



# MINUTES

## OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting

### June 18, 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](http://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.

Mr. Davis noted there was a new sound system installed in Council Chambers and appreciate the work everyone is doing.

### **Public Comment Session**

Mr. Tony Adams addressed Council regarding unauthorized salary increases and a forensic audit and asked was Council ready to give an update.

Mr. Root interjected noting that Council does not answer questions with members of the public during the Public Comment Session. He further noted the internal review is ongoing and is going through his office and is in process.

Ms. Jean Jennings addressed Council regarding the sound system in Council Chambers, convention center at the FARM center, the Planning Department and signs highlighted at different entrances.

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## **County Council Response to Public Comment**

Mr. Davis responded to Mr. Adams comments noting the internal reviews are continuing and when completed, the results will come forward.

Mr. Davis also responded to Ms. Jennings comments noting the FARM Center is on a high school circuit regarding the rodeo and have had several events and is paid for thru the circuit with entry fees, etc. and not taxpayer's funds.

## **Moment of Silence**

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

## **Invocation by County Council Chaplain:**

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

## **Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mr. Frankie Pearson, Oconee County citizen, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0 to approve the June 4, 2019 Regular Minutes as presented.

## **Proclamation 2019-09**

**Proclamation 2019-09** Recognizing James Shepherd

Mr. Davis read **Proclamation 2019-09** into the record.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2019-09**.

Mr. Shepherd and his family stepped forward and accepted **Proclamation 2019-09** from Council.

## **Proclamation 2019-10**

**Proclamation 2019-10** for National Pollinator Week

Mr. Cain read **Proclamation 2019-10** into the record.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2019-10**.

Ms. Debbie Sewell, member of the Agriculture Advisory Board, stepped forward and accepted **Proclamation 2019-10** from Council.

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## **Recognition of the Oconee County Veteran's Affairs Office for their hard work and dedication to Veterans in Oconee County**

Recognition of the Oconee County Veteran's Affairs Office was removed from the agenda and will be added to the July 16, 2019 agenda.

### **Administrator's Comments**

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

- New Sound System in Council Chambers
- Planning Commission and Council requested additional community outreach meetings for the comprehensive plan and will be located at the following:
  - July 9, 2019 at Mountain Rest Community Club beginning at 6pm
  - July 11, 2019 at Salem Community Center / Town Hall beginning at 6pm
  - July 18, 2019 at Westminster Depot beginning at 6pm
  - July 25, 2019 at Fair Oak Youth Center beginning at 6pm

### **Public Hearings 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. 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 2019-02**.

### **Third Reading of the Following Ordinances**

**Ordinance 2019-02** [see caption above]

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2019-02** on 3<sup>rd</sup> & final reading.

### **Second Reading of the Following Ordinances**

None at this meeting.

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## **First Reading for the Following Ordinances**

**Ordinance 2019-17** “AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE OF EASEMENT RIGHTS TO AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, POST #124 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING INGRESS, EGRESS, AND VEHICULAR PARKING ON CERTAIN COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, to approve **Ordinance 2019-17** on first reading.

Mr. Hart had questions regarding Exhibit B in the backup materials. Mr. Root suggested he and Mr. Hart have a meeting to discuss how to make the exhibit more accurate. Discussion continued.

Regarding the previous motion made by Mr. McCall, seconded by Mr. Cain, it was approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2019-17** on first reading.

## **First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions**

None at this meeting.

## **Discussion Regarding Action Items**

None at this meeting

## **Board & Commission Appointments**

### **Building Codes Appeal Board**

No questionnaires were submitted for the 2 At Large seats.

## **Unfinished Business**

None at this meeting.

## **New Business**

None at this meeting.

## **Executive Session:**

Mr. Cain 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] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Bolt.*

*[4] To receive legal advice and discuss personnel matters related to the following departments: The Rock Quarry, Auditor, Finance, Assessor, Information Technology, Human Resources, Sheriff's*

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*Office, Airport, Treasurer, Facilities Maintenance, Roads and Bridges, Planning, Solid Waste, Registration & Elections, Procurement, and Administration, including internal review procedures.*

*[5] Discuss a contractual matter regarding Visit Oconee.*

*[6] Discussion regarding the potential purchase of real property for the possible relocation of the Westminster Magistrate's Office.*

*[7] Discussion regarding the potential purchase of real property.*

Council entered Executive Session at 6:23 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0.

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

[#2] Mr. Root asked for a motion to proceed with negotiations as discussed regarding Project Trout.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to proceed with negotiations as discussed regarding Project Trout.

[#6] Mr. Root asked for a motion to proceed with negotiations as discussed regarding the Westminster Magistrate's Office.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to proceed with negotiations as discussed regarding the Westminster Magistrate's Office.

[#7] Mr. Root asked for a motion to proceed with negotiations to purchase as discussed.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to proceed with negotiations to purchase as discussed.

### **Adjourn:**

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Katie D. Smith  
Clerk to Council

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