



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

February 2, 2021

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, Chairman, District I
Mr. Paul Cain, Vice Chairman, District III
Mr. Julian Davis III, Chairman Pro Tem, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V
Mr. Matthew Durham, 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: Riley Morningstar / The Journal and FOX Carolina News

Call to Order

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

Public Comment Session

If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting our Clerk to Council, Katie Smith at ksmith@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record.

Ms. Jody Gaulin addressed Council in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

Ms. Kathy Crain addressed Council in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

Ms. Abby Perrin addressed Council in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

Ms. Liz Kuemmerer addressed Council in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

Ms. Madeleine Fischer addressed Council in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

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Mr. Terry Keane addressed Council in support of Ordinance 2020-24.

Mr. Hayden Laye addressed Council in support of Resolution 2021-01.

Mr. Peter Barnes, President of Keowee Division Homeowner's Association, addressed Council in support of Ordinances 2021-04 and 2021-05.

Mr. David McMahan addressed Council in support of Resolution 2021-01.

The following ten [10] emails were received by the Clerk to Council and Mr. Elliott read each comment into the record [copy of all emails filed with backup materials].

Ms. Alice Wald addressed Council via email in support of Ordinance 2021-04.

Mr. Dave Perrin addressed Council via email in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

Ms. Cina Smith addressed Council via email in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

Ms. Alice Wald addressed Council via email in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

Ms. Sara Stipe addressed Council via email in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

Ms. Christa Wilson addressed Council via email in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

Mr. Don George addressed Council via email in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

Ms. Bettina George addressed Council via email in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

Ms. Patty Warner addressed Council via email in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

Ms. Mary Collins addressed Council via email in opposition of Resolution 2021-01.

County Council Response to Public Comment

Mr. Durham responded to comments regarding Resolution 2021-01.

Mr. Hart responded to comments regarding Resolution 2021-01.

Moment of Silence

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

Invocation by County Council Chaplain

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

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Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Davis the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve the January 19, 2021 Special Minutes as presented.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve the January 19, 2021 Regular Minutes as presented.

Administrator's Comments

None at this meeting.

Attorney's Comments

Mr. Root addressed Council with the following items:

- Grant submission for the Agricultural Advisory Board [AAB] Action Item would be slightly changed in that the County would make the submission with the support of the AAB
- Request motion to rescind the nomination of Rex Blanton for the At-Large seat on the Agricultural Advisory Board [AAB] from the January 19, 2021 County Council meeting

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

If you are not able to attend in person and you would like to be heard during the public hearings, please contact Katie Smith at ksmith@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023 so that she may coordinate your participation by telephone.

No citizen contacted the Clerk to Council regarding either of the Public Hearings

Ordinance 2020-24 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 32 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS ONLY, REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF “*DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS*” CURRENTLY FOUND AT SECTION 32-181 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES.”

General Government matter

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

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

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

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2020-24**.

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Ordinance 2020-25 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING OCONEE COUNTY TO ENTER INTO AN ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE ARRANGEMENT, BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC., AND A RELATED LEASE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT (NOT TO EXCEED \$3,400,000.00), BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND ONE OR MORE LENDERS, EACH AS DESCRIBED IN SOUTH CAROLINA CODE ANNOTATED 11-27-110; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.”

General Government matter

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

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

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

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2020-25**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2020-24 [see caption above]

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2020-24** on 3rd & final reading.

Ordinance 2020-25 [see caption above]

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2020-25** on 3rd & final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2021-04 “AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING INDIVIDUALS TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS IN CERTAIN FACILITIES OWNED OR OPERATED BY OCONEE COUNTY (SUNSET PROVISION INCLUDED), AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

General Government matter

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 1 [Mr. Durham opposed] to approve **Ordinance 2021-04** on second reading.

Ordinance 2021-05 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 32 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS ONLY, REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LAKE CORRIDOR SIGNAGE STANDARDS, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Forwarded from the Planning & Economic Development Committee

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Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 3 – 2 [Mr. Hart & Mr. Durham opposed] to approve **Ordinance 2021-05** on second reading.

