

**MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr. Steven R. Moore, District I Mr. Kenneth E. Johns, Jr., District II  
Rev. William "Bill" Rinehart, District III Mr. Marion E. Lyles, District IV  
Mr. H. Frank Ables, Jr., District V

**MINUTES, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Oconee County Council met Tuesday, June 15, 2004 at 3:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members and Mr. Norton, County Attorney present.

**Press:**

Members of the press notified (via mail): Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Daily Journal, Anderson Independent, WGOG Radio, WYFF TV & WLOS TV.

Members of the press present: Ray Chandler – Daily Journal, Dave Williams – Anderson Independent & Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio.

**Other Organizations Notified:**

Also notified were the Oconee County Tax Payers Association and the Oconee County Democratic Party.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Ables called the meeting to order.

**Invocation:**

Mr. Rinehart gave the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mr. Norton led the pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

**Minutes:**

By consensus, Council adopted the minutes of the regular meeting held June 1, 2004.

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**2004-05 Sewer Commission Budget:**

Upon recommendation of Mr. Howard Adams, Chairman, Mr. Rhett Smith, Finance Chairman & Mr. Robert Winchester, Superintendent, Sewer Commission, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that the attached 2004-05 Sewer Commission Budget be adopted.

**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:**

Mr. Shawn Colin, SC Appalachian Council of Governments presented the attached updated Oconee County section to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy listing projects and initiatives related to economic development throughout the region. In order for these projects to be grant eligible they must meet the following criteria: (1) The project must be listed in the Regional Plan for Economic Development and (2) Each county must endorse their respective updated project sections by June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that the plan be adopted contingent upon the information from Walhalla being included.

**Infrastructure Plan:**

Mr. Marion Lyles, Council Member, District IV introduced Mr. Paul Lewis of Goklie & Associates who presented the first section of the Infrastructure Plan to Council. In his presentation Mr. Lewis stated the importance of sewer in the county for the following reasons:

- (1) Expansion of system to attract industry and commerce
- (2) Work with existing institutions for progress
- (3) Good sewer environment for industry
- (4) Protection of water resources from septic tanks
- (5) Address coming storm water regulations

**Solid Waste:**

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that the bid for a compactor for Solid Waste be awarded to Blanchard Machinery at a cost of \$403,667.25. (See attached bid sheet and letter of recommendation)

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**"Welcome to Oconee County" Signs:**

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that seven of the "Welcome to Oconee County" signs be repaired at a cost not to exceed \$4,000 with the funding coming from Road Department Operational funds and two new signs be purchased to replace the missing ones at a cost not to exceed \$5,300 incorporating the county seal on them with the funding coming from Miscellaneous Capital Improvement funds.

**Ordinance 2004-15:**

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that 2004-15, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 97-14, OCONEE COUNTY POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL, SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 3-1, 3-4 & 3-5" be adopted on second reading.

**Ordinance 2004-14:**

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2004-14, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 99-14, OCONEE COUNTY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ORDINANCE" be adopted on third and final reading.

**Solid Waste (Contingency):**

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that the approval to expend \$800 of contingency funds to repair the baler at Solid Waste be adopted.

**Postage Machine:**

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that the attached budget adjustment authorization for the lease of a postage machine be adopted.

**Budget & Finance Recommendations:**

Upon recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee, Council voted unanimously to adopt the following recommendations for the 2004-05 budget:

School Board Salaries	\$6,500
101 Sheriff's Department	\$5,825 total for dues \$ 700 total for postage SRO position be held open

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**Budget & Finance Committee Recommendations Continued:**

102 Rural Fire	\$35,735 for ETV mechanic \$20,000 total for maintenance on equipment
105 Emergency Management	\$51,000 total for vehicle replacements
110 Animal Control	\$100,000 from Direct Aid (Humane Society into Animal Control Budget
301 Assessor	\$16, 907 total for schools, seminars, training
710 Human Resources	\$10,000 total in advertising
713 Procurement	Took \$600 from maintenance on equipment, Gave \$3,069 to lease copier
714 Public Buildings	\$38,000 for gas & fuel oil
718 Solid Waste	\$200 total for travel
719 Rock Quarry	Account Clerk be removed from budget
735 Register of Deeds	\$500 total for travel \$2,000 total for schools, seminars, training
Mileage Reimbursement:	\$.37½ per mile

**Roads & Transportation:**

Mr. Johns scheduled a Roads & Transportation Committee Meeting Tuesday, July 6, 2004 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers.

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**Referendum Information Committee:**

Upon Mr. Johns' recommendation, Council voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Randy Chastain & Mr. David McCutcheon to represent District II on the Referendum Information Committee.

Upon Mr. Moore's recommendation, Council voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Gary Winters & Mr. Robert Manka to represent District I on the Referendum Information Committee.

**Personnel & Intergovernmental Meet:**

Mr. Ables scheduled a Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee Meeting Thursday, June 24, 2004 at 11:00 AM for the purpose of discussing a County Administrator.

**Recreation Funds:**

Upon recommendation of Mr. Lyles, Council voted unanimously to release \$4,700 recreational funds to Salem.

Mr. Lyles made a motion, that unused recreational funds (\$7,450 – District I, \$5,000 – District II and \$10 – District V be transferred to District IV to be used for an air conditioner for the District IV recreational building. After further discussion regarding the recreational funds, it was the vote of Council that Mr. Moore & Mr. Johns contact their districts regarding recreational funds not yet requested.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that the City of Westminster be allowed to request their full amount of Funding (\$15,000) July 1, 2004 contingent with such a request not being in conflict with the ordinance for disbursement of the recreational funds.

**Referendum Information Committee:**

Mr. Norton, County Attorney, informed Council that Mr. Robert Manka was elected as Chairman of the Referendum Information Committee and the first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2004 at 12:30 PM in the conference room.

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**Odell Cain Roadway:**

Mr. Hamilton informed Council that the Soil & Water Conservation District is proposing that the county contract for repair of the Odell Cain Roadway at a total cost of \$24,000 with the landowner providing \$4,000 matching funds. However, Council was not in agreement for any county equipment or county employees being used on this project except to oversee the project.

**Charity Medical Gravel (Contingency):**

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that \$500 be taken from contingency and placed in the charity medical gravel line item

**Walhalla Garden Club:**

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 5 – 0 that the request of the Walhalla Garden Club to name the "Oconee Azalea" as the official shrub of the County be assigned to the Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee.

**Public Comment Session:**

Mrs. Frances Simmons addressed Council regarding Boat Ramp Roadway.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding recreational funds.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding good eating habits, impact fees, fire trucks and the quality of life in Oconee County.

**Adjourn:**

Adjourn 4:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green, Clerk to Council