



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

October 1, 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, 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 6:05 p.m.

Public Comment Session

Sheriff Crenshaw addressed Council regarding the Oconee County Sheriff's Office and inmate labor.

Mr. Matt Durham addressed Council regarding the tax increase that was passed at the prior Council meeting.

Mr. Tom Markovich addressed Council regarding the Special Workshop meeting with County Council and the Planning Commission prior to this meeting and noted they need to address the issue of a bypass.

County Council Response to Public Comment

Mr. McCall responded to Mr. Markovich's comments regarding a bypass and Mr. Durham's comments regarding the tax increase.

Mr. Davis responded to Mr. Durham's comments regarding the tax increase and noted Council goes through a long budget process, which includes three readings and a public hearing of the Ordinance. He further noted there were a lot of items cut out of the tax increase and there were a lot of money spent on parks,

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infrastructure, vehicles, etc. which was needed. Additionally, Council voted on the Auditor's recommendations to fund the budget that they worked on for three months, which includes a budget workshop as well and are open to the public. Finally, he noted he stands by the transparency and his vote of the budget.

Mr. Hart thanked Mr. Richard Blackwell and Ms. Sharon DeRidder [former County employees] for the work they put in for getting the grant that is going to connect to I-85.

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. Jerry Barnett 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 September 17, 2019 Regular Minutes as presented.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock thanked Mr. Hart for his comments regarding Mr. Blackwell and Ms. DeRidder and thanked them as well. She also thanked Mr. Jim Alexander for having the vision that I-85 would be important to Oconee County.

Mr. Andrew Smith, Oconee County Conservation Bank Board Chairman, addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with backup materials] and gave a brief presentation.

P. MOORE OCONEE COUNTY CONSERVATION BANK BOARD EASEMENT FUNDING

OCCB UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 FOR COUNCIL TO APPROVE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,100 FOR A CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO OCONEE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve funding in the amount of \$8,100 for a conservation easement to Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District.

CLIFF'S TIMBER LLC OCONEE COUNTY CONSERVATION BANK BOARD FEE SIMPLE PURCHASE

OCCB UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 FOR COUNCIL

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TO APPROVE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,000 FOR A FEE SIMPLE PURCHASE TO NATURALAND TRUST.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve funding in the amount of \$58,000 for a fee simple purchase.

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2019-20 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND CONSENTING TO OR RATIFYING THE ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF AN INTEREST IN THAT CERTAIN FEE AGREEMENT DATED AS OF MARCH 1, 2008, AND AN INTEREST IN THAT CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AGREEMENT DATED AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2007, SUCH ASSIGNMENT FROM LIFT, LLC, AND SUCH ASSUMPTION BY LIFT TECHNOLOGIES, INC., AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AGREEMENT MEMORIALIZING SUCH ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION, AND CONSENT OR RATIFICATION, AND AN AMENDMENT TO THE FEE AGREEMENT AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AGREEMENT; 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 2019-20**.

Ordinance 2019-21 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AMENDED FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND ACI PLASTICS SOUTH, LLC, INCLUDING THE INCLUSION OF ACI PROPERTIES SOUTH, LLC, AND GREENCYCLE U.S. HOLDING, INC. AS CO-SPONSORS, AND AMENDING THE FEE AGREEMENT DATED AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2014; 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.

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Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2019-21**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2019-20 [see caption above]

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2019-20** on third & final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2019-21 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AMENDED FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND ACI PLASTICS SOUTH, LLC, INCLUDING THE INCLUSION OF ACI PROPERTIES SOUTH, LLC, AND GREENCYCLE U.S. HOLDING, INC. AS CO-SPONSORS, AND AMENDING THE FEE AGREEMENT DATED AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2014; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2019-21** on second reading.

Ordinance 2019-22 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO FINANCE AND ACQUIRE CERTAIN FIRE TRUCKS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$2,300,000; TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE FINANCING AND ACQUISITION; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.”

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2019-22** on second reading.

