



MINUTES

BUDGET, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Council Chambers, Oconee Administrative Offices, Walhalla, SC

March 22, 2016

MEMBERS, ALL OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Paul Cain, District III, Chairman

Ms. Edda Cammick District I Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV

Mr. Wayne McCall, District II Mr. Reg Dexter, District V

The Oconee County Budget, Finance & Administration Committee met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, Administrator Scott Moulder and Elizabeth G. Hulse 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: Dick Mangrum – WGOG, Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent & Steven Bradley – Daily Journal.

Call to Order:

Mr. Cain called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. McCall abstained – form filed with these minutes] to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2016 meeting as presented.

Budget Discussions

Mr. Moulder addressed the Committee utilizing several handouts [copies filed with these minutes] regarding preliminary budget issues related to the FY 2016-2017 budget:

- Summary Budget Change [slide #1]
- Budget Increase Summary [slide #2]
- Personnel Changes [slide #3]
- Capital Purchase Summary [slide #4]
- Notable Additions & Deletions [slide #5]
- Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal [slide #6]

Mr. Moulder requested discussion of the various aspects of the presentation and asked for specific direction on how the Committee/Council wish him to proceed in finalizing the budget for presentation at the April 14, 2016 special meeting. Lengthy discussion followed regarding various aspects of the presentation to include but not limited to:

- Projected shortfall vs. revenues
- City of Westminster request for a joint/shared planner position
- Vehicle replacements
- OMH/GHS ambulance assistance
[Mr. Moulder was asked to follow up and obtain # of miles per year and cost per mile]
- Recycling plans, design and costs associated
[Mr. Moulder stated that he would obtain a quote for the redesign of the Salem MCC]

- OPEB [other post-employment benefits] and the impact on the budget
[Mr. Moulder was asked to identify the number of employees affected by this potential change]
- Facility Security
- Sewer funding [see page #2 for Sewer discussion]
- Potential Millage increase

Mr. Moulder next addressed specifics related to sewer infrastructure funding options utilizing a handout [copy filed with these minutes] to include but not limited to:

- Inability to use general obligation bonding for sewer infrastructure
- Utilization of a portion of existing and/or new Fee-In-Lieu-Of-Tax [FILOT] revenues to pay the debt millage on a Special Source Revenue Bond [SSRB]
- Phases of sewer expansion / staging of phases
- Potential contractual agreement[s] to recoup partial construction costs
- Potential grant opportunities
- Review of existing bond proposal document [filed with these minutes]

The Committee discussed at length a tax increase as proposed for Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal [slide #6]. Mr. Thrift addressed the Committee stating that incremental increases are easier for taxpayers to absorb and that Council not raising the taxes for several years has in part created the shortfall for FY2016-2017. He recommended a 3 mill tax increase for FY 2016-2017. Discussion followed. Mr. Cain concurred stating that he didn't wish to raise taxes either but that there is no other way to fulfill the goals established in the strategic plan and meet citizen's expectations for services.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cammick, approved 4 – 1 [Mr. McCall opposed] to direct the Administrator to prepare the budget as summarized on slide #6 in the backup material to include a 2.1 mill tax increase required to balance the budget.

Other Business

None discussed at this meeting.

Adjourn

Ms. Cammick made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council