



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

April 23, 2019

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Mr. John Elliott, Chair Pro Tem, District I
Mr. Paul Cain, Vice Chair, District III
Mr. Julian Davis III, Chairman, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, and Katie D. Smith, 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.oconeesc.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: Caitlin Herrington / Daily Journal & Jimmy Watt / WGOG.

Call to Order:

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session

Ms. Jean Jennings addressed Council regarding control, the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, The Journal, and the Oconee County Sheriff's Office and their budget.

Mr. Jerry Barnett addressed Council regarding Ms. Amanda Brock as the new Administrator. He noted Council picked the right person for the job. He further addressed Council regarding the Sewer South project.

County Council Response to Public Comment

None at this meeting.

Moment of Silence

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

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Invocation by County Council Chaplain:

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Ernie Beck, Vehicle Maintenance Director, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0 to approve the April 2, 2019 Regular Minutes as presented.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock briefly updated Council and the public regarding the following:

- Thanked Mr. Jerry Barnett for his kind words
- Comprehensive Plan Community meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2019 at 4pm for District III at the Seneca Library
- Saturday, April 27, 2019 at Seneca High School from 8:30 a.m. until 12pm is the 3rd Annual Greater Oconee Cleanup
- Special thanks to staff members who worked hard on Easter Sunday to help restore the water line in Westminster

Proclamation 2019-03

Proclamation 2019-03 Recognizing the Keowee Courier and Westminster News

Mr. Davis read **Proclamation 2019-03** into the record.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2019-03**.

Council members presented the proclamation to Ashton Hester, Candi Phillips, and Angie Wheeler.

Presentation to Council

Mr. Steve Pelissier, Executive Director for the Appalachian Council of Governments, addressed Council utilizing a handout entitled “Appalachian Council of Governments 2018 Annual Report” & “Appalachian Council of Governments Services to Oconee County, 2018” [both copies filed with these minutes].

Mr. Davis thanked the Appalachian Council of Governments for all the hard work, not just for Oconee County but for South Carolina. He also thanked Mr. Pelissier and his staff for all of their hard work.

Mr. Elliott echoed Mr. Davis’ comments, thanking Mr. Pelissier.

Recognition of staff for the 2018 Outstanding Safety Achievement Award presented by the SC Counties Workers’ Compensation Trust / Mr. Robert Beddingfield – SC

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Association of Counties [SCAC]

Mr. Robert Beddingfield, Risk Management Director for the SC Association of Counties, addressed Council and recognized staff for their hard evaluating the risk safety management program and to evaluate where improvements can be made. He further noted through the risk management efforts, over the last year, the County average time of reporting a claim is less than three days, which is one of the best times in South Carolina. Additionally, he noted Oconee County submitted an application for an outstanding safety achievement award and recognized staff for their efforts [copy of certificate of recognition filed with these minutes].

Mr. Ernie Beck, Vehicle Maintenance Director, addressed Council thanking Ms. Debbie Smith and the Human Resources department, as well as Colby Harvey, William Childs and staff and Phil Shirley, Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Director and his staff.

Council members presented the Certificates of Recognition for staff to Mr. Ernie Beck.

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2019-14 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND **ORDINANCE 2018-01** WHICH ESTABLISHED THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY AND PROVIDED 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 FUND, FOR THE BRIDGE AND CULVERT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND, AND FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, ALL IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE **FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2019**, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Davis opened the floor for Public Comment.

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

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

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2019-14**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2019-14 *[see caption above]*

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2019-14** on third & final reading.

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Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

First Reading for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2019-02 “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, 2019 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2020.”

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, to approve **Ordinance 2019-02** on first reading.

Mr. Davis noted they are voting on the original budget that the School District of Oconee County provided. There was discussion during the April 22, 2019 School District Board Meeting to request a 1 mill tax increase.

Regarding the previous motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Cain, it was approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2019-02** on first reading.

Ordinance 2019-03 “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, 2019 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2020.”

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2019-03** on first reading.

