



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
March 18, 2014

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
VACANT, 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, County Attorney Thomas Martin 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 & 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. Rosemary Bailes, PRT Commission Chair, addressed Council noting the hard work done by the PRT Commission. Additionally, she voiced support for the work done by the Mr. Phil Shirley, PRT Director, and his staff to make the county parks a place of pride for the citizens.

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

Mr. Bruce Burrell addressed Council requesting reconsideration for inclusion of Holder's Landing in the lease with the Army Corp of Engineers. Mr. Holder provided Council with a handout [copy filed with these minutes].

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council making a personal attack against a council member and addressed issues unrelated to Council business.

County Council Response to Public Comment:

Several council members discussed the boat landing issue. Chairman Thrift asked Mr. Phil Shirley, PRT Director, to assist the citizen to attempt to identify a workable solution and report back.

Mr. Dexter commented on a citizen email circulating in the community that erroneously states that the county has spent \$400,000 [in either the first two months of 2014 or the first eight months of fiscal year 2014] on legal fees. Mr. Dexter asked Mr. Moulder to address this issue.

Mr. Moulder stated that legal fees as of this date for fiscal year 2014 [July – February] total \$271,726 which he noted is significantly lower at this point in the fiscal year than in previous years.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Thrift asked Mr. McCall to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0 to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2014 regular meeting as presented.

Presentations to Council:

Appalachian Council of Governments [ACOG] Annual Report

Mr. Steve Pelissier, Executive Director ACOG, addressed Council utilizing two handouts [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting accomplishments for 2013 and goals for 2014. Mr. Thrift thanked Mr. Pelissier for his report.

Citizen Serve

Mr. David Stokes, Community Development Director, addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting the updated, interactive software that is allowing his staff to be more productive and will ultimately provide better service to the citizens. Mr. Thrift thanked Mr. Stokes for his report; noting Council looks forward to updates in the future.

SCAC Award Presentation to the Oconee County Sheriff's Office

Mr. John Henderson, SCAC Risk Management Director, presented to Captain Jeff Underwood, Oconee County Sheriff's Office; Mr. Chuck Kormalink, and Ms. Linda Blackwell the SCAC Outstanding Safety Achievement Award. The award was for the program "Tourniquet for a Cop" that provided 85 kits for officers to assist either a citizen in need or for use if they are involved in an accident.

Mr. Thrift thanked Mr. Henderson for attending the meeting to make the presentation.

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:

- Second Reading for Ordinance: 2014-06
- First Reading for Ordinances: 2014-07, 2014-08
- Discussion / Action Items: Local ATAX Grants
- Board/Commission Appointments
- Council Committee Reports

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2014-06 "AN ORDINANCE TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK (PROJECT STAR) IN CONJUNCTION WITH PICKENS COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/ BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS OF 1976 §4-1-170, ET SEQUITUR, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES TO THE COUNTIES AND RELEVANT TAXING ENTITIES; TO PROVIDE THAT JOB TAX CREDITS ALLOWED BY LAW BE PROVIDED FOR BUSINESSES LOCATING IN SAID PARK; TO PERMIT A USER FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION WITHIN SAID PARK; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SENECA RELATED TO THE CREATION OF

THE PARK WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SENECA AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES DUE TO OCONEE COUNTY FROM THE PARK, AND THE PAYMENT BY OCONEE COUNTY TO THE CITY OF SENECA OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT, SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE CITY OF THE SENECA FOR SERENE HOSPITALITY, LLC; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND SERENE HOSPITALITY, LLC; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE AUTHORIZATION OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT IN FAVOR OF SERENE HOSPITALITY, LLC”

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2014-06** on second reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2014-07 “AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE OFFENSE, EXCEPTIONS, DEFINITIONS, AND PENALTIES OF DISTRACTED DRIVING IN OCONEE COUNTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED”

Sheriff Crenshaw addressed Council briefly regarding this ordinance; noting that as the General Assembly has not yet passed similar legislation that it was time to do so in Oconee County. Discussion followed.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2014-07** on first reading.

Ordinance 2014-08 “AN ORDINANCE CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM TO AUTHORIZE THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO ISSUE TEMPORARY PERMITS TO ALLOW FOR THE POSSESSION, SALE, AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS BY THE DRINK TO BONA FIDE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS AUTHORIZED TO BE LICENSED FOR CONSUMPTION-ON-PREMISES SALES AND TO ALLOW THE SALE OF BEER AND WINE AT PERMITTED OFF-PREMISES LOCATIONS WITHOUT REGARD TO THE DAYS OR HOURS OF SALE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall approved 4 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2014-08** on first reading.

Ordinance 2014-10 [Title Only] “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”

[Seneca Rail Site Rezoning]

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2014-10** on first reading in title only and to refer this matter to the Planning Commission for their required review/recommendation.

Discussion Regarding Action Items:

Local ATAX Grants / \$30,300

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0 to approve the nine Local ATAX grants as presented on the spreadsheet provided.

Old Business:

Local Government Fund [LGF]

Mr. Dexter updated Council and the public regarding the House’s action to move \$5 million from non-recurring funds to recurring funds; noting that the net was no change to funding. Again he asked that citizens contact the local Delegation to request full funding for the LGF.

New Business:

None at this meeting.

Council Committee Reports

Planning & Economic Development Committee

Mr. Corbeil read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting discussions from the March 11, 2014 meeting.

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee

Mr. Dexter read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting discussions from the March 11, 2014 meeting.

Board/Commission Appointments

Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Behavioral Health Services Commission

Noting no questionnaires on file for consideration; Mr. Thrift deferred this matter.

Adjourn

Mr. McCall made a motion, approved unanimously 4 - 0, to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council