



MINUTES

LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 18, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Julian Davis, Chairman, District IV
Mr. Paul Cain, District III
Mr. John Elliott, District I

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee met at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee Members present, County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & Jennifer C. Adams, Clerk to Council, present.

Staff Present: Sheriff Mike Crenshaw

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

Members of the press present: Riley Morningstar / The Journal

Call to Order

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Davis asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by County Council Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Sheriff Crenshaw led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 3 – 0, to approve the July 19, 2022 minutes as presented.

Discussion Items

Law Enforcement Staffing and Salary – Sheriff Mike Crenshaw

Sherriff Mike Crenshaw provided the Committee with information regarding the need for increased salaries for Law Enforcement, citing that he has had several employees leave the Sheriff's office for state jobs that offer higher salaries.

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.oconeesc.com. Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

Sheriff Crenshaw referred to the handout entitled “Public Safety” [copy filed in backup], in which County Administrator, Amanda Brock, worked on for the last several months that proposes a retention pay grade for Law Enforcement staff in hopes that this would be presented to full Council for consideration at budget time.

Sheriff Crenshaw proposed several incentives for consideration to help retain officers that include sign-on bonuses, employee referral program, shift differential pay, and educational incentives, then went on to inform the Committee of the reasons why the need for growth in uniformed deputy presence is needed within the County, with emphasis on the need for more Resource Officer’s in Oconee County Schools.

Mr. Elliott inquired if a patrol car could be parked at schools when a Resource Officer is absent.

Sheriff Crenshaw stated that his office does have creative solutions in those situations.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Cain offered comments in support of Sheriff Crenshaw’s request for help in hiring and retaining Law Enforcement Officer’s.

Additional request for Law Enforcement Staff – Mr. Davis, District IV

Mr. Davis stated in the above discussion that he is in support of adding three additional deputy positions during next year’s budget process on top of the three positions that were added this year.

Discuss proposed revisions to the animal control ordinance, as recommended by the Sheriff’s office – Mr. David Root, Oconee County Attorney

Mr. Root presented the Committee with the revisions to the animal control ordinance that were requested at the July meeting.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, to accept the revisions to the animal control ordinance as presented and bring to full Council at the November meeting.

Mr. Davis thanked County Attorney, David Root, and Animal Control staff for their work on the revisions to the ordinance.

Motion approved 3 – 0.

Update regarding Bountyland Fire Substation

Ms. Brock referred the Committee to the handout entitled “Bountyland Substation Running Balance” [copy filed in backup], noting this is for history purposes and went on to explain the need for increased funding due to the elevation of construction costs and ways to possibly save money as well.

Ms. Brock stated she is happy to bring this consideration for increased funding for the Bountyland Substation to full Council at the November 15, 2022 Council meeting.

Discuss complaints related to compression release braking / Jake Braking

Mr. Root informed the Committee that this discussion item stemmed from public comment at a previous Council meeting by a Mr. Don Taylor and informed the Committee of his findings after speaking with the Department of Transportation, noting that the Oconee County Noise Ordinance would need to be amended to include this specific topic before signs could be posted.

Short discussion followed by the Committee, County Administrator, and County Attorney relating to this topic, noting that input from the truck driving community was needed before a decision could be made related to the topic of Jake Braking.

Discuss application for Opioid Settlement Fund, and uses thereof

Mr. Root addressed the Committee with a reference to the confidential memorandum regarding the Opioid Settlement Fund that was emailed with details as to how the County is to access those funds and provided a few highlights detailed in the memorandum, noting the application needs to be submitted by a deadline between the window of October 24, 2022 and December 2, 2022.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to direct County Administrator to work with staff to review and select the approved uses of the Opioid Settlement Fund and bring those to Council for consideration on November 15, 2022.

Mr. Cain and Mr. Davis offered their thanks to Council and Mr. Root for their pursuit of these lawsuits.

Motion approved 3 – 0.

Adjourn:

Mr. Elliott made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council