



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
January 5, 2021

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, District I
Mr. Paul Cain, District III
Mr. Julian Davis III, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V
Mr. Matthew Durham, District II

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [with Mr. Davis via FaceTime], County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & Clerk to Council Katie D. Smith, 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: Riley Morningstar / Daily Journal.

Call to Order

Mr. Root called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Root presided over the meeting pending the election of a new chairperson.

Public Comment Session

None at this meeting.

County Council Member Comments

Mr. Durham opened with the oath of office being taken before the Council meeting and spoke about the first, second, and tenth amendments.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Root 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:

Ms. Amanda Brock led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 4 – 1 [Mr. Durham recused; recusal form filed with minutes] to approve the December 15, 2020 Regular meeting minutes as presented.

Election of Officers

Council Chairperson

Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Elliott as Council Chairperson.

Mr. Root gave each member of Council a ballot to write their vote on and collected them. Mr. Root read each ballot on the record [copy of ballots filed in backup materials] and tallied the votes. The following were the votes: Mr. Cain, Mr. Davis, Mr. Hart, & Mr. Durham voted in favor of Mr. Elliot; Mr. Elliott had no nomination. Mr. Root called for the vote of Council Chairperson. The vote was 5 – 0, in favor of Mr. Elliott.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Elliott to preside as chair.

Council Vice Chairperson

Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, as Council Vice Chairperson.

Council Chairperson Pro Tem

Mr. Cain nominated Mr. Davis as Chairperson Pro Tem. Mr. Hart nominated Mr. Durham as Chairperson Pro Tem.

Mr. Root gave each member of Council a ballot to write their vote on and collected them. Mr. Elliott read each ballot on the record [copy of ballots filed in backup materials] and tallied the votes. The following were the votes: Mr. Elliott, Mr. Cain, & Mr. Davis voted in favor of Mr. Davis; Mr. Hart & Mr. Durham voted in favor of Mr. Durham. The majority of the votes were in favor for Mr. Davis.

Appointment/Re-Appointment of the following Appointed Officials

Clerk to Council

Mr. Davis nominated Katie D. Smith, approved 5 – 0, to re-appoint as the Clerk to County Council.

County Chaplain

Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Root, approved 5 – 0, to re-appoint as the County Chaplain.

Ratification of County Administrator's Employment Agreement

Mr. Root noted there was a ratification clause in Ms. Brock's contract and was confirming what was done previously.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to direct the Council Chairman to execute the ratification clause.

Appointment of Council Committees for 2021 by Chairman

- Budget, Finance & Administration
Mr. Elliott as Chairperson; committee consists of all Council members.
- Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare
Mr. Durham as Chairperson; Mr. Davis and Mr. Elliott as committee members.
- Planning & Economic Development
Mr. Cain as Chairperson; Mr. Davis and Mr. Elliott as committee members.
- Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management
Mr. Davis as Chairperson; Mr. Cain and Mr. Hart as committee members.

- Transportation
Mr. Hart as Chairperson; Mr. Davis and Mr. Cain as committee members.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the appointment of Council Committees as submitted [copy filed with backup materials].

Appointment of 2021 Council Representatives by Chairman

Mr. Davis made a nomination for the following Council Representatives.

- SC Appalachian Council of Government Board of Directors
- Oconee Business Education
- Ten At The Top [TATT] Board of Directors

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to appoint the following as representatives: Mr. Elliott as the SC Appalachian Council of Government Board of Directors, Mr. Davis as the citizen representative and Ms. Marta Wahlen as the minority representative; Mr. Davis as the Oconee Business Education; and Mr. Eldridge as the Ten at the Top [TATT] Board of Directors.

2021 Meeting Schedule Establishment for Council / Committees **County Council meeting schedule & Committee meeting schedule**

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the Council meeting schedule & the Committee meeting schedule as submitted [copy filed with backup materials.]

Administrator Comments

Ms. Brock addressed Council and the public with the following:

- Congratulations to Mr. Elliott as the new Council Chair
- Expressed condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Jerry Barnett
- All Committee meetings will be prior to Council meetings beginning at 4:30 p.m.
- Welcomed Mr. Durham to Council

Attorney Comments

None at this meeting.

Public Hearing for the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

Third & Final Reading for the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

None at this meeting.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

None at this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

Arts & Historical Commission

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to reappoint Ms. Suzette Cross as the At-Large representative on the Arts & Historical Commission.

Mr. Hart made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to reappoint Mr. David Michael Phillips as the District V representative on the Arts & Historical Commission.

Executive Session:

None at this meeting.

Adjourn

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council



OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
RECUSAL FORM

Council Member Name: Matthew Durham
(Please Print)

Council Member Signature: *Matthew Durham*

Meeting Date: 01. 05. 2021

Item for Discussion/Vote: December 15, 2020 Minutes

Reason for Recusal I was not present for original meeting/discussion

I have a personal/familial interest in the issue.

Other: _____

Katie B. Smith
Katie Smith
Clerk to Council

[This form to be filed as part of the permanent record of the meeting.]