



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
June 17, 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. Paul Cain, 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.

Members of the press present: Anthony Tracy/Fox 21 News, Ray Chandler/Anderson Independent and Norman Canada/The Daily Journal

Call to Order:

Mr. Thrift called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Public Comment Session Agenda Action Items Only:

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council suggesting that prayer not be added to the agenda and requested removal of the moment of silence.

Mr. Steve Moore addressed Council in support of prayer and voiced concerns about Ordinance 2014-01.

Ms. Crystal Slack addressed Council in support of prayer.

Mr. Paul McGraw addressed Council in support of prayer.

Mr. Tim Coleman addressed Council in support of prayer.

Ms. Gabrielle Slack addressed Council in support of prayer.

Sheriff Mike Crenshaw addressed Council requesting reinstatement of the anti-drug program to his budget included in Ordinance 2014.01.

County Council Response to Public Comment:

Mr. Cain thanked those citizens in attendance that voiced their support for adding prayer at the beginning of each council meeting. Additionally, he noted that as a result of the June 10th meeting he asked Mr. Moulder to prepare a staff analysis for Oconee and Pickens counties. Lastly, he stated that interested citizens could obtain a copy from Administration.

Mr. McCall voiced concern that Ordinance 2014-01 places more emphasis on tourism than public safety.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Dexter to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0, to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2014 regular meeting as presented.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 – 1 [Mr. McCall abstained as he was not present at the meeting], to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2014 special meeting as presented.

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: 2014-13, 2014-14 & 2014-15
- Third & Final Readings: 2014-01, 2014-02, 2014-03, 2014-13 & 2014-15
- Second Reading for Ordinances: 2014-18
- Discussion Items
- New Business
- Board/Commission Appointments
- Executive Session

Mr. Moulder additionally asked Council to consider a request from the County Engineer to amend the approved road paving list to remove three roads and add three roads deemed in greater need. Mr. Thrift stated Council would address this matter under New Business.

Public Hearings regarding the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2014-13 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND **GREENFIELD INDUSTRIES, INC., TDC CLEMSON LAND COMPANY, LLC, GREENTECH METAL RECYCLING, LLC AND TDC SAWS, LLC**; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, AUTHORIZATION OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT”

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 citizen addressed Council.

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 2014-13.

Ordinance 2014-14 “AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A ONE PERCENT CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX, SUBJECT TO A REFERENDUM, WITHIN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, PURSUANT TO THE CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX ACT, AS CODIFIED IN §4-10-300, *ET SEQ.*, OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS, 1976, *AS AMENDED* (THE “ACT”); TO SPECIFY THE PURPOSES, PROJECTS AND FACILITIES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX MAY BE USED; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM TIME FOR WHICH SUCH TAX MAY BE IMPOSED; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO BE ISSUED TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF ANY COSTS OF THE PROJECTS AND FACILITIES AND TO PLEDGE SUCH TAX TO THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM COST OF THE PROJECTS OR FACILITIES TO BE FUNDED FROM THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX OR BONDS; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF NET PROCEEDS OF THE TAX EXPECTED TO BE USED TO PAY

THE COST OF THE PROJECTS OR DEBT SERVICE ON THE BONDS; TO ORDER A REFERENDUM PRESCRIBED BY THE ACT TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE OCONEE COUNTY REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH TAX; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING 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. No citizen addressed Council.

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 2014-14.

Ordinance 2014-15 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND OCONEE COUNTY ORDINANCE 2013-01, THE ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1ST, 2013 AND ENDING JUNE 30TH, 2014, SO AS TO AMEND THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY’S GENERAL FUND AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, BOTH IN OCONEE COUNTY, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2013 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2014”

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 citizen addressed Council.

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 2014-15.

Third & Final Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2014-01 “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 ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE VICTIM SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, FOR THE BRIDGE AND CULVERT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, ALL IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2015.”

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter to approve **Ordinance 2014-01** on third and final reading. Discussion followed

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0 to amend **Ordinance 2014-01** to add \$79,948 to the sheriff’s budget for the anti-drug program including a school resource officer.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to amend **Ordinance 2014-01** to add a merit based pay raise for county employees who are subject to and adhere to the county policies & procedures with the following provisos; [1] the program excludes elected officials, [2] raises can only be implemented without increasing millage, and [3] with maximum salary increases based salary guidelines as presented below in a not to exceed amount of \$247,860.04.

-	to	44,941.00		2.5%	Salary	202,623.82
44,942.00	to	74,999.00		2.0%	Fringe	45,236.22
75,000.00	to	100,000.00		1.0%	Total	247,860.04

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0 to amend **Ordinance 2014-01** to correct Section 7: Economic Development Capital Project Fund to 2.2 mills.

There was no further discussion regarding **Ordinance 2014-01**.

Mr. Thrift called for the vote. The motion to approve **Ordinance 2014-01** as amended on third & final reading passed 5 - 0.

Ordinance 2014-02 “AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY (the “School District”) AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2015.”

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2014-02** on third & final reading.

