



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
January 7, 2014

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, County Administrator Scott Moulder, County Attorney Thomas Martin and Clerk to Council Elizabeth G. 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 & Norman Cannada/The Daily Journal.

Call to Order: Acting as Chair prior to the officer elections, Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session [related to specific agenda items]:

Mr. Richard Marcengill addressed Council regarding Resolution R2014-01 and stated his support for the effort of the county's economic development team after viewing reports regarding the stiff competition related to Boeing aircraft.

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

Mr. C. W. Richards addressed Council regarding recycling; referencing the SC BIZ, Winter 2013 insert "RecyclonomicsSC" [copy filed with these minutes].

Mr. Martin asked that the Clerk to play a news broadcast from WYFF 4 entitled "Trash from NYC, New Jersey sent to South Carolina" [copy of article associated with the broadcast and a DVD of the broadcast filed with these minutes].

County Council Response to Public Comment:

Mr. Barron stated that the WYFF 4 investigation was thorough and he hoped that they would continue to provide information to the public regarding this issue.

Mr. Corbeil stated that he had read an article in the Greenville News, dated January 6, 2014, entitled "Don't Dump on South Carolina" [copy filed with these minutes] noting that it was written by a representative of the non-partisan League of Women Voters.

Mr. Thrift noted in response to previous public comment that South Carolina and Georgia differ in solid waste law. In addition, he stated that contacts have been made with other SC counties regarding potential future solid waste partnerships if the need arises. Lastly, in regarding to comments regarding no District II representation on the Economic Development Commission, he stated that with recent Council actions that it is likely that there will not be appointments made by any district representative to the new commission.

Mr. Dexter noted that the current bill before the Senate [having been passed by the House] is an attack on Home Rule for all counties in South Carolina.

Mr. Martin stated that prior to this bill that the General Assembly had mandated that counties develop Solid Waste plans; noting that the bill before the Senate is in direct conflict with their own legislation.

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

Minutes: Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Dexter abstained – form filed with these minutes] to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2013 regular meeting as presented.

Election of Officers:

Prior to elections, Mr. Martin stated that the procedure to be utilized was to accept all nominations from the floor for officers and after nominations are received to vote on each nominee in the order received.

Council Chairman

Mr. Dexter nominated Mr. Joel Thrift for Council Chairman for 2014. This nomination was seconded by Mr. Barron. No other nominations were received from the floor. Mr. Martin called for the vote. Mr. Thrift was elected Chairman on a 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Thrift abstained – form filed with these minutes]. At this point, Mr. Thrift took over as chair of the meeting.

Mr. Thrift thanked Council for their continued confidence in his leadership noting that good work has been done in the past and with all of Council's commitment, time and efforts more will be accomplished in 2014.

Mr. Corbeil thanked Mr. Thrift for his contributions to Oconee County noting his leadership and integrity as key to the county's successes.

Council Vice Chairman

Council Chairman Pro Tem

Mr. Barron nominated Mr. Paul Corbeil for Council Vice Chairman and Mr. Wayne McCall as Council Chairman Pro Tem for 2014. These nominations were seconded by Mr. Dexter. No other nominations were received from the floor. Mr. Thrift called for the vote. Mr. Corbeil was elected Vice Chairman and Mr. McCall was elected Chairman Pro Tem on a 5 – 0 vote.

Re-Appointment of Appointed Officials

Clerk to Council

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to re-appoint Ms. Elizabeth G. Hulse as Clerk to Council for 2014.

County Attorney

Mr. Martin left Chambers prior to discussion regarding this appointment.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to re-appoint Mr. Tom Martin, McNair Attorneys, as the County Attorney for 2014.

Mr. Martin returned to Chambers for the remainder of the meeting.

