



MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
July 19, 2022
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V, Chairman
Mr. Julian Davis, District IV
Mr. Paul Cain, District III

The Transportation Committee met at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present [Mr. Cain via FaceTime], County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, and Jennifer C. Adams, Clerk to Council.

Staff Present: Kyle Reid / Assistant Director of Public Works

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.oconeesc.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: Riley Morningstar / The Journal, Dick Mangrum / 101.7 WGOG

Call to Order

Mr. Hart called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Hart asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by County Council Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 3 – 0, to approve the February 15, 2022 minutes as presented.

Discussion & Action Regarding the Following Items

Proposed abandonment of a portion of Thornburg Rd (TU-67) and the entirety of Dinky Line Rd (TU-34) – Kyle Reid, Assistant Director of Public Works

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.oconeesc.com. Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

Mr. Kyle Reid addressed the Committee with a power point entitled, “Transportation Committee Meeting” [copy filed in backup] and also provided a handout entitled, “Staff Report of Findings” [copy filed in backup].

Mr. Reid went on to present his findings in regards to public feedback he received from the community in reference to the proposed abandonment of a portion of Thornburg Rd (TU-67) and the entirety of Dinky Line Rd (TU-34), noting that one citizen in favor of the road staying open has a special needs child and is worried about potential delays of emergency vehicle access if the road was to be abandoned.

Mr. Hart commented that after some research looking at plats, the above mentioned road has been around since at least 1966.

Mr. Hart went on to further comment that before he makes a decision himself, he would like to talk with the gentleman that has a special needs child to see if other transportation accommodations or emergency vehicle access could be an option.

Mr. Davis noted that he traveled these roads recently, with starting points at several different houses in the area, and actually saved time using Toccoa Hwy. instead of using Dinky Line Rd.

Short discussion followed between the Committee and Mr. Reid relating to the proposed abandonment of a portion Thornburg Rd (TU-67) and the entirety of Dinky Line Rd (TU-34).

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 3 – 0, take this request to full Council and to hold a stand-alone Public Hearing for the proposed abandonment of a portion Thornburg Rd (TU-67) and the entirety of Dinky Line Rd (TU-34), followed by a first and final resolution reading from Council if approved.

Discussion regarding sidewalks in road right-of-way – James Coley, Planning and Zoning Director

Mr. Coley was unable to attend the meeting so Mr. Root, County Attorney, presented to the Committee in his place.

Mr. Root provided background information regarding this topic, stating that the Planning Commission’s request is that the revisions they made to the County ordinance be reviewed by the County Attorney and sent back to the Planning Commission with recommendations.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, to direct County Attorney to review the Planning Commission’s requested revisions to the County ordinance and return to the Planning Commission with recommendations.

Mr. Hart inquired about sidewalks on private right-of-ways and if the County has any responsibility in relation to those.

Mr. Root explained that the same design criteria are applied to both public and private right-of-ways on roads.

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Mr. Mike Johnson, Planning Commission At-Large Representative stepped forward at the request of Mr. Root and provided further details to the Committee regarding sidewalks in road right-of-ways.

Motion approved 3 – 0.

Discussion regarding right-of-way along private drives and private roads– Mike Johnson, Planning Commission At-Large representative

Mr. Mike Johnson, Planning Commission At-Large Representative, addressed Committee using a power point presentation entitled, “Presentation for Transportation Committee and Oconee County Council” [copy filed in backup], as directed to do so by a 6 – 0 vote from the Planning Commission.

Mr. Johnson went on to explain in detail the reasoning behind the Planning Commission’s request to remove sections within Ordinance 26-2, that state “(b)(2) Have a minimum road right-of-way of 50 feet, or an appropriately executed private roadway easement as defined by these regulations” and “(c)(2) Have a minimum road right-of-way width of 50 feet”.

Mr. Hart expressed that he is in agreeance with this request.

Mr. Reid informed the Committee that right-of-ways are so fundamental in their day-to-day operations at the Roads and Bridges Department and expressed his view that road safety is the primary concern and right to accesses is important, especially when it involves Emergency Management.

Mr. Reid requested that the Planning Commission and the Roads and Bridges Department have a meeting to discuss this issue further.

Short discussion followed between Mr. Reid and the Committee related to right-of-ways.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 3 – 0, instructing the Roads and Bridges Department to meet with the Planning Commission to discuss possible solutions regarding right-of-ways along private drives and private roads.

Adjourn:

Mr. Cain made a motion to adjourn, approved unanimously at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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