



MINUTES
BUDGET, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP MEETING
May 16, 2009
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WALHALLA, SC

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Reg Dexter, Chairman, District V
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II
Mr. Mario Suarez, District III
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV

The Budget, Finance & Administration Committee on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at 9:00 AM in Council Chambers to review the proposed FY 2009-2010 Oconee County budget. All Council Members were present along with Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council.

Oconee County Staff Present:

Ms. Kendra Brown, Asst. Administrator for Administrative Services & Finance
Ms. Ladale Price, Budget Analyst

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.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio & Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent.

Call to Order:

Chairman Dexter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Deferred to a future meeting.

Final Line by Line Budget Analysis for FY 2009-2010:

*[unless otherwise noted the following departments were approved
for the administrator's recommended budget amount
with the proviso that they may be revisited in a future meeting]*

- Emergency Services, Dept 107 *[Revised Handout provided from Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee]*

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to authorize the addition to the FY 09-10 budget for the lease purchase for two fire trucks in the approximate amount of \$750,000.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to remove \$750,000 of fund balance noted on the Other Financing Sources/General Fund [page 11 of the proposed budget].

- Emergency Services Fund 20 [Revised Handout provided from Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee]

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to increase Overtime by \$12,000 for a total approved amount of \$36,000.

- Magistrate Office, Dept 509

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to amend line item 010-509-30084 adding \$1,300 for a total approved amount of \$6,100.

- Roads, Dept 601

Committee requests that the County Engineer made a priority listing of roads in dire need of paving/patching for presentation to the Transportation Committee at a future meeting.

- Vehicle Maintenance, Dept 721

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to amend line item 010-721-40034 [Food] adding \$500 for a total approved amount of \$500.

- Treasurer, Dept 306

Mr. Nowell, Treasurer, requested the Committee to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter in his office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

The Committee entered Executive Session at 10:25 a.m.

The Committee returned from Executive Session on a motion by Mr. Suarez, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 at 11:08 a.m. Mr. Dexter noted that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 1 to reclassify a part time position to full time in Department 306.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to amend line item 010-306-30025-0 adding \$4,000 for continued security of the Tax Center in December 2009 and January 2010.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to amend line item 010-306-40031 adding \$2,000 for a total approved amount of \$3,800; and to amend line item 010-306-30025 by reducing the approved amount to zero dollars.

- Finance, Dept 708

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to amend line item 010-708-30025-0 [Professional] removing \$1,150 for a total approved amount of \$16,500.

- County Council, Dept 704

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to move the Sewer System Agreement funding in the amount of \$200,000 from the Council budget to Direct Aid [creating a new line item number].

External Budgets Discussed:

- Tri County Technical College Budget Request

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to approve the Tri County Budget Request in the amount of \$972,117.

- Keowee Fire District Budget Request

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to approve the Keowee Fire District Budget Request in the amount of \$657,100

- Oconee County School District Budget Request

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to approve the Oconee County School District Budget Request in the amount of \$56,398,014.

Miscellaneous Finance Recommendations for the Budget:

Ms. Kendra Brown provided the committee with a worksheet outlining recommendations for additional budget cuts. The Committee discussed each and actions were taken as reflected on Attachment #1 [filed with these minutes and a part of the permanent record].

Breaks:

The Committee took a 10 minute break at 9:45 a.m.

The Committee took a lunch break at 11:59 a.m. and returned to open session at 12:46 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters related to the FY 2009-2010 budget.

The Committee entered Executive Session at 12:46 p.m.

The Committee returned from Executive Session on a motion by Mr. Thrift, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 at 1:54 p.m. Mr. Dexter noted that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to freeze hiring the two vacant fire fighter positions in Department #107 and remove the funding from their budget.

Mr. Thrift noted that after long discussion in Executive Session that he was making a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0 to institute for FY 2009-2010 a mandatory 4 day furlough for all county employees [except Public Safety] to be taken per guidelines that will be forthcoming and voted upon at a future Budget, Finance & Administration Committee meeting. As part of the motion Mr. Thrift also stated that it is Council's wish that Elected Officials honor and impose the 4 day furlough in their departments, however, if they do not monies equal to furlough cost saving for their staff will be removed from their individual operating budgets for FY 2009-2010.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to authorize the Finance Department to use excess revenues over expenditures to reduce the budgeted fund balance used in the FY 2009-2010 budget.

Other Issues Discussed:

Budget Ordinance for Oconee County:

Ms. Brown provided the Committee with a draft budget ordinance and addressed each section to obtain input.

Jail & Courthouse Funding:

Mr. Dexter noted that discussion needs to take place regarding funding options related to the Jail and Courthouse.

Budget Meeting Schedule:

Mr. Dexter made the following announcement regarding upcoming budget meetings:

Saturday, May 16, 2009, Council Chambers, 9 am
Monday, May 18, 2009, Council Chambers, 6 pm
[if needed – announcement will be forthcoming]

Mr. Dexter thanked Ms. Brown and her staff for a job well done in preparing the budget books for Council's review and their ability to provide thorough information for any areas of concern. He stated that her department made their job much easier.

Adjourn:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council