



Oconee County Planning Commission

415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC

29691

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Minutes

Planning Commission Meeting

January 11, 2010

The Oconee County Planning Commission held regularly scheduled meeting on January 11, 2010 at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers at the Oconee County Administrative Building, 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC 29691.

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

Art Holbrooks (Planning Director)
Aaron Gadsby (Planner)

Media Present:

Carlos Galarza, Daily Journal
Ray Chandler, Anderson Independent
Dick Mangrum, WGOG

Item 1: Chairman Abbott called the meeting to order.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes – Mr. Abbott made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2009 and January 4, 2010 meeting as written. Mr. Honea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3: Public Comment -

Steve Moore – Mr. Moore thanked the Commission for all their work on the capital projects list and requested that the County grant writer come and brief the Commission on grant monies that may be available for projects. Mr. Moore also stated he believed that the County should only do one building project at a time. Mr. Moore urged the Commission to bring in an independent legal council to explain how the Commission is suppose to operate. The Commission is under State law not County law.

Jerry Barnett – Mr. Barnett voiced his opposition to the zoning ordinance and gave examples of how zoning has been abused in other jurisdictions.

Phil Soper – Mr. Soper complimented the Commission on their work updating the Comprehensive Plan and that the public input process was one of the successes of the effort. Everyone who wanted to have input was given the opportunity.

Linda Lovely—Ms. Lovely complimented the staff for their work on the Comprehensive Plan and that the goals section was a nice addition to the plan. Ms. Lovely shared a concern regarding affordable housing and would like a sentence clarifying that affordable housing should be reserved for permanent residents.

Item 4: Consideration of Parkview Rezoning Request, Ordinance 2009-27 – Mr. Holbrooks briefed the Commission on the status of the Parkview Rezoning request. Mr. Honea made a motion to recommend to County Council that they rezone the parcels as Lake Front Residential. Mr. Evatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Consideration of Comprehensive Plan Update- Mr. Holbrooks briefed the Commission on some final changes to the draft comprehensive plan and the addition of one goal dealing with the promotion of libraries. Vice-chairman Moore made a motion to incorporate the changes into the draft plan. Mr. Honea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Holbrooks explained that the Comprehensive Plan is to be recommended to County Council by resolution. Mr. Holbrooks read resolution 2010-1 into the record for the Commission to consider (see attached resolution). Vice-chairman Moore made a motion to approve resolution 2010-1 and by doing so recommend the Comprehensive Plan Update to County Council. Mr. Abbott seconded the motion. Resolution 2010-1 passed unanimously.

Item 6: Discussion of Planning Activities for 2010- Mr. Holbrooks briefed the Commission on some of the departmental priorities for the coming year including a review of the performance standards ordinance, finalizing the rezoning request, working with the 2010 census, and other projects on the horizon.

Item 7: Old Business- There was no old business.

Item 8: New Business- Chairman Abbott discussed the possibility of meeting twice a month. The Commission discussed the need for increasing the number of meetings. Mr. Honea made a motion to have regular meetings on the first and third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Mr. Evatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 9: Adjourn: Mr. Honea made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Abbott adjourned the meeting.