



# AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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## MINUTES

6:30 PM, Monday, May 14th, 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

### Members Present:

Ms. Sewell District 1

Mr. Hollifield District 2

Mrs. Willoughby District 5

Ms. Alexander At-Large

Mr. Blanton At-Large

Staff Present: Adam Chapman, Zoning Administrator

Media Present: Upstate Today, WGOG

### 1. Call to Order

Mr. Blanton called the meeting to order at 5:45

### 2. Presentation

Mr. Rex Blanton, Chairman of the Agricultural Advisory Board, addressed Council with a presentation entitled "Directory of Agricultural Resources" [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting the following:

- Appreciate the efforts made by Council and the Planning Commission in the writing of Ordinance 2016-17
- Oconee County has approximately 884 farms, large and small, totaling nearly 68,000 acres
- Agricultural Advisory Board was established in 2016
- Board exists to aid and advise the County in agriculture matters, to support and develop the diverse agricultural interest in the County, foster communication and cooperation among the varied agricultural interests & concerns, and to help ensure that agriculture's vital role in the economy and the character of the County is maintained & developed
- Recognized the Board members present at the meeting, which were Ms. Debbie Sewell, Ms. Kim Alexander, Ms. Marlene Willoughby, and Mr. Doug Hollifield, along with Mr. Adam Chapman, Staff Liaison for the Agricultural Advisory Board

- Ideas the Committee have been working on include compilation of a listing of agricultural interest entities and various groups in the County & collection of data for informational pamphlets to distribute to events to promote accurate agriculture in Oconee County
- Currently working to compile materials, survey concerns of the people, & to provide input for the agriculture element of the 2020 comprehensive plan
- Hartwell Village
- Create an Agriculture Directory focused on the beginner farmer
- Promote 150 years of agriculture in Oconee County as we celebrate the County's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Market to Table Contest

Ms. Debbie Sewell, Agriculture Advisory Board member, addressed Council with a presentation entitled "2018 Market-to-Table Recipe Contest and Market-to-Table Recipe Taste Contest" [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting the following:

- Responsibility of the Agricultural Advisory Board is to advise Council and promote agriculture in the County
- Promote producers and growers thru a recipe contest
- Availability of local food is not only a positive impact on local growers and producers, it impacts all agribusiness, influences community revitalization, economic development, availability of safe food, and protection of the environment
- Purpose of contest is to promote local food markets and food network producers and growers
- Identification of existing products and markets, market trends, needs for future markets, etc.
- Cost is a minimum of \$1,000, which is mostly promotional materials
- Set up tables at some of the local farmers markets to promote the locally grown food as well as the agriculture advisory board
- Three preliminary contests in June, July, & August and would be for citizens who buy fruits & vegetables and meats from the market and then submit a recipe of how it was used
- Judged by a point system and also how the particular ingredient was used, originality, presentation, etc.
- To include the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, extra points would be given if it was a family or heirloom recipe
- Three categories, which would include side dishes, desserts, and entrée
- Best Overall winner
- Winners from the "Market-to-Table Contest" will move on to the "Market-to-Table Taste Contest"
- Local chef will prepare the four winning recipes at the fair
- Judges would decide who would be the best overall using the local ingredients
- Fair is September 25<sup>th</sup> through September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Mr. Cain thanked the members of the Agricultural Advisory Board for their hard work and the time they invest and further noted that agriculture is very important to the heritage of this

County. He further thanked Ms. Sewell for “thinking outside of the box” with the recipe contest and is an excellent way to get citizens interested in local agriculture.

Mr. Davis noted this was a great idea and some of the ideas presented can be completed in-house.

### 3. Adjourn

Mr. Blanton made a motion to adjourn, Mrs. Willoughby seconded, all in favor.