First Reading for the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

None at this meeting.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Request Council approval for 1st year funding for Highway Safety Grant No. PT-2020-HS-32-20 for a Special Traffic Enforcement Unit [STEU] to include one [1] STEU Corporal in an amount not to exceed \$11,500 and authorize the County Administrator to accept and execute the corresponding STEU Grant Offer

- 1st year funding for a 1-Person Special Traffic Enforcement Unit (STEU) to include: (1) Road Cpls, (1) patrol SUV vehicle, officer equipment and a public awareness campaign to: reduce fatalities/collisions, reduce speeding, reduce DUIs/Impaired driving, and increase seat belt and helmet usage.

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- Amount of Award is \$130,399 from SCDPS OHSJP to begin on October 1, 2019
- Cash Match: None (100% grant funding) except for non-allowable costs below.
- Sheriff's Office contributing approximately \$11,500 [for items/costs not allowable under SCDPS funding criteria] and will need to be budgeted for in the Sheriff's Office FY 19-20 budget.

It is staff's recommendation to [1] approve 1st year funding for Highway Safety Grant No. PT-2020-HS-32-20 for a Special Traffic Enforcement Unit [STEU] to include one [1] STEU Corporal in an amount not to exceed \$11,500 and [2] authorize the County Administrator to accept and execute the corresponding STEU Grant Offer.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to [1] approve 1st year funding for Highway Safety Grant No. PT-2020-HS-32-20 for a Special Traffic Enforcement Unit [STEU] to include one [1] STEU Corporal in an amount not to exceed \$11,500 and [2] authorize the County Administrator to accept and execute the corresponding STEU Grant Offer.

Per Mr. Davis, Sheriff Crenshaw addressed Council noting the Sheriff's Office had applied for a four-person traffic unit but received approval for one position. He further noted it is a three year recurring grant, which the Sheriff's Office would have to apply for the second and third year. Discussion continued.

Per Mr. Davis, Ms. Brock noted the amount would come out of this year's budget because this funding is an upfront cost. She noted there were savings captured in the retiree going out and coming in at the Sheriff's Office and the rest of the County where the salary structure was different. Discussion continued.

Regarding the previous motion made by Mr. McCall, seconded by Mr. Elliott, it was approved 5 – 0, to [1] approve 1st year funding for Highway Safety Grant No. PT-2020-HS-32-20 for a Special Traffic Enforcement Unit [STEU] to include one [1] STEU Corporal in an amount not to exceed \$11,500 and [2] authorize the County Administrator to accept and execute the corresponding STEU Grant Offer.

Engineering Services for Seneca Creek Access Area / PRT / \$103,390.00

Funding will come from designated Economic Development millage for PRT Capital Projects

Seneca Creek Access Area project includes re-locating the existing ramp for better use at low water levels, adding a lane to make a 3-lane ramp, provide for parking of up to 50 boats/trailers and add a kayak launch, fishing pier, picnic area and bank fishing trail. The project may be completed in phases, which will be determined once engineering is complete and made ready for bid.

At the April 5, 2016 meeting, Council approved the award of RFP 15-09 for On Call Engineering Services to Thomas & Hutton of Greenville, SC for Category E: On Call General Engineering Services. Parks Recreation and Travel (PRT) wishes to contract with Thomas & Hutton to provide engineering services for Site and Marine Element Improvements to the proposed Seneca Creek Access Area (Seneca Creek Boat Landing). Thomas & Hutton will provide services that include general consulting, design services for upland site engineering design and marine design elements. They will also provide permitting, bidding and award assistance, construction administration and observation services per the attached proposal.

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It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the total award of \$103,390.00 to Thomas & Hutton, of Greenville, SC for engineering services for the above mentioned project.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve the total award of \$103,390.00 to Thomas & Hutton, of Greenville, SC for engineering services for the above mentioned project.

2020 Dodge Durango Pursuit / Sheriff's Office / \$88,104.00

Budget: \$1,600,951.00 / **General Legal Balance:** \$1,328,442.88 / **Project Cost:** \$88,104.00 / **Balance:** \$1,240,338.88

Sheriff's fleet vehicles necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 operations includes; three (3) Dodge Durango Police Interceptor SUV's. Santee Automotive, LLC of Manning, SC is the SC State Contract vendor for these Dodge Durango's. The new vehicles will replace high-mileage vehicles currently used in the Sheriff's fleet. The vehicles being replaced will be sold as surplus or replace older vehicles used in other County departments. The Fleet Maintenance Director also approves this purchase.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of three (3) 2020 Dodge Durango Pursuits vehicles from Santee Automotive, LLC of Manning, SC in the amount of \$88,104.00.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve the purchase of three (3) 2020 Dodge Durango Pursuits vehicles from Santee Automotive, LLC of Manning, SC in the amount of \$88,104.00.

