



MINUTES

BUDGET, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OCONEE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, WALHALLA, SC October 13, 2015

MEMBERS, ALL OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Ms. Edda Cammick, District I, Chairman
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV
Mr. Paul Cain, District III Mr. Reg Dexter, District V

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, Administrator Scott Moulder, Finance Director Ladale Price & 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.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 & Steven Bradley – Daily Journal.

Call to Order: Ms. Cammick called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0 to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2015 meeting as presented.

New Business

School District of Oconee County Budget Discussion of Bond Projects

Ms. Cammick opened discussion of both New Business issues as they relate to the proposed Town of Salem water line expansion project and the impending closure of the Tamasee-Salem Middle/High School [TSMHS]. She stated that initial estimates to close the school were 2-3 years after the opening of the new Walhalla High School this school year. Based on this she stated she had been working with the town to try to identify ways to [1] assist with funding for the water line extension, and [2] replace lost revenue when the TSMHS closes. Lastly, Ms. Cammick noted that this is both an emotional and financial blow to the Town of Salem and she asked for discussion on ways to assist the Town as they move forward.

Ms. Cammick voiced concerns that the pending general obligation bond ordinance monies cannot be used for the town's water project. She referenced South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 11, Chapter 23, Section 10. Discussion followed. Mr. Moulder noted that the specific code reference relates to revenue bonds and not general obligation bonds. He stated that there is state law related to not allowing a regionally specific infrastructure project to be funded with general obligation bond money.

Ms. Cammick then led discussion regarding the general obligation bond project selections made at the October 6, 2015 regular Council meeting to include the following:

- Bountyland Fire Substation \$500,000
- South Cove County Park Improvements \$250,000
- Property Purchase for Heritage Fair \$150,000
 \$900,000

Discussion followed regarding replacing the money allocated for the property purchase for the Heritage Fair which is being funded in part by monies set aside for a Tri-County Technical College campus in Oconee County.

Ms. Cammick suggested that the Committee (consider prior to the next Council meeting on October 20, 2015 at which Council will hold the public hearing and third & final reading regarding this matter) that monies be allocated for Library upgrades in the amount of \$150,000 instead.

Lengthy discussion followed with various opinions offered.

Mr. Moulder noted that the \$250,000 for the Town of Salem water project can likely be accommodated and that he anticipated having a plan for Council's review before Thanksgiving.

Ms. Cammick asked the Committee members to be ready to address these issues at the October 20th meeting.

Rural Infrastructure Assistance Grants [RIA]

Mr. Dexter initiated a discussion regarding exiting RIA and potential RIA grants to assist with the infrastructure development throughout the county. The Committee took no action regarding this matter at this meeting.

Long Term Capital Plan

Ms. Cammick noted that discussions at this meeting need to be considered when Council establishes an updated long term capital plan.

Council Member Comments

Mr. McCall reiterated his concerns with the way the School District of Oconee Superintendent Dr. Michael Thorsland handled notification of the students at TSMHS and addressed his and Ms. Cammicks concerns with the school closing.

Lastly, Ms. Cammick noted her support for the staff, faculty and students in the school district; noting that she hoped we can put this matter behind us and work together for the benefit of the students.

Adjourn

Ms. Cammick adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council