Appointment of Council Committees for 2014 by Council Chairman

Mr. Thrift noted that the Committee assignments in 2013 worked well and that he wished to continue with the same assignments.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0, to approve the following committee assignments for 2014:

Budget, Finance & Administration:

Mr. Dexter, Chairman
All Council members on Committee

Transportation:

Mr. Thrift, Chairman
Mr. Corbeil
Mr. McCall

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management:

Mr. Barron, Chairman
Mr. Corbeil
Mr. McCall

Planning & Economic Development:

Mr. Corbeil, Chair
Mr. Barron
Mr. Dexter

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare:

Mr. McCall, Chairman
Mr. Barron
Mr. Thrift

Appointment of Council Representatives by Chairman:

South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments [SC ACOG]

Upstate Alliance Board of Directors

Infrastructure Advisory Commission

Mr. Thrift noted that the external board assignments in 2013 worked well and that he wished to continue with the same assignments.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0, to approve Mr. Dexter to the SC ACOG Board for 2014.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barron, approved 5 – 0 to approve Mr. Corbeil to the Upstate Alliance Board of Directors and the Infrastructure Advisory Commission for 2014.

Scheduling of Meeting for 2013:

County Council:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to adopt the 2014 meeting schedule as follows:

Oconee County Council will meet in 2014 on the first and the third Tuesday of each month [excluding July, August and November which will meet only on the third Tuesday of the month] at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, South Carolina unless otherwise advertised.

Oconee County Council will also hold a planning retreat on Thursday, February 20, 2014 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers. Additional Council meetings, workshops and/or committee meetings may be added throughout the year as needed.

County Council Committees:

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0, to adopt the 2014 Committee Meeting Schedule as follows:

Oconee County Council Committees will meet in 2014 on the following dates/times in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, South Carolina unless otherwise advertised.

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee at 5:30 p.m. & Transportation Committee at 6:30 p.m. on January 14th, April 8th, July 8th and October 14th, 2014. Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee at 5:30 p.m. and Budget, Finance & Administration Committee at 6:30 p.m. on February 11th, May 13th, August 12th, 2014. Planning & Economic Development Committee at 5:30 p.m. on March 11th, June 10th, September 9th and December 9th, 2014.

Mr. Thrift at this point in the meeting read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting successes in 2013.

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 Ordinances
 - 2013-32
 - 2013-34
- First & Final Reading for Resolutions
 - R2014-01: He noted that funding for rental space will be absorbed in the current Economic Development budget and that it is anticipated that he will request Council's authorization to sell the existing Economic Development building on Main Street, Walhalla.
- Council Committee Report
- Board/Commission Appointments noting that further discussions are needed and asked that this matter be deferred.
- Executive Session noting that discussion of the Economic Development matter was not needed.

Public Hearing and Third & Final Reading of the Following Ordinances

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. 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. No 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.

Mr. Thrift closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2013-32**.

Ordinance 2013-34 "34 "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 38 "ZONING" OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, INCLUDING ALL ZONING MAPS INCORPORATED THEREIN AND THEREBY, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO"

[Brown Adjacent]

Mr. Thrift opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mr. Moulder noted a minor typographical error; not significant to the ordinance that will require an amendment upon third reading.

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

Mr. Thrift closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2013-34**.

Third & Final Reading of the Following Ordinances

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 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2013-32** on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2013-34 “34 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 38 "ZONING" OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, INCLUDING ALL ZONING MAPS INCORPORATED THEREIN AND THEREBY, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

[Brown Adjacent]

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, to approve **Ordinance 2013-34** on third and final reading.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to amend Section 1, A, the first sentence to read “The following parcel,.....”.

Mr. Thrift called for the vote on **Ordinance 2013-34** as amended; passing 5 – 0.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

Resolution R2014-01 “A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR CERTAIN DEDICATED BUILDING SPACE IN OCONEE COUNTY”

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Resolution R2014-01** on first and final reading.

Council Committee Reports

Planning & Economic Development Committee / Mr. Corbeil

Mr. Corbeil read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting discussions from the December 17, 2013 meeting.

Board/Commission Appointments

Arts & Historical Commission

Deferred unanimously at the request of the Administrator.

Executive Session:

Mr. Barron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding a litigation matter.

Council entered Executive Session at 6:51 p.m. Council returned from Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Barron, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0.

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

Adjourn

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, approved unanimously 5 - 0, to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council