



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
With Representative from the
South Carolina Association of Counties [SCAC]
October 21, 2008

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 for a workshop meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. Lyles], County Administrator Dale K. Surrett and Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council present.

Other Staff Present: Major Steve Pruitt, LEC

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 & Brett McLaughlin–Daily Journal & Peter Kent–WSNW Radio.

Workshop meeting with SCAC representative regarding staffing study and the Oconee County Jail:

Chairman Blanchard welcomed Mr. Robert Benfield, Risk Manager with SCAC, and thanked him for attending the workshop to discuss various issues related to the jail. Mr. Benfield presented a short PowerPoint slide presentation [filed with these minutes] regarding inmate population levels, staffing requirements, etc. He discussed the benefits of a Criminal Justice Coordination Committee. Mr. Benfield provided an example showing another county that built an annex to their existing facility and outlined the benefits of their pod structure vs. our existing linear hallways. He also briefly addressed several key issues identified in the Oconee County Detention Center Staffing Needs Assessment prepared in April 2008 [copy filed with these minutes].

Mr. Benfield asked Council to enter into an Executive Session in order to review specific security features and jail floorplan/design. He noted that these issues are very sensitive and should not be discussed in a public workshop format in order to ensure the security at the jail.

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 3 – 0 to enter into Executive Session in order to receive specific security related information regarding the Oconee County Jail. Council entered into Executive Session at 5:08 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 5:40 p.m.

Mr. Blanchard noted that issues discussed in Executive Session would not be acted upon at this meeting. He thanked Mr. Benfield again for his time, his ongoing work with Major Pruitt at the Detention Center and the thorough presentation to Council at this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Blanchard adjourned the workshop at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council