

Oconee County Planning Commission



415 S. Pine St. • Walhalla, South Carolina 29691

Phone (864) 638-4218 • Fax (864) 638-4168

MINUTES

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

March 12, 2007

The Oconee County Planning Commission held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 12, 2007, in the Council Chambers of the Oconee County Administrative Building at 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC 29691.

Members Present: Tommy Abbott (Chairman)
Randy Abbott
Bill Evatt
Ryan Honea
Howard Moore
Bill Nelson
Rex Ramsay

Art Holbrooks (Planning Director)

- Item 1: Chairman Abbott called the meeting to order.
- Item 2: Approval of Minutes- Mr. Honea made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2007 meeting as written; Mr. Ramsay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Item 3: Rules of Procedure- Mr. Holbrooks presented the Commission with the latest draft of the Rules of Procedure as reviewed by the County Attorney, and that the document was being made available for public comment. The Commission tabled the issue until the next meeting.
- Item 4: Road Signage Presentation- Mr. Mack Kelly, County Engineer, briefed the Commission on new road signs used by the Road Department. He asked for the Commission's input on size and type of signs used in the future. Mr. Ramsay made a motion to endorse Mr. Kelly's proposal to use 9" high signs with 6" letters on roads with speeds of 45 MPH and greater; and 6" high signs with 4" letters on roads with slower speeds, and refer it to the County Council Road Committee for consideration; Mr. Randy Abbott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Item 5: Library Board Presentation on the Seneca Library- Mr. John Adams and Mr. Paul Johanson briefed the Commission on the Library Board's proposed new Seneca Library, and requested the Commission consider including the project on the 2007-08 Capital Improvement Plan. The Commission took no action.
- Item 6: Old Business- Mr. Holbrooks briefed the Commission on the status of the Capital Improvement Plan, and distributed a list of all departmental requests, a list of all projected requests through 2012, and a working copy of the County Administrator's recommendations

on the upcoming budget. Mr. Evatt requested that the Planning Director provide the commissioners with a copy of the final version of the last Capital Improvement Plan from several years earlier. Mr. Holbrooks informed the Commission that a copy would be mailed to them as soon as possible. Mr. Holbrooks then requested the Commission consider holding a special meeting in the near future to deal specifically with the Capital Projects Plan. The Commission agreed, and the Chairman announced a special called meeting set for 7 p.m. on March 19th, 2007.

Mr. Holbrooks also informed the Commission that the County Attorney had added a penalties section to the Fire Access Ordinance reviewed at the last meeting, but no changes had been made. Also, Mr. Holbrooks stated in response to a concern that the ordinance would not apply to those buildings that did not have fire lanes, but only those constructed in compliance with adopted fire codes that in fact created them.

Item 7: New Business: Mr. Holbrooks informed the Commission that County Council had instructed the Commission to move ahead with the development of a zoning enabling ordinance, and to report back to Council within 30 days on a list of milestones, a timeline and any anticipated needs. Mr. Holbrooks then handed out a proposed list of milestones identified by the staff. The Chairman informed Mr. Holbrooks that he would schedule a meeting in the Planning Department Office to discuss a potential timeline as soon as possible.

Item 8: Public Comment Session-

Tom Markovich- Stated his support for the zoning enabling ordinance, but encouraged the Planning Commission not to focus solely on the final product as a source of protection, but also as a planning tool.

BJ Littleton- Stated his concerns over the new fire access regulations possibly confusing someone stopping in a fire lane in order for someone to load groceries in a vehicle, with someone parking and leaving a vehicle unattended. Also, Mr. Littleton stated his support for work camps for prisoners.

Item 9: The meeting was adjourned.