



Oconee County Planning Commission

415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC

29691

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Minutes

Planning Commission Meeting

April 13, 2009

The Oconee County Planning Commission held their regularly scheduled meeting on April 13, 2009 in the County Council Chambers at 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC 29691.

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

Art Holbrooks (Planning Director)
Aaron Gadsby (Planner)

Media Present:
Carlos Galarza (Daily Journal)

Item 1: Chairman Abbott called the meeting to order.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes: Mr. Honea made a motion to approve the March 9, 2009 minutes as they were written. Mr. Ramsay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Evatt made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2009 meeting once the correction was made to the motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Nelson. The minutes stated that Mr. Honea made the seconded motion; however it should have read that Mr. Evatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3: Public Comment Session.

Ms. Donna Linsin thanked Mr. Moore for making a motion to include buffer language in the ZEO. Ms. Linsin stated that she would be surprised if any people living around Lake Keowee would be opposed to the buffer as recommended because they have been asking for a buffer to protect water quality for years.

Item 4: Discussion of Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Holbrooks briefed the Commission on where things stood with the Comprehensive Plan Update and the information gathered at the Cultural Resource and Housing stakeholder meeting. Mr. Holbrooks also stated that a tentative date for the stakeholders meeting on the Economic Development Element is set for May 13, 2009 at 6:00 pm in the Oconee County Council Chambers.

Item 5: United States Census Complete Count Committee

Mr. Holbrooks discussed the continuing efforts of Oconee County to ensure that the most accurate census count is taken for our area. The Census Bureau has asked that local communities form a complete count committee to get the word out to citizens regarding the need to be counted. Mr. Moore made a motion to have the Planning Staff schedule a meeting for those interested in serving on the committee and start getting the word out. Mr. Honea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Holbrooks stated that the Planning Department would schedule an organizational meeting.

Item 6: Old Business

1. Mr. Holbrooks informed the Commission that the County Attorney has asked the Commission to review a clarification of the language regarding utilities in the ZEO. The new language to be added to the general provisions was:

“Notwithstanding any other provisions herein to the contrary, proposed utility generation facilities and structures needed by regional and local utility providers in the production, transmission, and distribution of electricity, as well as any facility or structure necessary to comply with any federal or state license requirements, related to such production, transmission, and distribution, shall be permitted by right in any district and shall be exempt from any standard set forth in this ordinance.”

Mr. Honea made a motion to recommend the language to be added to the ZEO. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Mr. Holbrooks informed the Commission that the Planning Department has taken over the administration of the Oconee County Floodplain Ordinance and we are currently working on getting the floodplain permitting into compliance with the Federal Standards. Mr. Holbrooks stated that the following evening he would be presenting more information to County Council.

Item 7: New Business

1. Mr. Holbrooks informed the Commission that on May 4th at 1:00 pm, Dr. Sperry and a group of graduate students would be holding a stakeholders meeting to discuss growth scenarios. The title of the presentation will be : “Alternative Futures for the Seneca Watershed Subbasin”. Everyone is invited to attend.
2. Mr. Holbrooks informed the Commission that the County would be observing Confederate Memorial Day on May 11th, the date of the next Planning Commission Meeting. Mr. Honea

made a motion to move the May meeting to Monday May 18th at 6:30 pm. Mr. Evatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 8: Adjourn