



MINUTES
LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH &
WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 16, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Wayne McCall, Chairman, District II
Mr. Archie Barron, District III
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee met on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee Members present, 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 to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Carlos Galarza – Daily Journal

Call to Order:

Chairman McCall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 2 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Barron abstained as he was not a member of the committee in 2010] to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2010 meeting as presented.

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 2 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Thrift abstained as he was not present at the meeting] to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2011 meeting as presented.

New Business:

Steroids / Dr. James McGeorge

Dr. McGeorge, Blue Ridge Orthopedics, addressed the Committee regarding increased steroid abuse in the United States. His presentation highlighted a significant increase in high school use and abuse, adverse side effects to multiple body systems and increased depression and suicides.

Mr. McCall stated that increases are also being seen nationally in fire and police departments. He questioned the Administrator regarding drug screening procedures followed by the County; specifically if the County screens for steroids. Mr. Moulder stated that the County does conduct pre-employment and random drugs screens; however, the County does not test for steroids. Mr. Barron voiced concerns regarding the potential cost to the County for this type of additional testing. Discussion followed.

Mr. McCall asked the Administrator to investigate potentially adding this screening to what the County already does and to report back his findings at a future meeting.

Dry Hydrant Presentation / Eric Lutz

Chief Lutz, Operations Chief, Oconee County Emergency Services, addressed the Committee regarding dry hydrants in Oconee County. His presentation included a summary of existing hydrants and potential new locations. Chief Lutz described how dry hydrants function. Mr. McCall questioned if a letter could be sent to citizens in identified areas requesting access to their ponds, streams, etc. for the installation of additional dry hydrants; noting that community education regarding their purpose, use and benefit was probably needed also.

No action was taken by the Committee at this meeting.

Marine Division / Mr. Bob Kinder

Chief Kinder, Oconee County Dive Team, addressed the Committee regarding creating a unified marine division involving cooperation between various agencies to include: Oconee County Sheriff's Department, Oconee County Emergency Services, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources [SC DNR], adjacent counties and others. Chief Kinder highlighted how this type of program was effective in other jurisdictions to include Charleston, SC and Pittsburgh, PA.

Mr. Moulder noted that Council approved changes within the Emergency Services Department effective July 1, 2011 to include the addition of a new Assistant Administrator for External Services. He requested that any discussions/plans/actions include the new Administrator once they are hired and in place. Lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. McCall asked Chief Kinder to work within the Emergency Services Department and to include the new Assistant Administrator once hired to look at a possible expansion of services in Oconee County.

County Staff Boating Safety

Mr. McCall voiced concerns regarding the level of public education regarding boating safety. Chief Kinder noted that they along with SC DNR provide boating safety brochures to boaters on the lakes and that DNR provides boating safety classes. No action was taken by the Committee

County Fire Truck Option Discussion

This issue was not addressed at this meeting.

Old Business:

None discussed at this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council