



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
January 6, 2015

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II, Council Chairman
Mr. Paul Cain, District III, Vice Chairman
Ms. Edda Cammick, District I, Chairman Pro Tem
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV
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 Elizabeth Hulse, Clerk to Council 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, Dick Mangrum/WGOG Radio, Ashton Hester/Keowee Courier & Steven Bradley/The Daily Journal.

Call to Order

Acting as Chair prior to officer elections; Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session / Agenda Action Items Only

Mr. John Dalen addressed Council regarding the role of Council and other matters [he provided a CD, filed with these minutes] not related to matters before Council for consideration.

County Council Response to Public Comment

None at this meeting.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Martin asked for a moment of silence prior the Invocation by the County Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain:

Mr. Tom Martin, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Ms. Cammick led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Ms. Cammick abstained as she was not a member of Council at this meeting] to approve the December 16, 2014 regular meeting as presented.

Election of Officers:

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

Council Chairman

Ms. Cammick nominated Mr. Wayne McCall for Council Chairman for 2015. No other nominations were received from the floor. Mr. Martin called for the vote. Mr. McCall was elected Chairman on a 5 – 0 vote.

At this point, Mr. McCall took over as chair of the meeting.

Council Vice Chairman

Mr. McCall nominated Mr. Paul Cain for Council Vice Chairman for 2015. No other nominations were received from the floor. Mr. McCall called for the vote. Mr. Cain was elected Vice Chairman on a 5 – 0 vote.

Council Chairman Pro Tem

Mr. Cain nominated Ms. Edda Cammick for Council Chairman Pro Tem for 2015. No other nominations were received from the floor. Mr. McCall called for the vote. Ms. Cammick was elected Chairman Pro Tem on a 5 – 0 vote.

Re-Appointment of Appointed Officials

Clerk to Council

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cammick, approved 5 – 0 to re-appoint Ms. Elizabeth G. Hulse as Clerk to Council for 2015.

County Attorney

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter to re-appoint Mr. Tom Martin, McNair Attorneys, as the County Attorney for 2015.

Mr. Martin left Chambers prior to discussion regarding this appointment.

Lengthy discussion followed regarding the possible savings that an in house attorney might provide, the need to maintain McNair for specialty work, etc.

Mr. Thrift made a motion to amend his original motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 1 [Mr. Dexter opposed] to [1] reappoint Mr. Martin, Attorneys, as the county attorney, and [2] to direct the Administrator to update his in-house attorney study for presentation to Council at a future meeting.

Mr. McCall called for the vote on the motion as amended. The motion passed 4 – 1 [Mr. Dexter opposed].

Mr. Martin returned to Chambers for the remainder of the meeting.

Council Chaplain

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to re-appoint Mr. Tom Martin, McNair Attorneys, as the County Chaplain for 2015.

Appointment of Council Committees for 2015 by Council Chairman

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cammick, approved 5 – 0, to approve the following committee assignments for 2015:

Budget, Finance & Administration

- o Ms. Cammick, Chair
- o All Council Members

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare

- o Mr. McCall, Chair
- o Mr. Dexter
- o Mr. Thrift

Planning & Economic Development

- o Mr. Cain, Chair
- o Mr. Joel Thrift
- o Mr. Reg Dexter

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management

- o Mr. Dexter, Chair
- o Ms. Edda Cammick
- o Mr. Wayne McCall

Transportation

- o Mr. Joel Thrift, Chair
- o Ms. Edda Cammick
- o Mr. Wayne McCall

Appointment of Council Representatives by Chairman:

South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments [SC ACOG]

Infrastructure Advisory Commission

Capital Project Advisory Committee

Oconee Business Education Partnership

Ten at the Top

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0 to defer these appointments to the January 20, 2015 meeting to allow the Clerk to Council time to obtain each organizations meeting schedule.

Scheduling of Meeting for 2015:

County Council:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cammick, approved 5 – 0 to adopt the 2015 meeting schedule as provided in the backup material as follows:

Oconee County Council will meet in 2015 on the first and the third Tuesday of each month [excluding July & 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.

Oconee County Council will also hold a Planning Retreat on Thursday, February 19, 2015 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Additional Council meetings, workshops and/or committee meetings may be added throughout the year as needed.

