

**MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr. Steven R. Moore, District I Mr. Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr., District II  
Rev. William S. "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, September 19, 2006 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members except Mr. Moore present. Mr. Norton, County Attorney, was also present.

**Press:**

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

Members of the press present: Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent, Brett McLaughlin – Daily Journal, Peter Kent - WGOG Radio & Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier.

**Other Organizations Notified:**

Also notified were the Oconee County Tax Payers Association, Citizens for Recreation Center 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. Lyles led the pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that minutes of the regular meeting held August 29, 2006 be adopted as printed.

**Public Comment Session:**

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding the budget and Duke Energy’s assessment.

Mr. Albert Reiger addressed Council regarding millage and Council actions.

Mr. George Cleveland addressed Council regarding the need for a new facility for the Department of Social Services.

Mr. Ed Little, Mr. Devoe Blackston, Ms. Linda Fairchilds, Ms. Linda Carswell, and Mr. Frank Robbins addressed Council regarding reassessment and millage.

Mr. Michael Thorsland, School District, expressed appreciation for fully funding the School District budget.

Mr. Ben Turetsky addressed Council regarding the County leasing four boat ramps from Duke Energy at a cost of from \$7,000 to \$9,000 annually.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the public comment session, the generosity of the County toward fire protection and the proposal to loan Walhalla Rescue funds to complete their building.

**Millage for Fiscal Year 2006-07:**

Upon recommendation of Mrs. Linda Nix, County Auditor, Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 to adopt millage of 204 for the 2006-07 fiscal year as delineated below which is a decrease from 216 mils in the 2005-06 fiscal year:

County Operational:	64.3 mils
Economic Development:	1.0 mil
Bridges & Culverts:	1.0 mil
County Bonds:	1.8 mils
2002 Courthouse Bond	1.6 mils
<b>Total County:</b>	<b>69.7 mils</b>
School Operational:	113.0 mils
School Bonds:	
1998 School Bond:	.9 mil

**Millage for Fiscal Year 2006-07 Continued:**

2001 School Bond:	3.0 mils
03 Refunding:	3.8 mils
04 Refunding:	3.4 mils
2005 School:	3.9 mils
2006 School:	3.0 mils
<b>Total School:</b>	<b>131.0 mils</b>
Tri County Tech Operational:	2.6 mils
Tri County Bonds:	.7 mil
<b>Total Tri County Tech:</b>	<b>3.3 mils</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>204.0 mils</b>

**Sheriff’s Department:**

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that the Sheriff’s Department be authorized to apply for a Department of Homeland Security’s Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$12,500 for the purchase of a Tacsight S1 Thermal Imager. This grant requires no local matching funds.

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 that the Sheriff’s Department be authorized to apply for a Palmetto Pride grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the purchase of a portable surveillance camera system. This match requires no local match.

**Parks, Recreation & Tourism:**

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that Parks, Recreation & Tourism be authorized to apply for a PARD grant in the amount of \$5,900 to be used for new ADA sidewalks at South Cove & High Falls County Parks. The local match for this grant in the amount of \$1,180 will be met with in-kind labor.

**Assessor’s Office:**

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 4 – 0 that a change order to the contract with Kucera International in the amount not to exceed \$447,000 to amend the original scope of work to include digitizing the tax parcels and developing land use classifications be adopted. (See attachment)

**Rural Fire (Contingency):**

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that the bid for a pumper truck for Rural Fire be awarded to Sutphen Corporation at a total cost of \$315,850.25 with \$5,855 coming from contingency to cover the expense of equipment to meet NFPA/ISO requirements.

**Ordinance 2006-24:**

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-24, “AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING ORDINANCE 2004-19, OCONEE COUNTY EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN” be adopted on first reading.

**District I Recreation Funds:**

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 that recreation funds in the amount of \$22,500 from line item 010 202 30901 be adopted.

**Council Committee Reports:**

**Fire Protection:**

Mr. Crumpton reported a work session prior to the Council Meeting for the purpose of discussing fire protection in the County.

**Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Recommendations:**

Upon recommendation of the Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee, Council voted unanimously to enter into a contract with the City of Westminster for housing of the ladder truck contingent upon the contract being approved by the City of Westminster.

Also, upon recommendation of the Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee, Council voted unanimously to enter into a contract with the Humane Society to convert their facility located on Highway 123 into an animal shelter and upon completion of the shelter to construct an approximate 1200 square foot building for the Humane Society contingent upon the contract being adopted by the Humane Society.

Further, upon recommendation of the Committee, Council voted unanimously to resign the agreement between Oconee County and Oconee Heritage Center, Inc. to reflect a beginning date and accurate signature page.

**Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Recommendations Continued:**

Additionally, upon recommendation of the Committee, Council unanimously approved the concept of entering into an agreement with the Walhalla Rescue Squad to lend them \$175,000 for the completion of the rescue building situated on the same property as the Oconee County Law Enforcement Center. An agreement with terms will be presented to Council for approval.

**Administrator Report:**

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 to affirm Mr. Hendricks’ recommendation of removing the Rock Quarry and Solid Waste from the Public Works Director.

Mr. Hendricks also informed Council that eight of the ten pumper trucks have been returned to the County and are in working order with no complaints. Walhalla engine 5A is still experiencing electrical problems and West Union engine 16 has a primer pump leak that still needs to be repaired.

Mr. Hendricks further informed Council new axles had been installed in two of the tankers and would be installed in the remaining eight tankers.

**Reassessment:**

Mr. Ables then allowed Ms. Linda Fairchilds additional discussion regarding reassessment and assured those present that discrepancies would be looked into.

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that Council go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter subject to Attorney/Client privilege and a personnel matter related to the legal matter.

**Open Session:**

When open session resumed there was no action regarding the executive session.

**Adjourn:**

Adjourn: 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

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Opal O. Green,  
Clerk to Council