



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
August 15, 2017

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Paul Cain, District III
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II
Ms. Edda Cammick, Chairwoman, District I
Mr. Julian Davis III, Vice Chair, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, Chair Pro Tem, District V

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Ms. Cammick], County Administrator Scott Moulder, County Attorney David Root and Amanda F. Brock, Public Information Officer present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available [upon request] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Stephen Bradley / Daily Journal & Dick Mangrum / WGOG.

Call to Order

Ms. Cammick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session

Mr. Donny Woody addressed Council regarding wanting the water at his creek tested by DHEC.

Ms. Jean Jennings addressed Council regarding zoning utilizing a handout [copies filed with these minutes].

Mr. Luther Lyle addressed Council stating Council and the Administrator is the best he has seen in Oconee County. He also spoke regarding Destination Oconee and how they are helping improve downtown in all of the cities throughout the County. He noted there is a first class hotel coming to main street Walhalla and the visitation has increased at the Museum of the Cherokee in South Carolina.

Mayor Brian Ramey addressed Council thanking them for what they have done for Destination Oconee and economic alliance. He also noted Destination Oconee has been a huge support for Westminster.

Sheriff Crenshaw addressed Council regarding Destination Oconee. Sheriff Crenshaw also thanked Ms. Janet Hartman and Mr. Richard Blackwell.

Mr. Tony Adams addressed Council regarding the Fair Oak Youth Center and thanked Council, Mr. Moulder and Mr. Root for the support. He also noted the day care center is wanting to start renovations by September 1st, the Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail is wanting to move from Walhalla as soon as possible, having their first community event which is a movie night cruise in on Saturday, September 16, 2017 and has started their first volleyball season with 33 players and 8 volunteer coaches.

Mr. Tom Markovich addressed Council regarding Ordinance 2017-22 and is in support of scenic highways and also spoke regarding the sign ordinance.

County Council Response to Public Comment

Council asked Mr. Moulder what the process was for someone getting their water tested and does the County have any involvement. Mr. Moulder noted the regulatory agency over the water quality is either DHEC or the EPA. He further noted the County does not have any type of regulatory authority over the waters of the State or any kind of Creek on private property.

Ms. Cammick asked Mr. Moulder, County Administrator, to research the costs associated with water testing and forward the information to her.

Moment of Silence

Ms. Cammick asked for a moment of silence prior the Invocation by the County Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain:

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to amend the agenda to add under Executive Session discussion of the contract between the County and the GHS land agreement.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 0 [Ms. Cammick abstained], to approve the June 20, 2017 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

Presentation to Council

Destination Oconee report / Ms. Janet Hartman, Manager

Ms. Hartman, Destination Oconee Manager, addressed Council utilizing a handout and a PowerPoint presentation [copies filed with these minutes] highlighting the following:

- Gateway signage program
- Street audit in the downtown areas
- Countywide buy local program
- Think Oconee initiative
- Recycling Centers
- Great Oconee Cleanup

Discussion followed. Council took no action at this meeting and thanked Ms. Hartman for her presentation.

Administrator’s Report & Agenda Summary

Mr. Moulder briefly reviewed with Council and for the public’s benefit specifics related to the following matters before Council at this meeting:

- Presentation to Council: Destination Oconee / Ms. Janet Hartman
- Public Hearing of Ordinance
- Third Reading of Ordinance
- Second Reading of Ordinance: 2017-19
- First Reading of Ordinance: 2017-20; 2017-21; 2017-22; 2017-23
- First & Final Reading of Resolution:
- Discussion Regarding Action Items
- Board/Commission Appointments
- New Business
- Council Committee reports

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2017-19 “AN ORDINANCE TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH PICKENS COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE, AT THE TIME OF ITS INITIAL DEVELOPMENT, GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN PICKENS COUNTY AND TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY NOW OR TO BE OWNED BY A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME AS “PROJECT EXODUS” OR ITS ASSIGNEE, AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS 1976, SECTION 4-1-170 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE ALLOCATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX; AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2017-19** on second reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2017-20 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A REAL PROPERTY LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AS LESSOR AND THE FOOTHILLS ALLIANCE AS LESSEE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2017-20** on first reading.

Ordinance 2017-21 “AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CERTAIN EASEMENT RIGHTS TO DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS, LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOCATING AND MAINTAINING ELECTRIC AND/OR COMMUNICATION FACILITIES ON COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2017-21** on first reading.

Ordinance 2017-22 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 26 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS ONLY, NAMELY AS TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE SCENIC HIGHWAY COMMITTEE AND THE SUBSTITUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO CARRY OUT ALL DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS FORMERLY BELONGING TO THE SCENIC HIGHWAY COMMITTEE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, to approve **Ordinance 2017-22** on first reading.