County Council Committees:

Ms. Cammick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0, to adopt the 2015 Committee meeting schedule as provided in the backup material as follows:

Oconee County Council Committees will meet in 2015 on the following dates/times in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, South Carolina unless otherwise advertised.

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee / 5:30 p.m.

Transportation Committee / 6:30 p.m.

- o January 13th, April 7th, July 7th and October 13th, 2015

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee / 5:30 p.m.

Budget, Finance & Administration Committee / 6:30 p.m.

- o February 10th, May 12th, August 11th and November 10th 2015

Planning & Economic Development Committee / 5:30 p.m.

- o March 10th, June 9th, September 8th and December 8th, 2015

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: 2014-27
- Third & Final Reading for Ordinances: 2014-27
- First Reading of Ordinance: 2015-04 [in title only]
- First & Final Reading of Resolution R2015-01
- Board & Commission Appointments

Public Hearing Regarding the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2014-27 "AN ORDINANCE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER FOR THE PROVISION OF A COUNTY MAGISTRATE TO ACT AS MUNICIPAL JUDGE FOR THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO"

Mr. McCall opened the floor for Public Comment.

No citizens signed up to speak; therefore, Mr. McCall asked if any citizens wished to address Council. No citizens stepped forward.

Mr. McCall asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. McCall closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2014-27**.

Third & Final Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2014-27 "AN ORDINANCE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER FOR THE PROVISION OF A COUNTY MAGISTRATE TO ACT AS MUNICIPAL JUDGE FOR THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO"

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2014-27** on third and final reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2015-04 [title only] "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN OCONEE COUNTY REAL PROPERTY; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A REAL PROPERTY DEED; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO."

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2015-04** on first reading in title only.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

Resolution R2015-01 "A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROCEDURE FOR ADMINISTERING UNDERUTILIZED AND UNUSED REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY OCONEE COUNTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO"

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Resolution R2015-01** on first & final reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items:

None addressed at this meeting.

Board/Commission Appointments

Board of Zoning Appeals / District I, District III and 1 At Large

District I: Deferred to January 20, 2015 meeting.

District III: Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to appoint **Mr. William Gilster** to the District III Board of Zoning Appeals seat.

At Large: Deferred to January 20, 2015 meeting.

Library Board / 3 At Large

At Large: All deferred to January 20, 2015 meeting.

Planning Commission / District I, District III and 1 At Large

District I: Ms. Cammick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0 to appoint **Mr. Brad Kisker** to the District I Planning Commission seat.

District III: Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cammick, approved 5 – 0 to appoint **Mr. David Owenby** to the District III Planning Commission seat.

At Large: Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0 to appoint **Ms. Gwen McPhail** to the At Large Planning Commission seat [seat co-terminus with DX I & III].

Old Business:

None addressed at this meeting.

New Business:

Public Comment

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 2 [Mr. Thrift & Mr. Dexter opposed] to combine public comment to be heard at the beginning of each regular meeting.

Alternative to Ordinance 2014-24

Ms. Cammick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0 to direct the County Administrator to explore options for Errors & Omissions insurance to cover county employees if sued. She noted that the purpose would be to potentially replace Ordinance 2014-24 passed in December 2014.

Release of Emails to Council Members

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to authorize release to County Council members only those unredacted emails specifically related to the Jennings/McMahan litigation and the ARD zoning classification with the understanding that the emails will be maintained by Council members only thereby maintaining attorney/client privilege.

Public Comment Session Non Agenda Action Items:

Mr. Steve Moore addressed Council regarding various FY2015-2016 budget concerns to include an in-house attorney and solid waste issues related to out of county people utilizing our manned convenience centers.

Council Member Comments:

Mr. Thrift thanked Council for their support during his 4 years as Chairman and he wished Mr. McCall good luck offering any assistance needed in the coming year.

Mr. Dexter thanked Mr. Thrift for his service and also offered his assistance to the new slate of officers.

Mr. Cain and Ms. Cammick congratulated Mr. McCall and stated their desire to work to move Oconee County forward.

Mr. McCall thanked everyone for those comments and thanked those in attendance for their interest in county government.

Adjourn

Mr. Thrift made a motion, approved unanimously 5 – 0, to adjourn at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council