

MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
November 6, 2007



MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. George Blanchard District I
Mr. Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr., District II
Mr. Mario Suarez, District III
Mr. Marion E. Lyles, District IV, Chairman
Mr. H. Frank Ables, Jr., District V

Oconee County Council met on Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. Lyles], County Administrator Dale K. Surrett, Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council & Mr. Bradley A. 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 WSPA TV & WSNW Radio.

Member of the press present: Carlos Garza–Daily Journal and Ray Chandler–Anderson Independent.

Call to Order:

Chairman Lyles was not in attendance therefore Vice Chairman Crumpton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Minutes:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 4 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held October 16, 2007 be adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Larry Linsin addressed Council regarding his support for an illegal immigrant workforce ordinance.

Mr. George Cleveland addressed Council regarding his support for the zoning enabling ordinance and he requested terminology clarification in Ordinance #2007-19.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding his opposition to zoning in Oconee County.

County Council Website Update:

Ms. Elizabeth Hulse, Clerk to Council, addressed Council regarding the redesign and changes made to the County Council Website to include: photograph's of each council member, county administrator and county attorney; a streamlined agenda/minutes section and the addition of the following sections:

- Upcoming meetings to include council committees, meeting schedule changes and workshops
- Council studies to include economic development information for public review, etc
- Current Council committee assignments
- Voting district map
- Documents for review to include proposed ordinances sent back to committee for further work before a vote, etc.
- Pending ordinances
- Approved ordinances

Ms. Hulse noted that the codified Code of Ordinances will be posted on the website once Municipal Code Corporation completes their work and provides an internet link for the website.

Mr. Surrett reminded those present that all County Council agendas and upcoming meeting/workshop notices are posted on the window at the main entrance door [across from the school district building] so that they may be viewed at all times [24/7] from outside the building.

Ordinance 2007-19:

Mr. Norton addressed Council regarding the benefits of this Ordinance in allowing non violent offenders, i.e., people sentenced for non payment of child support, bad checks, etc., to be placed under "home detention" allowing them to continue to work and maintain their home thereby helping to relieve the over crowded conditions at the LEC. The individual sentenced would have to pay any costs associated with the program.

Lastly, Mr. Norton agreed to define the terms "violent" and "non-violent" in this document prior to second reading per Mr. Cleveland's request.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that **Ordinance 2007-19, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A HOME DETENTION PROGRAM"** be adopted on first reading.

Ordinance 2007-20:

Mr. Norton addressed Council regarding changes made to this amended Ordinance to include the addition of a definition section and specifics regarding the hiring of an Executive Director. Mr. Norton voiced concerns that specifics were not present in this Ordinance regarding worker's compensation and liability insurance to be maintained by the Board. Mr. Norton will address these issues to the Board's attorney, Mr. Lowell Ross.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 that **Ordinance 2007-20, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1995-05, AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM"** be adopted on first reading.

Items for Consideration by Council:

Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Westminster [Fire Station]:

Mr. Surrett addressed Council regarding this agreement outlining the responsibilities of each organization. Mr. Blanchard voiced concern that the language was ambiguous and requested that the responsibilities of each organization should be clearly stated to eliminate any confusion in the future.

Mr. Norton agreed to work with the City of Westminster attorney, R. Scott Sprouse, to clarify any confusion and to address the issue of destruction of the existing facility and disposal of any material in the landfill at no cost to the contractor.

Mr. Surrett noted that the City is under a time constraint as they have put a retainer on property and that a Council vote is needed at the next meeting in order for the City of Westminster to proceed.

No action was taken by Council at this meeting. This item will be placed on the next agenda for Council, November 13, 2007.

Change Order Request re: Phase II Landfill Gas System Restoration, Operation & Maintenance:

Mr. Surrett addressed Council along with Mr. Swain Steel, Solid Waste Director, regarding the change order in the amount of \$32,000 to correct flare system problems at the Landfill. This change order will provide training for staff and allow Solid Waste to meet the DHEC timeline. Mr. Surrett noted that this change order with B. P. Barber & Associates would also result in the termination of our contract with Goldie & Associates regarding this flare system at the landfill.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 4 – 0 to approve a change order for B. P. Barber in the amount of \$32,000 in order to accomplish the goals outlined above.

