Thrift read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting discussions from the October 23, 2013 meeting.

Board/Commission Appointments

Transit Advisory Task Force Committee

Mr. Thrift deferred appointments to this committee until the next meeting.

Arts & Historical Commission

Mr. Barron deferred appointment to the next meeting.

Executive Session:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contractual matters related to property purchases.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:41 p.m. on a motion by Mr. McCall, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0.

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

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to direct the Administrator to proceed as discussed in Executive Session regarding property purchase and/or sales.

Adjourn

Mr. McCall made a motion, approved unanimously 5 - 0, to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council