



# MINUTES

## OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting

### March 16, 2021

#### MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, Chairman, District I  
Mr. Paul Cain, Vice Chairman, District III  
Mr. Julian Davis III, Chairman Pro Tem, 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, County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & 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](http://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 / The Journal

#### **Call to Order**

Mr. Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Public Comment Session**

*If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting our Clerk to Council, Katie Smith at [ksmith@oconeesc.com](mailto:ksmith@oconeesc.com) or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record.*

None at this meeting.

#### **County Council Response to Public Comment**

Mr. Elliott noted he was not in favor of the \$1.9 trillion COVID relief bill, however, it passed and the County will receive a large sum of money. He noted the money is for COVID related expenses and infrastructure, which includes water, sewer, and broadband. He further noted the discussion has been for years to build sewer south to exits 3 and 4 and it is time to get an estimate and earmark some of the funds for this purpose. He referenced a handout entitled "Town of Salem – Water Infrastructure Improvements" [copy filed with backup materials] that is an engineered estimate for the Town of Salem water loop closing and earmark funds for this project. Finally, he noted the funds have to be spent by December 31, 2024 or the funds must be

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.

**A video recording of this meeting is available at [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com). Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.**

returned to the Federal Government.

Mr. Hart noted he wanted to correct the record regarding the conversation regarding himself and Mayor Bryan Ramey, City of Westminster.

Mr. Durham noted Mr. Luther Lyle, Director and Curator of the Museum of the Cherokee in SC, contacted him regarding protecting the monuments in the County and referenced handouts entitled “Oconee County, South Carolina – Ordinance relating to Public Safety” & “Historical Markers and War Memorials in Oconee County, South Carolina” [copies of both filed with backup materials].

Mr. Durham also noted he contacted Mayor Ramey regarding the Westminster Magistrate Office and asked for backup information, history on the building, etc.

### **Moment of Silence**

Mr. Elliott asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by County Council Chaplain.

### **Invocation by County Council Chaplain**

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

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Davis the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the March 2, 2021 Regular Minutes as presented.

### **Administrator’s Comments**

Ms. Brock addressed Council with the following items:

- Contacted Mayor Ramey and encouraged him to contact Council members; not sure if Mayor Ramey contacted Council or vice versa; wanted to ensure that information was received directly from the source
- Budget Workshop beginning at 9am, Friday, March 19, 2021 in Council Chambers
- County Council Special meeting immediately following the Budget Workshop beginning at 10:30 a.m., Friday, March 19, 2021 to discuss the Westminster Magistrate Office
- 2021 Strategic Plan Report [copy filed with backup materials] resulting from the annual Strategic Plan Retreat meeting, which was held on Friday, February 19, 2021

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve the 2021 Strategic Plan Report as presented.

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.

**A video recording of this meeting is available at [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com). Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.**

## Attorney's Comments

Mr. Root addressed Council with the following items:

- Appropriation was made regarding the \$1.9 trillion American Recovery Plan Act from the Federal Government specifically to mitigate the fiscal impacts of the coronavirus
- Expenditures are allowed to be more broad at this point in the cares act funds
- At this time, do not know the exact parameters on how the funds can be spent and waiting on the Department of Treasury to promulgate guidelines and regulations

## Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

*If you are not able to attend in person and you would like to be heard during the public hearings, please contact Katie Smith at [ksmith@oconeesc.com](mailto:ksmith@oconeesc.com) or 864-718-1023 so that she may coordinate your participation by telephone.*

**Ordinance 2021-07** “AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE “NOT TO EXCEED” TAX RATE FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE TAX DISTRICT FROM 14.5 MILLS TO 17.5 MILLS, CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE VI OF OCONEE COUNTY ORDINANCE 2003-12, WHICH ESTABLISHED THE KEOWEE FIRE TAX DISTRICT AND KEOWEE FIRE COMMISSION.”

*General Government matter*

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

Fire Chief Brandon Shirley, Keowee Fire Department, addressed Council in support of **Ordinance 2021-07**.

Noting that no other citizens signed up to address Council, Mr. Elliott opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council.

Mr. Elliott asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2021-07**.

## Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 1 [Mr. Durham opposed] to approve **Ordinance 2021-07** on third & final reading.

## Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

## First Reading of the Following Ordinances

**Ordinance 2021-08** “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND A COMPANY KNOWN FOR THE TIME BEING AS “PROJECT RISE” (THE “COMPANY”), WHEREBY OCONEE COUNTY WILL ENTER INTO A SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENT WITH THE COMPANY; AND ALLOWING FOR THE

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.

