



MINUTES
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
June 9, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Paul Cain, District III, Chairman
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV
Mr. Reginald T. Dexter, District V

The Planning & Economic Development Committee met at 4:30 PM in the Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present, Administrator Scott Moulder and Clerk to Council, Elizabeth Hulse.

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Josh Stephens, Zoning Administrator; Mr. Richard Blackwell, Oconee Economic Alliance Director; and, Mr. Art Holbrooks, Strategic Planner.

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

Call to Order:

Mr. Cain called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Cain noted a typographical error on page two that did not change content of the minutes.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 3 – 0, to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2014 meeting as amended.

Future of Oconee County YMCA & Partnership Opportunities

Mr. Cain recognized Dr. Greg Enders and Ms. Christle Ross, CEO YMCA, who addressed the Committee utilizing a PDF presentation and handout [copies filed with these minutes] highlighting the following key areas:

- Past & Present
- Why A Facility?
- Strategic Partners
- National YMCA
- Oconee County Facility
- Site Selection
- Conceptual Site Layout
- What's Next?

Dr. Enders also provided copies of letters [copies filed with these minutes] supporting the project in Oconee County. Dr. Enders also noted that an informative video was available for viewing regarding this project at www.y4all.org.

Lastly, Mr. Enders noted current funding commitments to include but not limited to the School District of Oconee County, Schneider Electric [in-kind], Oconee Memorial Hospital/GHS, OMH Foundation, and others. Discussion followed. Mr. Cain thanked the presenters voicing support for the project but asked that if the county does at some point provide some funding for the project that a proviso be included that Oconee County residents receive discounted membership rates.

Economic Development:

Mr. Blackwell addressed the Committee utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [*copy filed with these minutes*] and discussed the following topics:

- OEA Activities Update
 - 2015 Successes
 - Recent Announcements
 - Labor Statistics
 - Oconee County & OEA named Top Micropolitan Group by Site Selection Magazine
 - Oconee County 8th Top Performing Micropolitan out of 576 in USA
- Product Development
 - Timber Analysis at Oconee Industry & Technology Park [OITP]
- Workforce Development
 - ACT Certified Work Ready
 - National Career Readiness Certificate holders

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 3 – 0 to recommend to full Council to have the Administrator work with the Oconee Economic Alliance Director to move forward with the OITP timber harvesting plan as presented.

Lastly, Mr. Blackwell briefly outlined the new Youth Apprentice Program that has begun with Greenfield Industries as the first Oconee County business to participate. He stated that all Council members will receive an invitation for July 8, 2015 for a kick-off luncheon meeting.

Briefing Regarding New State Requirements for Airports

Mr. Stephens addressed the Committee utilizing a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Airport Land Use Compatibility” [*copy filed with these minutes*] and discussed key areas:

- Title 55
- Revisions to Title 55
- Airport Land Use Compatibility
- Importance of Compatibility
- Plans Moving Forward

Discussion followed. No action was taken on this matter at this meeting.

Due to time constraints Mr. Stephens provided the Committee with a handout entitled “Planning Update” [*copy filed with these minutes*] which addressed the following key areas:

- Building Permits
- Planning & Zoning Update
- Comprehensive Plan
- Community Development
- Strategic Planning Projects

Other Business:

None at this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Cain adjourned the meeting at 5:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council