



OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
ABSTENTION FORM

Council Member Name: _____

PAUL CAIN

(Please Print)

Council Member Signature: _____

Paul A. Cain

Meeting Date: _____

8/12/14

Item for Discussion/Vote: _____

Minutes 3/11/2014

Reason for Absention: _____



I was not present for original meeting/discussion

_____ I have a personal/familial interest in the issue.

_____ Other: _____

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council

[This form to be filed as part of the permanent record of the meeting.]

Mr. John Powell
Powell Real Estate
Walhalla, SC 29691

Dear John,

Thank you for involving the City of Walhalla in the discussions that involve you, Mr. Carswell and others concerning The Courthouse Inn. As mayor, but also being in business, I realize the difficulty you may face in putting this project together. Let me assure you the area has a definite need for a hotel in our city. The City Council of Walhalla would like to propose the following:

A Memorandum of Agreement between the City and the owners of The Courthouse Inn for the City to provide a developmental incentive. The Courthouse Inn would pay all taxes owed to the County and City, then the City would reimburse the portion collected by the City at the end of each fiscal year. This would continue for a term of five years. We would hope that Oconee County would do the same type of agreement, but we would be willing to work out the above whether or not the County was involved.

I know you realize this would require a lot of work to put this together. We are serious about promoting tourism, and we feel a Hotel is a priority. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to improve our city.

Thanks again,


Danny Edwards, Mayor

Walhalla Partners for Progress
Walhalla, South Carolina



Walhalla Partners for Progress, Inc.
P. O. Box 815
Walhalla, SC 29691

August 4, 2014

Oconee County Council
415 S. Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691

Dear Councilmen:

We're writing you to express our support for the Old Courthouse Inn Project, and the need for a hotel in Walhalla.

The City of Walhalla, in partnership with The Greater Walhalla Area Chamber of Commerce and Walhalla Partners for Progress, has undertaken several projects in recent years; each intended to make Walhalla an increasingly attractive destination for tourists and visitors. First among these projects is the Downtown Streetscape Project; essential to revitalizing small businesses and commerce in the center of Walhalla. In addition to the Downtown Streetscape, several smaller-scale projects have been undertaken or completed to enhance Walhalla's appeal to visitors as a "destination."

The Walhalla Civic Auditorium (WCA) has become a major attraction for Walhalla and the surrounding communities. The Auditorium's music and theater programs are drawing significant numbers of visitors from outside the county, benefiting businesses, municipalities and the county. Earlier this year, Nancy Carter, the President of WCA, spoke to Walhalla Partners for Progress about the urgent need for a hotel in Walhalla, and the growing demand for local hotel accommodations expressed by WCA patrons.

We view the Old Courthouse Inn Project as an opportunity to transform a real property liability into a revenue-generating, job-producing asset to the City of Walhalla and Oconee County. Other alternatives resulting in the restoration or demolition of the old courthouse will be costly, and may never contribute to local business or municipal revenue as local boutique inn and restaurant.

We urge the Council to revisit Old Courthouse Inn Project and search for the ways and means to support this important project.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Pollock
President
Walhalla Partners for Progress, Inc.