



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
May 6, 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.

Members of the press present: Ray Chandler/Anderson Independent and Norman Cannada/The Daily Journal

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

Public Comment Session Agenda Action Items Only: None

County Council Response to Public Comment: None

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

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0, to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2014 regular meeting as presented.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0, to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2014 special Council meeting as presented.

First and Final Reading of Proclamations

Proclamation P2014-03 “A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MAY 15, 2014 AS PEACE OFFICERS’ MEMORIAL DAY IN OCONEE COUNTY”

Mr. Thrift invited Cpt. Jeff Underwood, representing the Oconee County Sheriff’s Office, to step forward to receive **Proclamation P2014-03**. Mr. Thrift expressed his gratitude for the Oconee County’s law enforcement personnel.

Proclamation P2014-04 “A PROCLAMATION FOR FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH MAY 2014”

Mr. Thrift invited Ms. Tammy Allen, County Director for Oconee County Department of Social Services, to step forward to receive **Proclamation P2014-04**. Mr. Thrift expressed his appreciation for all the work the Oconee County Department of Social Services is doing to improve the lives of children from the area.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Proclamation P2014-03 & Proclamation P2014-04** on first and final reading.

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:

- Third & Final Reading for Ordinance: 2014-06
- Second Reading for Ordinance: 2014-13
- First Reading [in title only] for Ordinances: 2014-01, 2014-02, 2014-03, 2014-14
- Discussion Items
- Council Committee Report
- Board/Commission Appointments
- Executive Session

Mr. Moulder also addressed two additional items:

1. The Parks, Recreation and Tourism online reservation system would go live on Thursday, May 8
2. The creation of an app, “Mountain Lakes Water Tour,” that provides useful information for those who wish to explore the natural beauty of Oconee County. The app can be downloaded by following the links provided:

- iTunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/oconee-county-south-carolina/id740912889?ls=1&mt=8>

- Google Play

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.populace.MLWaterfall>

Third & Final 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. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, to approve **Ordinance 2014-06** on third & final reading.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, to amend the documents as reflected in the documents provided by the County Attorney.

Mr. Thrift called for a vote on **Ordinance 2014-06** on third & final reading as amended. The motion passed 4-0.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2014-13 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT MAY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, AUTHORIZATION OF A TWENTY PERCENT (20%) INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT” *[Project May]*

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2014-13** on second reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2014-01: *[in title only]* AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES, FOR THE TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE VICTIM SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, FOR THE BRIDGE AND CULVERT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, AND FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, ALL IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2015

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2014-01** on first reading in title only.

Ordinance 2014-02: *[in title only]* AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY (the “School District”) AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2015

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2014-02** on first reading in title only.

Ordinance 2014-03: *[in title only]* AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT AND TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2015

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2014-03** on first reading in title only.

Ordinance 2014-14: *[in title only]* AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A ONE PERCENT CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX, SUBJECT TO A REFERENDUM, WITHIN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, PURSUANT TO THE CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX ACT, AS CODIFIED IN §4-10-300, *ET SEQ.*, OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS, 1976, AS *AMENDED* (THE “ACT”); TO SPECIFY THE PURPOSES, PROJECTS AND FACILITIES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX MAY BE USED; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM TIME FOR WHICH SUCH TAX MAY BE IMPOSED; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO BE ISSUED TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF ANY COSTS OF THE PROJECTS AND FACILITIES AND TO PLEDGE SUCH TAX TO THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM COST OF THE PROJECTS OR FACILITIES TO BE FUNDED FROM THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX OR BONDS; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF NET PROCEEDS OF THE TAX EXPECTED TO BE USED TO PAY THE COST OF THE PROJECTS OR DEBT SERVICE ON THE BONDS; TO ORDER A REFERENDUM PRESCRIBED BY THE ACT TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE OCONEE COUNTY REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH TAX; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2014-14** on first reading in title only.

Prior to the May 6, regular meeting, Council members individually ranked the proposed Capital Sales Tax Projects, anonymously, for the purpose of discussion. Mr. Stephens provided a summary sheet detailing the anonymous ranking [copy is filed with these minutes, labeled as initial summary sheet].

Discussion followed regarding establishing a prioritized project list of the approved Capital Sales Tax Projects.

Mr. McCall stated he had misunderstood the scoring procedures and that his thoughts on the matter were not accurately represented in the initial summary sheet.

Mr. Thrift called for a recess of 10 minutes, at 6:38, to allow for Mr. McCall to rank the proposed Capital Sales Tax Projects. Mr. Thrift reconvened the meeting at 6:48.

Mr. Moulder and Mr. Stephens incorporated the new data into the summary sheet [copy is filed with these minutes, labeled updated summary sheet] and provided the updated summary sheet.

Upon review of the update summary sheet, two ties in ranking were present:

- Tied for second place – Northern Economic Development & Indoor Recreation/Aquatic Center
- Tied for eighth place – Library System Enhancement/Salem Branch & Library System Enhancement/Walhalla Branch

Further discussion followed regarding the ties in ranking in regards to establishing a prioritized project list.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4- 0, to establish the Northern Economic Development project as the number 2 (second) project and the Indoor Recreation/Aquatic Center and the number 3 (third) project on the prioritized project list.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4- 0, to establish the Library System Enhancement/Salem Branch Project as the number 8 (eighth) project and the Library System Enhancement/Walhalla Branch as the number 9 (ninth) project on the prioritized project list.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0, to approve the Capital Project Sales Tax Prioritized List as modified [copy filed with these minutes, labeled as approved and accepted Capital Project Sales Tax Prioritized List].

Discussion Regarding Action Items:

ITB 13-13 Tellabs Equipment for Broadband, \$250,000.00

Mr. McCall motioned, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0, to (1) approve the award of ITB 13-13 for Tellabs Equipment to Core Telecom Systems, Inc., of St. Louis, MO, not to exceed \$250,000.00 in a one year period and (2) authorize the County Administrator to approve the renewal of this award, not to exceed four (1) one year renewals.

Coroner/Sheriff's Substation Building \$315,342.30.

Mr. McCall motioned, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0, to approve the award of \$ 315,342.30 (includes \$15,016.30 owner contingency) to Roebuck Buildings, Co., Inc., of Roebuck, SC to construct the Coroner/Substation building.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Local Government Fund Update

Mr. Dexter presented an update regarding the Local Government Fund along with two handouts related to the matter [copy filed with these minutes].

Mr. Thrift commented on the importance of fully funding the Local Government Fund and directed Mr. Stephens to present an article from the May 4 edition of the Spartanburg Herald-Journal [copy filed with these minutes].

Council Committee Reports

Budget, Finance & Administration Committee / Mr. Dexter

Mr. Dexter read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting discussions from the April 21, 2014 meeting.

Board/Commission Appointments

Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Behavioral Health Services Commission

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

Executive Session:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a potential litigation.

Council entered Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. on a motion by Mr. McCall, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0.

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

Public Comment Session Non Agenda Action Items:

Mr. B. J. Littleton spoke in regards to his concerns regarding ISO.

Council Member Comments:

None

Adjourn

Mr. McCall made a motion, approved unanimously 4 - 0, to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joshua A. Stephens
Deputy Director of Community Development