Ordinance 2019-15 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND CONSENTING TO OR RATIFYING THE ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF AN INTEREST IN THAT CERTAIN AMENDED FEE AGREEMENT DATED AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2017, SUCH ASSIGNMENT FROM ITECH SOUTH, LLC, EUGENE CARLTON MORRIS and JUNE COPELAND MORRIS, AND SUCH ASSUMPTION BY ITECH BUYER, LLC AND PARKWAY REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS SOUTH CAROLINA, LLC, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AGREEMENT MEMORIALIZING SUCH ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION AND CONSENT OR RATIFICATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2019-15** on first reading.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

Resolution 2019-06 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND FRANKLIN COUNTY, GEORGIA FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RESPONSE /

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RECOVERY.”

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2019-06** on first & final reading.

Resolution 2019-07 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND HABERSHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RESPONSE / RECOVERY.”

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2019-07** on first & final reading.

Resolution 2019-08 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND HART COUNTY, GEORGIA FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RESPONSE / RECOVERY.”

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2019-08** on first & final reading.

Resolution 2019-09 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND JACKSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RESPONSE / RECOVERY.”

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2019-09** on first & final reading.

Resolution 2019-10 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND RABUN COUNTY, GEORGIA FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RESPONSE / RECOVERY.”

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2019-10** on first & final reading.

Resolution 2019-11 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND STEPHENS COUNTY, GEORGIA FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RESPONSE / RECOVERY.”

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2019-11** on first & final reading.

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Resolution 2019-12 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RESPONSE / RECOVERY.”

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2019-12** on first & final reading.

Per Mr. Davis, Ms. Brock noted we share borders with two states and 13 other counties and there are times when we need to provide services to those counties and there are times when those counties can provide services to us and our citizens.

Mr. Davis noted he appreciated the cooperation with the other counties.

Resolution 2019-13 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE BY OCONEE COUNTY OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, DEDICATED BY THE FOXWOOD HILLS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIED PUBLIC PURPOSES ONLY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2019-13** on first & final reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

2019 Ford F-450 with Knapheide Utility Body / Emergency Services / \$75,109.00

Budget: \$75,109.00 / **Project Cost:** \$75,109.00 **Balance:** \$0.00

This purchase is for a 2019 Ford F-450 cab truck with a Knapheide utility body to be Emergency Response Vehicle for the Special Rescue team. It will be used to carry special rescue equipment medical supplies and to tow special rescue response trailers. This truck will replace a 1997 E-350 box van that was purchased used in 2004 and is now past its response service. This vehicle will serve the team for years to come with there ever changing response needs. This existing rescue vehicle (1997 E-350) will be reassigned or sold at a later date by public auction.

It is the staff’s recommendation that Council approve the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-450 with utility bed to Vic Bailey Ford, Inc. of Spartanburg, SC, in the amount of \$75,109.00.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-450 with utility bed to Vic Bailey Ford, Inc. of Spartanburg, SC, in the amount of \$75,109.00.

Board & Commission Appointments

Building Codes Appeal Board

No questionnaires were submitted for the 2 At Large seats.

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Arts & Historical

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to nominate Mr. Bill Bruehl as an At Large representative for the Arts & Historical Commission.

Conservation Bank Board

Ms. Brock noted the Conservation Bank Board, District I seat was filled during the April 2, 2019 meeting.

Council Committee Reports

Mr. McCall read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] outlining the discussions held at the March 19, 2019 Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee.

Mr. Elliott read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] outlining the discussions held at the April 2, 2019 and April 9, 2019 Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee meeting.

Unfinished Business

None at this meeting.

New Business

None at this meeting.

Executive Session:

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to enter into Executive Session for the following purposes, as allowed for in § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

[1] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Aztec.

[2] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Trout.

[3] To receive legal advice and discuss personnel matters related to the following departments: The Rock Quarry, Auditor, Finance, Assessor, Information Technology, Finance, Human Resources, Sheriff's Office, Airport, Treasurer, Facilities Maintenance, Roads and Bridges, Planning, Solid Waste, Registration & Elections, Procurement, and Administration, including internal review procedures.

[4] Discuss employment matters related to County Attorney.

Council entered Executive Session at 6:44 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:42 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0.

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

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Extended Public Comment Session

[Limited to 2 citizens per meeting, prior scheduling a week in advance of meeting is required with Clerk to Council, five [5] minutes per person. Comments not limited to specific agenda item. Once the agenda has been posted, it will NOT be amended to add citizens.]

No citizens signed up for Extended Public Comment Session at this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. McCall made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council

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