



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
May 6, 2008
WEST OAK HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

Oconee County Council met on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 7:00 PM at West Oak High School Auditorium, Westminster, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Dale K. Surret, 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: Ray Chandler–Anderson Independent, Carols Galarza-Daily Journal and Peter Kent-WSNW.

Call to Order:

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Blanchard thanked the staff and students at West Oak for helping to make the meeting a success. He recognized the schools principal, Dr. Scott Smith, and Mr. Wayne Bagwell for their valuable assistance.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Minutes:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes from the April 15, 2008 regular meeting be adopted as printed.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes from the April 15, 2008 public hearing meeting be adopted as printed.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes from Budget, Finance & Administration Committee Meetings [April 14, 2008, April 16, 2008, April 21, 2008, April 24, 2008, April 28, 2008, April 30, 2008 and May 5, 2008] be amended and adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Ron Ramsey requested the status of the Mountain Bay boat ramp in Foxwood Hills subdivision. Mr. Crumpton noted that this issue would be discussed at a future Transportation Committee meeting.

Mr. George Cleveland addressed Council regarding several topics; the lack of funding for a new library in the FY 08-09 budget, support for pay for volunteer firefighters and rescue squad workers, and the county vehicle fleet.

Extended Public Comment Session:

No citizens signed up for extended public comment session at this meeting.

Ordinances for Approval:

Ordinance 2008-07:

Mr. Norton noted that no changes have been made to his ordinance since first reading.

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that **Ordinance 2008-07**, “AN ORDINANCE REPEALING BOTH ORDINANCE 2004-1, AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE LAKEVIEW ASSISTED LIVING COMMISSION AND ORDINANCE 2003-18, AN ORDINANCE TO APPOINT A BOARD MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF LAKEVIEW ASSISTED LIVING, INC.” be adopted on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2008-08:

Mr. Norton noted that no changes have been made to his ordinance since first reading.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that **Ordinance 2008-08**, “AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2002-6, AN ORDINANCE REORGANIZING THE OCONEE COUNTY SOLID WASTE COMMISSION” be adopted on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2008-06:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that **Ordinance 2008-06**, “THE 2008-2009 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2008-09:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that **Ordinance 2008-09**, “THE 2008-2009 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE.” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2008-10:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that **Ordinance 2008-10**, “AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 1975-08, TO AMEND ACT #458 OF THE 1969 ACTS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF THE SC GENERAL ASSEMBLY PERTAINING TO THE BOARD OF CHARITABLE MEDICAL SERVICES AND OCONEE COUNTY” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2008-11:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that **Ordinance 2008-11**, “AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 1977-07, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CHILDREN'S HOME” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2008-12:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that **Ordinance 2008-12**, “ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AUTHORIZING A NOT EXCEEDING \$1,477,683 LEASE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT, SERIES 2008 RELATING TO THE FINANCING OF VARIOUS ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING THE LEASE AGREEMENT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO” be adopted on second reading.

Items for Consideration by Council:

Sheriff Department Contract with Army Corp of Engineers for lake patrols:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 to authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract between the Oconee County Sheriff's Department and the Army Corp of Engineers for lake patrols.

Award Contract [Co-op w/ SDOC #987-529 & 988-529] OCPL/Walhalla Branch/Carpet:

Mr. Surrett addressed Council asked to deviate from the agenda to address questions regarding the structural integrity of the Oconee Public Library, Walhalla Branch. Mr. Lake Julian, Facilities Manager, stated that he had contacted an engineering firm and noted that there is water damage which has caused settlement in one corner that will need repairs. The proposal would be to add a beam and shore up the end. In addition, water is not an issue at this time as most of the damage occurred years ago. Estimated costs range between \$25,000 to \$35,000. There would also be minor painting and sheet rock repairs for a few hundred dollars.

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 to approve spending \$59,894.00 [\$31,837.00 for Tandus Company and \$23,481.00 for Holden Carpet Service, LLC] on a piggy back bid #987-529 & 988-529 to provide carpeting to the Oconee County Public Library, Walhalla Branch.

2007 Community Emergency Response Team [CERT] Grant, \$7,000:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 to authorize Emergency Management to apply for the \$7,000.00 2007 Community Emergency Response Team [CERT] grant.

Budget Transfer/Communications/Overtime / \$49,072.00:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 to approve the transfer of funds from part time dispatcher pool [#010-104-10122-31122 & 010-104-10122-31121] to Overtime [010-104-10710-0] in the amount of \$49,072.00.

Budget Transfer/Communications/Maintenance on Equipment to Capital / \$50,000.00:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 to approve the transfer of funds from maintenance on equipment [#010-104-30024-0] to Capital [010-104-82009-0] in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Advertising/ 5 full pages in “Treasures of South Carolina” / \$5,000:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 to approve \$5,000 for five [5] pages of advertisement in the South Carolina Treasures book with Oconee County on the Cover.

