

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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MINUTES

6:00 PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present: Ms. Sewell
Mr. Hollifield
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Land
Ms. Willoughby
Ms. Alexander
Mr. Blanton

Staff Present: Gregory Gordos, Senior Planner – Community Development

Media Present: none.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Gordos called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

2. Discuss Ordinance 2016-17 - Section 5: Powers and Duties.

Mr. Gordos began with an overview of the purpose of the board and how the Agricultural Advisory Board came into existence through actions of the County Council. Discussion of procedure for meetings, including steps needed as the first meeting of this Board, followed.

Mr. Gordos invited Mr. Ryan Honea, member of the Planning Commission, to speak to the Board in regards to the process of creating the Agricultural Advisory Board. Mr. Honea spoke to what the Commission hoped to accomplish and the goals that present and future members of this Board should have in mind when serving the agricultural community. Discussion by the Board followed.

Mr. Gordos asked the members of the Board to take time to review Ordinance 2016-17 and the powers and duties listed therein.

Mr. Hollifield made a motion to approve the Powers and Duties section of Ordinance 2016-17 as written.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Adoption of By-Laws for the Oconee County Agricultural Advisory Board

Mr. Gordos opened the discussion to the Board to discuss the draft By-Laws presented and provided in their materials packets.

Ms. Sewell stated that she had not received the materials via email; Mr. Gordos asked to verify the member email address at the end of the meeting. Mr. Blanton asked for clarification on the section of the By-Laws draft regarding a quorum and attendance. Ms. Alexander asked if the revision of By-Laws later on was possible and if so that approval by a simple majority would suffice. Mr. Blanton asked if the conflict of interest language was appropriate for this Board. Upon answering these questions, Mr. Gordos requested a vote.

Ms. Alexander made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanton, to approve the adoption of by-laws as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Establishment of the 2017 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Gordos presented the Board with the dates of each meeting time proposed for the 2017 calendar year. The Board agreed that the majority would be able to meet on the second Monday of each month. Mr. Blanton stated that day may provide a scheduling conflict for him. Ms. Alexander asked if meetings could be rescheduled throughout the year; Mr. Gordos replied that that would be fine so long as advanced notice was provided to the public. Additional discussion followed.

Ms. Marshall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hollifield, to approve meeting schedule as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business

Mr. Land asked a question of the Board about a possible agricultural center near the fairgrounds property in Oconee County. Ms. Alexander asked the Board what they felt the purpose of this Board was and what they may be advised to do; Mr. Ryan Honea requested to speak and replied that the Board should develop a relationship to County Council to provide advice.

Discussion returned to the possible fairground agricultural center with many expressing their support for its funding and development. Ms. Willoughby requested a study that may help demonstrate support and feasibility of such a facility, with Ms. Alexander and others replying that they may have copies of comparable studies. The Board requested that any studies be shared amongst themselves via email; Mr. Gordos agreed to distribute them formally after the meeting adjourned and place facility discussion on the agenda.

Mr. Gordos stated that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 12. The Board agreed that meeting in December would be beneficial.

The Board discussed their excitement for a united voice for the agricultural community.

6. Adjourn

Mr. Gordos motioned to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.