New Voting System Demonstration. Expressvote Ballot Marking Device is a paper based voting system with a Digital Scanner Ballot Box. This voting system allows the voter to print their selections for review before their ballot is scanned for tabulation. It is also equipped with numerous and various devices and options for voters with disabilities (blind, physically handicapped, and voters that may not be able to read or write)

Ms. Joy Scharich, Executive Director of the Oconee County Board of Voter Registration & Elections, addressed Council regarding voting in the past and the new voting system. She stated legislators provided the funding and Oconee County received about \$1 million worth of new voting equipment. She further noted voters will be able to see how they vote and is also equipped with numerous and various devices and options for voters with disabilities (blind, physically handicapped, and voters that may not be able to read or write). Mr. Elliott came forward and demonstrated how to use the new voting machine.

Mr. Davis thanked Ms. Scharich and her staff and all of the election officials for all of their hard work.

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Change Order #1 PO 52584 Engineering Services for Oconee Industry and Technology Park / Oconee Economic Alliance / \$11,280.00

On December 20, 2016, County Council approved the Engineering Services for Oconee Industry & Technology Park (OITP), under RFP 15-09 On-Call Engineering, which was approved at the April 5, 2016 Council meeting. The scope of work in this proposal includes compilation of new Construction Documents, submittal of a separate land disturbance permit package to SCDHEC and construction observation for the interior roads. The original Awarded amount was \$488,870.00. The amount of the requested Change Order is \$11,280.00 which will bring the total to \$500,150.00.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council [1] approve Change Order # 1 PO 52584 (Addendum #1) to Thomas & Hutton in the amount of \$11,280.00 for new construction documents, separate permit packages and construction observation. This will bring the total amount of the PO to \$500,150.00 and [2] authorize the County Administrator to sign / execute the change order.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to [1] approve Change Order # 1 PO 52584 (Addendum #1) to Thomas & Hutton in the amount of \$11,280.00 for new construction documents, separate permit packages and construction observation. This will bring the total amount of the PO to \$500,150.00 and [2] authorize the County Administrator to sign / execute the change order.

Per Mr. McCall, Ms. Brock noted the flowerbed at the front entrance is coming out soon. She further noted that just recently there was a water tap that was put in at the front part of the park for the landscaping. Regarding the curbing, Ms. Brock noted she would look into but has not received a complaint, comment, or insurance request.

For clarification purposes, Mr. Davis restated the staff's recommendation. Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to [1] approve Change Order # 1 PO 52584 (Addendum #1) to Thomas & Hutton in the amount of \$11,280.00 for new construction documents, separate permit packages and construction observation. This will bring the total amount of the PO to \$500,150.00 and [2] authorize the County Administrator to sign / execute the change order.

Council Committee Reports

Mr. McCall read from a prepared statement [copy filed with backup materials] outlining the discussions held at the September 17, 2019 Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0, to affirm to direct the County Administrator to look in the feasibility of hiring a County employee to provide transportation for those in need four days a week to the Rosa Clark Clinic in Seneca and related tasks per unanimous recommendation by the Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee on September 17, 2019.

Board & Commission Appointments

No questionnaires were submitted for the 1 At Large seat.

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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] Receive legal advice related to a moratorium, or prohibition, on future billboard construction.

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

[3] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Cactus.

Council entered Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Cain, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0.

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

[#2] Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to direct the County Administrator to execute the term sheet as discussed regarding Project Aztec.

Discussion Regarding Action Items [cont'd]

Discuss and act on any appropriate motions related to the issue of a moratorium or prohibition on future billboard construction.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to refer the issue of a moratorium or prohibition on future billboard construction to the Planning & Economic Development Committee for discussion.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council

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