



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

September 4, 2018

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Paul Cain, District III

Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

Ms. Edda Cammick, Chairwoman, District I

Mr. Julian Davis III, Vice Chair, District IV

Mr. Glenn Hart, Chair Pro Tem, District V

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, Interim County Administrator Rick Martin, County Attorney David Root, and Katie D. Smith, Clerk to Council 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.oconeesc.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: Caitlin Herrington / Daily Journal.

Call to Order:

Ms. Cammick called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Public Comment Session

Mr. Jerry Barnett addressed Council regarding the constitution, zoning, private property rights, and the right to farm act.

Mr. John Dalen addressed Council utilizing a handout [copies filed with these minutes] regarding quality of life and property rights via agenda 21.

County Council Response to Public Comment

None at this meeting.

Moment of Silence

Ms. Cammick asked for a moment of silence prior the Invocation by the County Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain:

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the August 21, 2018 Regular meeting minutes as presented.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Millage Proposal for Tax Year 2018 / Ms. Christy Hubbard, Oconee County Auditor

Ms. Christy Hubbard, Oconee County Auditor, addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation entitled “2019 Fiscal Year 2018 Tax Year Millage Presentation” [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting the following:

- Who does What?
- County Council approved Budget amounts to fund
- Determine Tax Year 2018 Assessed Value
- Duke Energy Utility Assessment
- What is a MFG abatement?
- What does the Duke assessment mean for Oconee County?
- What does the Duke assessment mean for School District of Oconee County [SDOC]?
- 2018 Tax Year Assessments
- Dollar amounts to set millage
- Dollar amounts for debt service payments
- Millage for Bonds
- Millage Recommended to fund Approved Budgets
- Taxes with Millage Increase [vehicle & homes]
- 2018 TY City Millage
- Town / Special District Assessments
- Keowee Fire District Millage

Discussion continued to include:

- Duke Assessment for Oconee County
- Manufacturing exemption is State law
- Value of a mill for Oconee County = \$545,656
- Increased from last year

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve the recommended millage for Oconee County millage of 72.6, SDOC millage of 115.3, & Keowee Fire District Millage of 14.5.

Discussion continued to include:

- Millage value went up
- Raising taxes by less than 3.2 mills than originally discussed
- Concerned about employee raises that will come into effect in the next fiscal year
- Keep at 3.2 as originally proposed?

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition. This agenda may not be inclusive of all issues which Council may bring up for discussion at this meeting. Items are listed on Council's agenda to give public notice of the subjects and issues to be discussed, acted upon, received as information and/or disposed of during the meeting. Items listed on Council's agenda may be taken up, tabled, postponed, reconsidered, removed or otherwise disposed of as provided for under Council's Rules, and Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition, if not specified under Council's rules.

Mr. Root noted during the budget process, it was never a matter of millage but of the dollar amount. It was anticipated that it would be a 3.2 mill increase. However, when the budget was approved, it was a 1.7 mill increase, which is much less than anticipated. This step is just to monetize what was approved in the budget. Discussion continued.

Regarding the previous motion made by Mr. McCall, seconded by Mr. Hart, it was approved 5 – 0, to approve the Oconee County millage of 72.6, SDOC millage of 115.3, & Keowee Fire District Millage of 14.5.

Executive Session:

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to enter into Executive Session for the following purposes, as allowed for in § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

[1] Receive legal advice and discuss employment matter related to hiring of County Administrator, including initial candidate interviews.

Council entered Executive Session at 6:36 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0.

Ms. Cammick stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Cain made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council