Sheriff's Department: Request for Permission to apply for Homeland Security Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant:

Mr. Surrett addressed Council regarding the Homeland Security Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant. This grant will be used to acquire communications equipment and technology that will be used to implement a UHF/VHF 800 MHz multi-frequency/spectrum radio system. The Grant amount is \$1,139,550 with a local match of \$227,910. The local match portion is currently funded in the Communications Department budget.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 4 – 0 to approve the application by the Sheriff's Department for the Homeland Security Public Safety Interoperable Grant in the amount of \$1,139,550 with a local match of \$227,910.

Assessor's Office: Request for Permission to apply for Federal/State Mapping Grant:

Mr. Surrett addressed Council regarding the Federal/State Mapping Grant in the amount of \$40,000 with a local match of \$40,000. The grant will be used to offset expenditures in the Assessor's Office associated with the mapping project, equipment and software to facilitate the integrated use of GIS and the CAMA [Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal] system. Mr. Surrett noted that the \$40,000 match is currently funded in the Assessor's FY 07-08 budget.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 to authorize the Assessor's office request to apply for the Federal/State Mapping Grant in the amount of \$40,000 with a local match of \$40,000.

Council Committee Reports:

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management:

Mr. Lyles was not present at this meeting therefore no report was made.

Road & Transportation:

Mr. Crumpton had no report at this meeting

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee Report:

Mr. Blanchard had not report at this meeting.

It was announced that **the Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers.

Budget, Finance & Administration:

Mr. Ables had no report at this meeting.

Planning & Economic Development:

Mr. Suarez had no report at this meeting...

Administrator Report:

Recognize Sally Lowery: Certified Governmental Finance Officer:

Mr. Surrett asked Ms. Sally Lowery to step forward so that he could present her with the Certificate from the State of South Carolina that awards her the title of “Certified Governmental Finance Officer”.

Mr. Surrett commended her hard work and noted that to hold this certification is a tremendous accomplishment and is only achieved after many long hours of study and experience as a governmental accounting practitioner. Ms. Phyllis Lombard, Finance Director, along with the rest of the finance department staff attended this presentation to show support for Ms. Lowery’s accomplishment. Council commended her on her achievement which initiated a round of applause from all present.

Old Business:

No Old Business was addressed.

New Business:

Capital Project Commission:

Mr. Crumpton polled the members to determine if Commission members had been selected. Discussion arose regarding the responsibilities of the commission members and meeting dates/times. Council members stated that appointee’s would be forthcoming at a future meeting. This item will be added to the next meeting agenda for discussion.

Political Signs:

Mr. Ables questioned the County Attorney regarding any applicable language in the Sign Ordinance to address the erection and removal of political signs in Oconee County. Mr. Norton stated nothing was in the Sign Ordinance at present and that this issue could potentially be addressed with the Litter Ordinance. Mr. Surrett noted that some municipalities do have ordinances and requested Mr. Norton to research this issue for discussion at the next council meeting.

Appalachian Council of Government Representative Appointment:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 to re-appoint Mr. Bob Gilliard to the Appalachian Council of Governments.

Senior Solutions Funding Request:

Mr. Surrett provided a copy of a letter received from Senior Solutions regarding a funding request [filed with these minutes]. He noted that pending receipt of their audit that he released the requested funds in the amount of \$50,000.

Keowee Fire Department:

Mr. Surrett read a letter from Mark Lee, Chief, Keowee Fire District, [filed with these minutes] thanking Council for their work in preparing the building sites for both the new fire department headquarters and the new substation.

Meeting Date Change:

The regular County Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. has been cancelled and **rescheduled to Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.**

The **Fee-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes workshop** scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. has been cancelled and will be rescheduled after the first of the year.

Executive Session:

Mr. Suarez moved to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contractual and personnel matters.

Mr. Crumpton called the meeting back to Order at 9:05 p.m. stating no action will be taken on matters discussed in Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Crumpton adjourned Council at 9:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council



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OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
EXECUTIVE SESSION – SPECIAL MEETING
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Press:

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

Member of the press present: none

Call to Order:

As Chairman Lyles was not in attendance, Vice Chairman Crumpton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Executive Session:

Mr. Ables moved, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, to enter into Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contractual and personnel matters.

Open Session:

Mr. Crumpton called the meeting back to Order at 7:00 p.m. stating no action will be taken on matters discussed in Executive Session.

Adjourn: Mr. Crumpton adjourned Council at 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council