Council Committee Reports:

Transportation:

Mr. Crumpton made the following report:

At February 28, 2008 meeting the committee unanimously took the following action: The committee instructed Mr. Norton to contact a representative of Park Place, LLC. to begin the abandonment process with the understanding that all fees and costs associated with Mr. Norton's services will be paid by Park Place, LLC.

At March 31, 2008 meeting the committee unanimously took the following action: The committee instructed Mr. Norton to begin the process to abandon Nalley Road and deed it to the Oconee County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs.

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

Mr. Blanchard had no report at this meeting; however, he noted that the new District 17 Fire Station will be having their grand opening on Saturday, May 17, 2008. A future Public Safety Committee meeting will be scheduled at this facility.

Budget, Finance & Administration:

Mr. Ables noted that the schedule for the Public Hearing and Third Reading has been changed due to publication problems as follows:

- Public Hearing: Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Walhalla High School Auditorium
- Third & Final Reading: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in Chambers

Planning & Economic Development:

Mr. Suarez had no report at this meeting.

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management:

Mr. Lyles had no report at this meeting.

Commission / Board Reports to Council:

Capital Project Sales Tax Commission:

Mr. Blanchard stated that the recommendation from the Commission was to not proceed with preparation of a formal project listing for the 2008 general election ballot.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of Council to have the Commission continue working toward preparation of an appropriate project list that could be put on the 2010 general election ballot.

Mr. Ables noted that the formation of this Commission was citizen initiated and that they were not formed solely by Council.

Board & Commission Appointments:

Board of Zoning Appeals:

Mr. Suarez did not have an appointee at this meeting.

Mr. Surrett suggested, and Council concurred, that the Clerk to Council post an advertisement in the local paper, on the web and at the County Office Building for interested candidates for the District III seat on this board.

Anderson-Oconee Behavioral Health Services Board:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 to reappoint all seven current members to the Anderson-Oconee Behavioral Health Services Board for an additional 3 year term each.

ATAX Commission:

Mr. Blanchard asked Mr. Surrett to request from Mr. Phil Shirley, PRT Director, a summary of each ATAX Commission member's role on the commission along with a copy of the ordinance for their review as the Commission is up for appointment/reappointment in June 2008.

Administrator's Report:

City of Seneca's interest in county surplus vehicle [Dump Truck]:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 to donate the 1998 Chevy Dump Truck [VIN# 1GBM7HIC4WJ113333] to the City of Seneca.

Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority [OJRSA] Second Draft – Engineer's Report:

Mr. Surrett noted that he was in receipt of a 2nd draft engineer's report [copies to will be provided to Council]. It was recommended that Council meet with the OJRSA to review the report and the options presented in the report.

Mr. Blanchard scheduled a meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, in Council Chambers between the OJRSA and Council to review the Engineer's report and options.

Old Business:

Zoning Enabling Ordinance [ZEO] #2007-18 / Overlays on Highway 107/11:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, to remove the overlays from the ZEO on Highways 11 and 107.

Mr. Norton noted that this ordinance was not on the agenda for second reading tonight. He recommended that a vote not be taken on a portion of the ordinance without proper notice to the public and inclusion on the posted agenda.

Mr. Crumpton rescinded his motion. Mr. Ables rescinded his second. No action was taken.

Oconee Alliance Representative:

Mr. Blanchard noted that Mr. Crumpton has been the Council representative on this Board however he wishes to be removed; therefore, Mr. Blanchard appointed himself to replace Mr. Crumpton on the Oconee Alliance Board.

School District of Oconee [SDOC] / Blue Ridge Elementary / 5 acres / Grading:

Mr. Surrett noted that he had received a request from SDOC for \$120,000 from the County to assist with grading the 5 acre portion of land donated by SDOC to Oconee County for the purpose of building a new Oconee County Library in Seneca. He outlined several options for Council to include; [1] funding \$120,000 for grading, [2] do not grade the property now, and [3] notify SDOC that we don't plan to build a new county library at this site and return the 5 acres to SDOC.

After discussion, Council tasked Mr. Surrett to follow-up with SDOC and report at the May 20, 2008 meeting.

New Business:

Discussion of Planning Department Consultant:

Mr. Surrett addressed Council regarding the Planning Departments need for a consultant who can help them identify best practices in other jurisdictions that are similar to Oconee County. This consultant would also be a resource for and work closely with the Planning Commission.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to have Mr. Surrett continue working closely with Mr. Art Holbrooks, Planning Director, to move forward with the preparation of an RFP, cost estimates, etc. and to report back at a future meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Blanchard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council