~~Ordinance 2021-06 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 32 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS ONLY, REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAFFIC CORRIDOR DESIGN STANDARDS, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”~~

Forwarded from the Planning & Economic Development Committee

First Reading for the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

Resolution 2021-01 “A RESOLUTION DECLARING OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO BE A SANCTUARY COUNTY FOR THE UNBORN AND URGING THE CITIZENS OF OCONEE COUNTY TO PROMOTE AND DEFEND THE INALIENABLE RIGHT TO LIFE AND THE INHERENT DIGNITY OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS, BORN AND PRE-BORN, FROM FERTILIZATION TO NATURAL DEATH.”

Introduced by Council member Matthew Durham, District II

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve **Resolution 2021-01** on first & final reading.

Lengthy discussion followed by all Council members.

Regarding the previous motion, the motion **failed** 2 – 3 [Mr. Davis, Mr. Cain, & Mr. Elliott opposed] to approve **Resolution 2021-01** on first & final reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Council consideration and approval of grant submission for the Agricultural Advisory Board [AAB] to apply for the SNAP-Ed Local Food Policy Council Development and Expansion Grant Program

The SNAP-Ed Local Food Policy Council Development and Expansion Grant Program will provide funding for newly forming Food Policy Councils (FPC) to accelerate their development and existing FPC to expand their capacity to identify and advance policy, systems, and environmental change strategies for improving healthy food access and ensuring food equity. The grants are intended to fund staff time to carry out the following activities in order to support FPC formation, development, and operations.

It is staff’s recommendation that Council approve the grant submission by the County with assistance of the Agricultural Advisory Board [AAB] to apply for the SNAP-Ed Local Food Policy Council Development and Expansion Grant Program.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve the grant submission by the County with assistance of the Agricultural Advisory Board [AAB] to apply for the SNAP-Ed Local Food

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Policy Council Development and Expansion Grant Program.

Board & Commission Appointments

Aeronautics Commission

Mr. Hart made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Bobby Fendley as the District V representative on the Aeronautics Commission.

Agricultural Advisory Board

Mr. Davis made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to rescind the At-Large vote for Mr. Rex Blanton from the January 19, 2021 County Council meeting.

Mr. Cain made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Rex Blanton as the District III representative on the Agricultural Advisory Board.

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Larry Cantrell as the District II representative on the Agricultural Advisory Board.

Mr. Davis made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Tess Moxley as an At-Large representative on the Agricultural Advisory Board.

Arts & Historical Commission

No nominations were made for the District II seat during this meeting.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. William Decker as an At-Large representative on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

No nominations were made for the District V seat during this meeting.

Building Codes Appeal Board

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to reappoint Mr. John Sandifer as an At-Large representative for the Building Codes Appeal Board.

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Brad Kisker as an At-Large representative for the Building Codes Appeal Board.

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. James McKibben as an At-Large representative for the Building Codes Appeal Board.

Mr. Davis made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to reappoint Mr. Kevin Knight as an At-Large representative for the Building Codes Appeal Board.

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Conservation Bank Board

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to reappoint Mr. Andrew Smith as the District II representative on the Conservation Bank Board.

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Charles VanOver as an At-Large representative on the Conservation Bank Board.

No nominations were made for the District IV and V seats during this meeting.

Library Board

Mr. Davis made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Monica White as an At-Large representative on the Library Board.

Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Commission

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to reappoint Mr. Kevin Evans as an At-Large representative on the Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Commission.

Mr. Davis made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to reappoint Mr. Shane Smith as an At-Large representative on the Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Commission.

Mr. Davis made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Shawn Johnson as an At-Large representative on the Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Commission.

Planning Commission

Mr. Hart made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Gary Gaulin as the District V representative on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Davis made a nomination to appoint Mr. Patrick Williams as an At-Large representative on the Planning Commission. Mr. Hart made a nomination to appoint Ms. Karen Darlene Greene as an At-Large representative on the Planning Commission. The following were the votes: Mr. Davis, Mr. Cain, & Mr. Elliott voted in favor of Mr. Williams; Mr. Hart & Mr. Durham voted in favor of Ms. Greene. The majority of the votes were in favor of Mr. Williams.

Executive Session:

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, 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 and discuss a contractual matter regarding certain real property located at the Golden Corner Commerce Park that is currently held by the Oconee Economic Alliance.

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

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

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[4] Receive legal advice and discuss contractual matter related to County broadband network (“Oconee Focus”) to include discussion regarding potential/developing third-party relationships.

Council entered Executive Session at 7:23 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:19 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Cain, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0.

Mr. Elliott stated no action was taken during Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council

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