Mr. Root addressed Council noting there were no members on the Scenic Highway Committee and the Oconee County Planning Commission would carry out the essential duties and functions of the Committee. Discussion followed to include but not limited to:

- Amend section 26-153 of the Ordinance Subsection C that states Council would determine which roads become Scenic by way of Resolution
- Remove Resolution and replace with Ordinance
- There would be three readings and a public hearing instead of a Resolution which is first & final

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0 to amend section 26-153, Subsection C to remove Resolution and replace with Ordinance as stated by Mr. Root, County Attorney.

Regarding the previous motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. McCall, it was approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2017-22** as amended on first reading.

Ordinance 2017-23 [TITLE ONLY] “AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING \$530,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BOND (KEOWEE FIRE TAX DISTRICT), SERIES 2017, OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING THE COUNTY'S GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (KEOWEE FIRE TAX DISTRICT), SERIES 2007; FIXING THE FORM AND DETAILS OF THE BOND; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BOND; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE BOND; PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE BOND; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.”

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2017-23** on first reading in title only.

First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Conditional acceptance of roads located in Phase 1 of the Shadowood subdivision

It is the recommendation of both staff and the Transportation Committee that Council conditionally accept into the Oconee County Public Road System those roads located in Phase 1 of the Shadowood subdivision. The question of final acceptance of the roads will be brought before Council upon: (1) completion of Phase 2 of the Shadowood development; (2) the County's receipt of Final Plans for both Phase 1 and 2, showing all required elements for such Final Plans as contained in the Oconee County Code of Ordinances; (3) the County's receipt of as-built drawings for the roads located in Phase 2, evidencing compliance with Oconee County road design and construction standards; (4) deeded right-of-ways for the roads to be accepted; and (5) satisfaction of all other requirements as contained in the Oconee County Code of Ordinances and as the County Administrator may deem necessary or advisable.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve conditional acceptance of roads located in Phase 1 of the Shadowood subdivision.

Discussion followed to include:

- The roads were already in place
- The roads were supposed to have been accepted years ago as part of the development of the neighborhood
- Oconee County Roads & Bridges Department and Engineer looked at the roads and tested the roads and they are in great shape and had no issues that concerned the department

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Tim Hydrick to step forward and thanked him for the hard work the road department has completed. Further, he noted it was the understanding that everything from Phase I and Phase II is complete and Mr. Hydrick agreed. Additionally, Mr. Hydrick noted the Road Department was there every step of the way and was inspected by the County.

Regarding the previous motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Davis, it was approved 5 – 0, to approve the conditional acceptance of roads in Phase I of the Shadowood subdivision.

2017 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Grant Notification

Oconee County Sheriff's Department may receive an allocation of \$20,920 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The grant program requires the notification of intent be made available for the County Council and the public to review and comment on the proposed use of funds. The Sheriff's Department plans to use the funds from this program to purchase

- Potential upgrades to the Sheriff's mobile command center
- Upgrades to WatchGuard mobile video systems
- Uniform and Equipment upgrade for Sheriff's Honor Guard
- Weapons upgrade for SWAT entry team

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the 2017 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Grant Notification.

Board & Commission Appointments

Building Codes Appeal Board

No nominations were made.

Conservation Bank Board

No nominations were made.

Board of Zoning Appeals

No nominations were made.

Agricultural Advisory Board

No nominations were made.

Old / Unfinished Business:

None at this meeting.

New Business:

Possibility of closing non-essential County offices on August 21, 2017 around noon for Solar Eclipse

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve closing non-essential County offices on August 21, 2017 around noon for the Solar Eclipse.

Council Committee Reports:

None at this meeting.

Executive Session:

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0 to enter into Executive Session for the following purposes, as allowed for in § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

[1] “to receive legal advice regarding a contractual matter in relation to the design and construction of a “speculative building” within the Golden Corner Commerce Park, to include discussion of funding and collateral issues in relation thereto.”

[2] “to receive legal advice and discuss employment / personnel matters related to work force reduction and the Treasurer’s office.”

[3] “to discuss the contract between Oconee County and the GHS land agreement.”

Council entered Executive Session at 7:08 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:29 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0.

Ms. Cammick stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2017-24 [Title Only] “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER

OF COUNTY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY, LOCATED WITHIN THE GOLDEN CORNER COMMERCE PARK, COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 20 ACRES, TO THE OCONEE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTION OF A “SPECULATIVE BUILDING” FOR INDUSTRIAL OR BUSINESS USE IN ORDER TO PROMOTE INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE COUNTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2017-24** on first reading in title only.

First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2017-12 “A RESOLUTION MAKING APPLICATION TO THE STATE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AUTHORITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR APPROVAL OF THE ISSUANCE BY OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, OF ITS SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE BONDS IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$3,500,000, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SOUTH CAROLINA CODE ANNOTATED, TITLE 4, CHAPTER 1 AND 29 (1976), AS AMENDED.”

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to amend the agenda to remove Resolution 2017-12 from consideration.

Adjourn

Mr. McCall made a motion, approved unanimously 5 – 0, to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. .

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council