



MINUTES
BUDGET, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OCONEE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, WALHALLA, SC
April 9, 2013

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Reg Dexter, District V, Chairman
Mr. Paul Corbeil, District I
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II
Mr. Archie Barron, District III
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV

The Oconee County Budget, Finance & Administration Committee met at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members present; Administrator Scott Moulder, Assistant Administrator Glen Breed, Finance Director Mark Pullium and Clerk to Council, Elizabeth G. Hulse 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.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent & Norman Cannada – Daily Journal.

Call to Order:

Mr. Dexter called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0 to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2013 meeting as presented.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. McCall abstained – form filed with these minutes] to approve the minutes from the March 28, 2013 meeting as presented.

Prior to discussion regarding Alternate Revenue Sources; Mr. Dexter made some comments and provided several handouts [copies filed with these minutes] highlighting the following areas:

- The Journal “Perception Everything to Business” Opinion, dated April 5, 2013 [copy filed with these minutes]: Mr. Dexter addressed concerns he had regarding statements made in the opinion article in the paper. Mr. Dexter thanked Administration & Economic Development staff who has worked diligently to bring business to Oconee County. He noted that Oconee County has the 2nd lowest tax in South Carolina. He also provided two handouts [copies filed with these minutes] as follows:
 - South Carolina Tax Comparison Worksheet
 - SCAC County Profiles:
 - Sales Tax Imposed at the County Level
 - Local Option Sales Tax
 - Special Local Option Sales Tax
 - Accommodation Tax

Alternate Revenue Source Discussion

Mr. Moulder briefly discussed the county’s reliance on property taxes for county operations. He noted that as follow up to the Strategic Planning meeting held by Council that staff was tasked with identification of potential alternate revenue sources for Oconee County.

Mr. Breed addressed the Committee utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting the following three options:

- Road Maintenance Fee
 - Established by Ordinance
 - Dedicated Funding
 - Enterprise Fund separate from General Fund
 - Funds could be used for resurfacing, intersection improvements, right-of-way acquisitions, etc.
 - Current Road Inventory
 - Estimated Revenues [40 of 46 counties utilize this fee]
 - Projects Awaiting Funding
- Hospitality Tax
 - Established by Ordinance
 - Charged on Prepared Meals & Beverages in the Unincorporated Areas; max. \$.02
 - Funds can only be used for Tourism related projects, road projects providing access to tourist, infrastructure to serve tourism related demand, etc.
 - Qualifying Projects
- Capital Project Sales Tax
 - State Requirements
 - Qualifying Projects
 - Timeline

Lengthy discussion followed regarding various aspects of the three alternate revenue sources to include:

- Current Paving Budget
- Deteriorating County Road System
- Pros & Cons regarding utilizing alternate revenue source to be revenue neutral
- Additional Alternate Revenue Sources to possibly include:
 - Solid Waste Household Fee
 - Solid Waste Pay-As-You-Go Fee
 - Dock Fee
 - Boat Fee
 - Golf Course Fee
- State Gasoline Taxes

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0 to direct staff to move forward with the Capital Project Sales Tax process.

Other Business

Other Post-Employment Benefits [OPEB] Review

Mr. Pullium addressed the Committee utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] entitled “GASB 45 Impact of Proposed Retiree Medical Plan Changes”. This was a summary of a presentation made at the February 26, 2013 meeting. Discussion followed.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 5 – 0 to recommend to full Council implementing the proposed retiree medical plan changes as presented.

Adjourn:

Mr. Barron made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council