



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
December 17, 2013

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Council Chairman
Mr. Paul Corbeil, District I, Vice Chairman
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II, Chairman Pro Tem
Mr. Archie Barron, District III
Mr. Reg Dexter, District V

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. Dexter], County Administrator Scott Moulder, Assistant Administrator Glenn Breed, Thomas L. Martin County Attorney, and Clerk to Council Elizabeth Hulse present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available [upon request] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Ray Chandler-Anderson Independent, Dick Mangrum - WGOG & Norman Cannada -The Daily Journal.

Call to Order:

Mr. Thrift called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Chair noted that Mr. Dexter was absent as he was out of state attending his mother's funeral.

Public Comment Session [related to specific agenda items]:

Mr. Richard Marcengill addressed Council in support of passage of Resolution R2013-20 and addressed questions surrounding the Solid Waste Bill, H3290.

Mr. Frankie Pearson addressed Council in opposition to passage of Resolution R2013-20.

Public Comment Session [related to non-agenda items]:

Corporal Norman Dukes, Oconee County Sheriff's Office, addressed Council regarding his efforts to raise funds for Tamassee-Salem High School programs by walking across South Carolina. Cpl. Dukes provide Council with handouts regarding his efforts [copy filed with these minutes].

Mr. Britt Adams addressed Council regarding local government transparency.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding various issues related to Economic Development and road paving.

County Council Response to Public Comment:

None at this meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Thrift led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Minutes: Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2013 regular meeting as presented.

Presentations to Council:

Detention Center Preliminary Design Presentation & Update

Mr. Moulder along with Mr. Doug Shaw [*Wakefield Beasley & Associates*] and Mr. Matt Berberick [*Carter Goble Lee*] addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting the following key areas:

- Facility Particulars
- Site 1 Option
- Site 2 Option
- Church Street Entrance
- Rear Elevation
- Main Level Floor Plan
- Mezzanine Level Floor Plan
- Program Budget
 - Option 1: \$16,650,000
 - Option 2: \$16,100,000
- Project Milestones
- Next Steps
 - Approve Schematic Design Option
 - Proceed with Design Development

Discussion followed regarding various aspects of the project to include roof type/slant, office space locations, video conferencing for inmates, exterior design/access for staff, access behind cells, grading and long term inmate population estimates. Mr. Moulder reviewed the cost difference between Option 1 and Option 2 noting that if Council approves Resolution R2013-20 at this meeting that it will provide the county with a cost savings of \$500,000 as additional grading and retaining walls would not be required.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to direct staff to proceed and to approve Option 2 contingent upon passage of Resolution R2013-20 later in this meeting [*see page 5 of these minutes for Council's action*].

Administrator's Report & Agenda Summary

Mr. Moulder briefly reviewed with Council and for the public's benefit specifics related to the following matters before Council at this meeting:

- Public Hearings & Third & Final Reading for Ordinance
- Second Readings for Ordinances
- First & Final Reading for Resolutions
- Discussion / Action Items
- Board/Commission Appointments
- Executive Session

Mr. Moulder recommended that Council amend the purpose for the Executive Session to remove an Economic Development matter and ADD a discussion of a legal matter regarding potential litigation.

Mr. Moulder next addressed misinformation recently reported in the Daily Journal newspaper regarding the county's lack of economic development as compared with Pickens County.

Mr. Moulder provided the following information to correct the record:

| | Oconee County | Pickens County |
|----------------|--|---|
| 2012 | 2 Announcements \$32,000,000 Capital Investment 105 New Jobs | 2 Announcements \$5,000,000 Capital Investment 15 New Jobs |
| 2013 | 6 Announcements \$48,500,000 Capital investment 119 New Jobs | 1 Announcement \$13,000,000 Capital Investment No New Jobs |
| | 8 Announcements \$80,500,000 Capital Investment 224 New Jobs | 3 Announcements \$18,000,000 Capital Investment 15 New Jobs |
| Oconee | + 5 Announcements | |
| v. | + \$62,500,000 Capital Investment | |
| Pickens | +209 New Jobs | |

In addition to this information, Mr. Moulder reviewed the two counties for the period 2007 through 2013 as follows:

| | Oconee County | Pickens County |
|--|--|---|
| 2007 - 2013 | \$315,000,000 Capital Investment 1,200 New Jobs | \$67,800,000 Capital Investment 1,400 New Jobs |
| Oconee | + \$36,300,000 Capital Investment | |
| v. | | |
| Pickens | -200 New Jobs | |
| Pickens County has 30% less population than Oconee County. | | |
| Unemployment Rates: | | |
| | Highest during Recession | 12.50% |
| | Current Oconee County Rate | 7.50% |

Council thanked Mr. Moulder for the information and commended the efforts of the current and past Economic Development staff members along with Administration for the county's successes over the past several years.