**A video recording of this meeting is available at [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com). Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.**

PROVISION OF CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS TO THE COMPANY; PROVIDING FOR THE LOCATION OF THE COMPANY'S PROPERTY IN A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO."

*An Economic Development matter  
First reading in title only due to project development timeline*

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2021-08** on first reading.

### **First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions**

**Resolution 2021-05** "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OCONEE COUNTY TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SENECA, WHEREBY THE COUNTY WILL ACCEPT THE TRANSFER OF APPROXIMATELY 88.492 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY, ALONG WITH CERTAIN EASEMENT RIGHTS IMPACTING ADJACENT LAND, ALL FOR PURPOSES RELATED TO SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO."

*General Government matter*

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2021-05** on first & final reading.

### **Discussion Regarding Action Items**

**Reroof Seneca Library / Facilities Maintenance / Project: \$69,850.00**  
**Contingency: \$6,985.00**  
**Total Award: \$ 76,835.00**

**Budget: \$76,835.00 / Project Cost: \$76,835.00 / Balance: \$0.00**

This bid was issued January 29, 2021 to select a Contractor to reroof the Seneca Library. This bid was advertised and emailed to four bidders. On February 25, 2021, formal sealed bids were opened. Twelve (12) companies submitted bids with IES Coatings Inc., DBA: IES Roofing of Greenville, SC, submitting the lowest responsive and responsible bid of \$69,850.00.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council [1] approve the award of bid ITB 20-03, Reroof Seneca Library to IES Coatings Inc., DBA: IES Roofing of Greenville, SC in the amount of \$69,850.00, plus a 10% contingency of \$6,985.00, for a total award of \$76,835.00 and [2] authorize the County Administrator to execute documents for this project and sign any change orders within the contingency amount.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to [1] approve the award of bid ITB 20-03, Reroof Seneca Library to IES Coatings Inc., DBA: IES Roofing of Greenville, SC in the amount of \$69,850.00, plus a 10% contingency of \$6,985.00, for a total award of \$76,835.00 and [2] authorize the County Administrator to execute documents for this project and sign any change orders within the

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.

**A video recording of this meeting is available at [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com). Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017.  
Brought to you by Your Oconee.**

contingency amount.

## **Council Approval to Add Medical Examiner/Forensic Pathologist Position in Coroner's Office**

Due to extenuating circumstances, it was not in the County's best interest to renew the intergovernmental agreement between Anderson County, Abbeville County, Greenwood County, and Oconee County regarding joint medical examiner services for the respective coroner's offices. To balance out the loss of services due to the County's termination of this agreement, it has been recommended that the County add a medical examiner/forensic pathologist position in the coroner's office. The selected candidate will be responsible for professional forensic pathologist services including performing autopsies and exams, generating examination reports, and consulting with law enforcement and coroner's office staff. Coroner, Karl Addis has recommended adding this position in the coroner's office at \$65,000 annually.

This is an essentially budget neutral action. Reimbursement costs under the intergovernmental agreement were previously paid out of the professional services line item.

It is staff's recommendation that Council approve adding this position in the coroner's office at \$65,000 annually.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve adding a Medical Examiner/Forensic Pathologist position in the coroner's office at \$65,000 annually.

## **PRT Commission-Local ATAX Recommendations / Spring 2021 Cycle / \$163,034**

A portion of Local ATAX revenues received by Oconee County are made available for ATAX grants through Ordinance 2011-12. ATAX grants are to be tourism related grants that meet the ATAX guidelines specified by local and State mandates. Grants are recommended by the PRT Commission based on tourism impact of the project and approved by County Council. All external ATAX grant recipients are required to turn in intermediate reports every 60 days to the progress of the grant and a final report upon completion of the grant.

It is staff's recommendation to approve the local ATAX Spring 2021 Cycle in the amount of \$163,034.00.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve the local ATAX Spring 2021 Cycle in the amount of \$163,034.00.

## **Board & Commission Appointments**

### **Building Codes Appeal Board**

No nomination was made for the At-Large seat during this meeting.

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.

**A video recording of this meeting is available at [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com). Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.**

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, 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] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Ocean.*

Council entered Executive Session at 6:29 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 6:41 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0.

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

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

---

Katie D. Smith  
Clerk to Council

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.

**A video recording of this meeting is available at [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com). Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.**