



MINUTES
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
November 17, 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

The Planning & Economic Development Committee met at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present, as well as County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & Clerk to Council, Katie D. Smith, present.

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Adam Chapman, Planning Director
Ms. Annie Caggiano, Economic Alliance Director

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 [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Riley Morningstar / Daily Journal

Call to Order:

Mr. Cain called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 3 – 0, to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2020 meeting as presented.

Discussion Items

Lengthy discussion followed regarding the topics indicated below, with various opinions expressed, to include but not limited to:

Discussion regarding land use planning in relation to gun ranges and ancillary uses

Mr. Elliott led this discussion noting a recent shooting range was developed near Salem's residential agricultural area in a control-free district. At a previous Planning Commission and County Council meeting, several citizens came forward to ask what could be done to address this. The current zoning matrix in Chapter 38 either prohibits in some districts or requires a special exception hearing before the Board of Zoning Appeals [BZA]. There is no restriction on such facilities in control-free districts.

Mr. Elliot made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to direct staff to prepare recommended language to extend the special exception requirement for gun archery clubs and shooting ranges to the control-free district and return to the next Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting.

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.

Discussion continued to include:

- Shooting range will be located near agricultural and residential property
- Could potentially be noisy and unsafe
- Other areas in the County that are remote that a shooting range would be appropriate
- Suggested to meet with the landowners regarding concerns of the community

Regarding the previous motion made by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Davis, it was approved 3 – 0, to table the motion to direct staff to prepare recommended language to extend the special exception requirement for gun archery clubs and shooting ranges to the control-free district and return to the next Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting.

Discussion regarding Corridors along Hwys. 130, 183, & 188 - Signs

Mr. Elliott noted the comprehensive plan strategy number 11.1.4.2 refers to the byway signage and requested to rename to the Lake Corridor. He defined the Lake Corridors as the following: Hwy. 130 from Seneca City limits to Salem City limits, Hwy. 183 from Pickens County line to Intersection of Hwy. 183 & 188, and Intersection of Hwy. 183 & 188 to Hwy. 28. He noted the recently adopted sign ordinance is appropriate for the County as a whole and the Lake Corridor, such as these highways around the lake, is a desire to further restrict the number of signs allowed. The goal is to improve traffic and safety as well as aesthetics of these roads. The Destination Oconee byway draft sign ordinance [copy filed with backup materials] is intended for this use.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 3 – 0, for the Destination Oconee byway draft sign ordinance be referred to staff for develop of a suitable, finished ordinance and return to the Planning & Economic Development Committee for review and possible referral to full Council.

Discussion regarding Development Standards – Mr. Adam Chapman

Mr. Chapman addressed the Committee and noted the Planning Commission has worked for several meetings regarding development standards and gave a brief overview.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 3 – 0, to refer the development standards to full Council for consideration.

2020 Economic Development Activity Update

Ms. Annie Caggiano, Economic Alliance Director, addressed the Committee utilizing a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting OEA Year End Update” [copy filed with backup materials] and gave a brief presentation.

The Committee took no action on this matter at this time.

Per Mr. Davis, Ms. Brock noted she has a meeting with Mr. Chris Eleazer, Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority Director, within the next week and will provide an update at a later date.

The Committee requested to hold an additional Planning & Economic Development Committee on December 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for Mr. Chapman to discuss design standards.

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Adjourn:

Mr. Davis made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council