Public Hearing and Third & Final Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2013-36 “AN ORDINANCE TO CONDITION FUTURE PAYMENTS TO THE OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY ON THE RECEIPT AND SUFFICIENCY OF DETAILED INVOICES FROM THE OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY; TO FORMALLY REQUEST THAT A MEMBER OF THE OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPRESENT OCONEE COUNTY AT ANY AND ALL FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Thrift opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance.

Mr. C. W. Richards addressed Council in support of passage of this ordinance and his suggestion that Mr. McCall be the county representative at Sewer Authority meetings.

No other citizens addressed Council regarding this ordinance at this meeting.

Mr. Thrift asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record. The Clerk to Council noted that one written comment was received prior to the meeting from the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authorities legal counsel [copy of which will be filed with these minutes].

Mr. Thrift closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2013-36**

Third & Final Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2013-36 “AN ORDINANCE TO CONDITION FUTURE PAYMENTS TO THE OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY ON THE RECEIPT AND SUFFICIENCY OF DETAILED INVOICES FROM THE OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY; TO FORMALLY REQUEST THAT A MEMBER OF THE OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPRESENT OCONEE COUNTY AT ANY AND ALL FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE OCONEE JOINT REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2013-36** on third and final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

[Note: Public Hearings will be scheduled at or before third & final reading for the following ordinances as required]

Ordinance 2013-17 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, to approve **Ordinance 2013-17** on second reading. The motion failed 0 – 4 thus permanently removing this ordinance from Council’s consideration.

Ordinance 2013-19 “AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE AND INCLUSION OF A ROAD INTO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM AND THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM MAP; TO AMEND SECTION 26-6, ENTITLED *ACCEPTANCE OF ROADS INTO COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM*, OF DIVISION 1, ENTITLED *UNIFIED ROAD STANDARDS FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF OCONEE COUNTY*, OF CHAPTER 26, ENTITLED *ROADS AND BRIDGES*, OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, to approve **Ordinance 2013-19** on second reading. The motion failed 0 – 4 thus permanently removing this ordinance from Council’s consideration.

Ordinance 2013-32 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2013-01 AN ORDINANCE TO `ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES, FOR THE TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE VICTIM SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, FOR THE BRIDGE AND CULVERT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, AND FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, ALL IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2013 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2014” *[Broadband Fees Budget Amendment]*

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 4 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2013-32** on second reading.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions:

Resolution R2013-20 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN WALHALLA, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY OCONEE COUNTY”

Mr. Moulder noted that the purchase price is for the appraised value of \$165,000 as agreed upon by all parties.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0 to approve **Resolution R2013-20** on first and final reading.

Resolution R2013-21 “A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEWIDE EFFORT IN SOUTH CAROLINA TO MANAGE, BRAND, SUSTAIN AND MARKET OUR STATEWIDE SCENIC AND CULTURAL ASSETS”

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 4 – 0 to approve **Resolution R2013-21** on first and final reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

ITB 13-05 / Replacement of Compactors & Containers / \$140,972.77

Ms. Robyn Courtright, Procurement Director, addressed Council regarding this item.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0 to approve the purchase of seven stationary compactor units and three forty yard closed containers, to Nu-Life Environmental, Inc., of Easley, SC; in the amount of 140,972.77, per ITB 13-05.

ITB 13-07 / Road Improvements 2013-2014 / \$343,028.79

Mr. Thrift noted that this item involves a family member, therefore, he would recuse himself from any discussion and/or voting on this matter. Mr. Thrift turned over discussion of this matter to Vice Chair Corbeil and left chambers for the duration of discussion regarding this matter.

Ms. Robyn Courtright, Procurement Director, addressed Council regarding this item.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 3 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Thrift abstained – form filed with these minutes] to approve (1) award of ITB 13-07, Road Improvements 2013-2014 to Thrift Development, Inc., of Seneca, SC, in the amount of \$311,844.35, plus 10% contingency in the amount of \$31,184.44, for a total award of \$343,028.79, and (2) authorize the County Administrator to approve any change orders within the contingency amount.

Mr. Thrift returned to Chambers at this time.

Old Business

None at this meeting.

New Business

None at this meeting.

Board/Commission Appointments

Arts & Historical Commission

Mr. Moulder noted that he had not had sufficient time to draft a recommendation regarding this Commission and asked that this appointment be deferred to January 2014. Council concurred.

Library Board

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 4 – 0 to appoint Ms. Marie McMahan to the at large seat on the Library Board with her term being co-terminus with Districts I & III.

Executive Session:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 4 – 0 to amend the purpose for the Executive Session to remove an Economic Development matter and add discussion of a legal matter regarding potential litigation.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 4 – 0 to enter Executive Session for the purpose stated above.

Council entered Executive Session at 7:31 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. on a motion by Mr. McCall, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 4 – 0.

Mr. Thrift stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Adjourn

Mr. McCall made a motion, approved unanimously 4 - 0, to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council