Ordinance 2014-03 “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT AND TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2015.”

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2014-03** on third & final reading.

Ordinance 2014-13 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND GREENFIELD INDUSTRIES, INC., TDC CLEMSON LAND COMPANY, LLC, GREENTECH METAL RECYCLING, LLC AND TDC SAWS, LLC; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, AUTHORIZATION OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT”

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2014-13** on third & final reading.

Ordinance 2014-15 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND OCONEE COUNTY ORDINANCE 2013-01, THE ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1ST, 2013 AND ENDING JUNE 30TH, 2014, SO AS TO AMEND THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY’S GENERAL FUND AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, BOTH IN OCONEE COUNTY, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2013 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2014”

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2014-15** on third & final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2014–18 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT AND LEASEHOLD EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AS LESSEE, AND OCONEE MEDICAL CENTER, AS LESSOR; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO"

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinances 2014-18** on second reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items:

Sheriff Office / Public Safety Software Award / \$976,495.00

Sheriff Mike Crenshaw, Captain Travis Tilson, Finance Director Mark Pullium and Mr. Moulder addressed Council regarding this procurement agenda item to be funded in FY2013-2014. Mr. Moulder and Sheriff Crenshaw outlined anticipated cost savings over the next 5 years, software integration capabilities, due diligence in selecting sole source vendor, funding from the 911 surcharge funding, partial expected state reimbursement and general fund balance usage for this item.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve the award of a sole source contract for a public safety software solution to Zuercher Technologies, of Sioux Falls, SD, for the amount of \$976,495.

2014 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Grant

Sheriff Crenshaw briefly outlined how the grant funds would be utilized by the sheriff's office. He noted that no action is required by Council. Lastly, he stated that citizen comments should be directed to Captain Ken Washington at 864-638-4117 or in writing to the Oconee County Sheriff's Department.

Old Business:

None at this meeting.

New Business:

Discussion regarding Initiating a County Council Meeting Invocation / Mr. Cain

Mr. Cain initiated discussion regarding adding an invocation at the beginning of each Council meeting. He reviewed three handouts [copies filed with these minutes] that highlight the recent Supreme Court decision, South Carolina law and legal options for invocations.

Lengthy discussion followed regarding public vs. private prayer, motivation for public prayer, methodology for implementation, etc.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall to [1] maintain a moment of silence on the agenda, and [2] to add an invocation to the beginning of each Council meeting.

Discussion followed regarding methodology for implementation of an invocation with various opinions offered.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0 to elect a chaplain by the Council as prescribed in SC Code of Laws 6-1-160 (B) (2).

Discussion followed. Mr. Thrift noted that at previous McNair sponsored events and gatherings that they turned to our county attorney, Mr. Tom Martin, to provide the invocation. Mr. Thrift asked Mr. Martin if he would be willing to serve as Chaplain for Oconee County Council. Mr. Martin stated that he would be honored to serve if so elected.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to elect Mr. Tom Martin as Chaplain for the Oconee County Council.

Amendment to Road Paving List

Mr. Moulder reviewed with Council the County Engineer's recommendation after further review to [1] remove Crest Point Drive, North Waterside Drive and Maughan Trail, and [2] add Harbor Drive, Gracie Street and Manley Street to the approved road paving list approved at the April 15, 2014

Council meeting. Council voiced concerns regarding the lack of advance notice regarding this matter. Mr. Moulder noted that this matter was time sensitive and that an approval would not impact the approved amount for the road paving contract. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 3 – 2 [Mr. Corbeil and Mr. Cain opposed] to approve [1] remove Crest Point Drive, North Waterside Drive and Maughan Trail, and [2] add Harbor Drive, Gracie Street and Manley Street to the approved road paving list.

Board/Commission Appointments

Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Behavioral Health Services Commission

Mr. Thrift noted that two questionnaires had been received after publication of the agenda for this meeting. Mr. Corbeil stated that Ms. Priscilla Taylor had been appointed by Council to this Commission previously; however, the Commission identified that the position was not actually vacant. He stated that Ms. Taylor has extensive credentials and still desires to serve on this Commission. Discussion followed.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 1 [Mr. McCall opposed] to appoint Ms. Priscilla Taylor to the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Behavioral Health Services Commission as an at large member.

Executive Session:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to enter Executive Session for the purpose of receiving updates regarding several potential & pending litigation matters.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:18 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 9:14 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Dexter, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0.

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

Public Comment Session Non Agenda Action Items:

Mr. C. W. Richards specifically addressed Councilman Corbeil noting past animosity and voicing a wish to find common ground in the future.

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council regarding concerns with Ordinance 2014-08 passed at the April 15, 2014 regular council meeting.

Council Member Comments:

Mr. Corbeil stated that after the election results on June 10, 2014, that he had congratulated Ms. Edda Cammick on her District I council seat win and he accepted the voters decisions; however, he was elected to serve the citizens of District I and would continue to review issue and make decisions to move Oconee County forward until the end of his term in December 2014.

Adjourn

Mr. Dexter made a motion, approved unanimously 5 - 0, to adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council