

OCONEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



TEL (864) 638-4218 FAX (864) 638-4168

LIMITED IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE PERMITTED

Due to the Novel Coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing state of emergency, in-person attendance at this Commission meeting by members of the general public will be limited. Attendance will be limited to twenty percent of the stated maximum occupancy, which equates to thirty-four (34) persons (including Council members, other elected officials, and staff). Attendees will be required to sit in designated seats, appropriately spaced. In-person attendance will be allowed on a "first-come" basis.

*Additionally, to ensure the meeting otherwise remains open to the public, we will continue to broadcast it live on the County's YouTube channel, which can be found via the County's website at Oconeesc.com. Further, the public may call in and listen by dialing **888-475-4499 OR 877-853-5257** and entering meeting ID # **828 4377 0168**. And, individuals parked in close proximity to Council Chambers may listen to the meeting on FM 92.3.*

Minutes

5:00 pm- Thursday, February 18, 2021

Council Chambers - Oconee County Administrative Complex

Members Present

Frankie Pearson
Mike Smith
Dave Nix
Alex Vassey
Mike Johnson
Gary Gaulin
Pat Williams

Staff Present

Adam Chapman
Vivian Kompier

Media Present

None

1. Call to Order – Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
2. Invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Public Comment for non-agenda items –
Ms. Amanda Senentz spoke about the traffic concerns for any development on I85 Exit 4.
Ms. Laura Burns spoke about the traffic concern on Exit 4 as well.
Mr. Kenneth Jackson mentioned that the developers could help with upgrading the roads. Mr. Jackson also mentioned that he is not against development, it just needs to be managed.
5. Commission member comment – Mr. Smith commented on the traffic issue and agreed it is a situation that need to be addressed. Mr. Smith also mentioned that it is not an overnight solution. Mr. Gaulin commented on the new Seneca Middle School being delayed a year and that we have a year to address any issues. Mr. Gaulin also mentioned technology, drones, solar panels for the future and we need to plan for this.
6. Approval of minutes: 02/01/2021 – Mr. Williams made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Pearson and approved 7/0.

7. Planning Commission Goals, objectives, and strategies for implementation for 2021 – Mr. Johnson made a motion to look at the four items (below) that were considered and look at the speakers involved and over the course of the next two meetings schedule according as to the availability of those speakers. Mr. Pearson seconded and was approved 7/0.
 1. Strategy 3.1.1.4. Review and amend land use plans and regulations to identify and remove possible barriers to the development of a variety of housing options and residential development types.
 2. Entertainment and Recreation – Planning Commission should send a letter to the Tourism Board letting them know the local residents may be unfamiliar with all there is to do in the area. Planning Commission could help by:
 - Announce in our meeting there is a great website (www.VisitOconeeSC.com) which highlights a robust calendar of events monthly.
 - Suggest the Social Engagement opportunities by “following” VisitOconeeSC on Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter.
 - Invite Ken Sloane, Oconee County Tourism Director to speak.
 3. Downtown Retail – Planning Commission can:
 - Invite city managers of each municipality to give a short statement about what they are doing in their city to promote growth.
 - City managers could speak of retail and restaurant openings, space availability and square footage space available in their shopping and dining districts.
 - Invite the Small Business incubator (if we have one) to speak about any programs they might have to match up local investors with local entrepreneurs in search of capital partners.
 4. Road Maintenance Planning – Planning Commission can:
 - Ask CATbus where they are looking for future expansion, identifying and mapping areas of county control, for future anticipated needs.
 - Continue working with staff on corridor identification and action planning.
 - Continue the discussion of sidewalks to identify if our current ordinance is a good “as is” or if it needs revision to certain areas or corridors.
8. Letter to the Sheriff’s office – Mr. Pearson made a motion to send a letter to the Sheriff through the County Council with the Planning Commission members signatures. Mr. Nix seconded the motion and was approved 6/0 with Mr. Gaulin abstaining himself. (form attached).
9. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 5:37pm.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments to the Planning Commission can send their comments to the Planning Department by mail or by emailing them to the email address below. Please Note: If you would like to receive a copy of the agenda via email please contact our office, or email us at achapman@oconeesc.com.



OCONEE COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION
RECUSAL FORM

Member Name: Gary Gaultin
Please print

Member Signature: Gary Gaultin

Meeting Date: 2/18/2021

Item for Discussion / Vote:

Letter to Sheriff's Office
Mr Pearson made a motion to send a letter to
County Council with Planning Commission members
signature.

Reason for Recusal: I was not present for the original meeting/discussion.

I have a personal/familiar interest in the issue.

Other:

Abstained because, being new on the OCPC, I
was not sure if I agreed or disagreed with the
letter. I did sign the letter to the OCC.

Adam Chapman
Adam Chapman
Secretary