



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

June 15, 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]. 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 & Dick Mangrum / 101.7 FM WGOG

Call to Order

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

Mr. Elliott opened the meeting reminding the public they have two opportunities to speak during Council meetings, which is during the public comment session and also during the public hearing session, if scheduled. Other than those two instances, the public should remain silent during the Council meeting. Anyone making a disturbance during the meeting will be asked to leave Council Chambers for the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Root noted the Oconee Code of Ordinances [copy filed with backup materials] is on the PowerPoint screen so that the public would know there is a legal backing that we must uphold so everyone has a fair and equal opportunity to participate. Mr. Root also noted if the public has documents to give to Council, they would need to email to the Clerk to Council, or give to the County Attorney before the meeting begins.

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 or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record.

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Mr. Perry Smith addressed Council regarding dysfunction in the County government, noting there is division throughout the County, with one major issue being Emergency Services.

Mr. Mickey Haney addressed Council regarding backup materials being displayed on the screens during public hearings for the public.

Mr. Luke Moore addressed Council requesting the placement of the moment of silence, invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance to be after the Call to Order on future agendas.

Mr. Peter Bevilacqua addressed Council apologizing to Mr. Hart for approaching him earlier.

County Council Response to Public Comment

Mr. Durham responded to all citizen's comments that spoke during the Public Comment session.

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. Hart 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. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve the June 1, 2021 Regular Minutes as presented.

Administrator's Comments

None at this meeting.

Attorney's Comments

None at this meeting.

Proclamation 2021-08

Proclamation 2021-08 Honoring Lake A. Julian, II, Oconee County Director of Facilities Maintenance upon his Retirement

Mr. Elliott read **Proclamation 2021-08** into the record.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Durham, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2021-08** on first & final reading.

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Mr. Julian and his family came forward and accepted **Proclamation 2021-08**.

Proclamation 2021-09

Proclamation 2021-09 Honoring Joy Scharich, Oconee County Voter Registration & Elections Executive Director upon her Retirement

Mr. Cain read **Proclamation 2021-09** into the record.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2021-09** on first & final reading.

Ms. Scharich and her family came forward and accepted **Proclamation 2021-09**.

Proclamation 2021-10

Proclamation 2021-10 Honoring Karen W. Lee, Oconee County Associate Probate Judge upon her Retirement

Mr. Davis read **Proclamation 2021-10** into the record.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2021-10** on first & final reading.

Ms. Lee and her family came forward and accepted **Proclamation 2021-10**.

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 or 864-718-1023 so that she may coordinate your participation by telephone.

Ordinance 2021-13 “AN ORDINANCE (1) APPROVING THE ASSIGNMENT OF ONETONE TELECOM, INC.’S INTEREST IN THAT CERTAIN NETWORK MASTER AGREEMENT, DATED JANUARY 18, 2017, TO UPCOUNTRY FIBER, LLC, A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.; (2) APPROVING AN AMENDED AND RESTATED NETWORK MASTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN UPCOUNTRY FIBER, LLC AND OCONEE COUNTY; (3) AUTHORIZING THE OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE AMENDED AND RESTATED NETWORK MASTER AGREEMENT; AND (4) OTHER RELATED MATTERS.”

General Government matter

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no 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

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presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2021-13**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2021-13 [see caption above]

Third Reading of Ordinance 2021-13 is scheduled after Executive Session

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2021-14 “AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF A PORTION OF LOCAL CORONAVIRUS FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDING THAT HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO OCONEE COUNTY UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (“ARPA”), AS FOLLOWS: (1) APPROPRIATING TWO MILLION AND 00/100 (\$2,000,000.00) DOLLARS OF COUNTY ARPA FUNDING FOR PURPOSES OF NECESSARY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE TOWN OF SALEM (“SALEM WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT”); (2) AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS, OF UP TO TWO MILLION AND 00/100 (\$2,000,000.00) DOLLARS OF SUCH APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR THE SALEM WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT; AND (3) OTHER MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED THERETO.”

As directed by Council on June 1, 2021

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2021-14** on first reading.

Ordinance 2021-15 “AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF A PORTION OF LOCAL CORONAVIRUS FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDING THAT HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO OCONEE COUNTY UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (“ARPA”), AS FOLLOWS: (1) APPROPRIATING ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$1,300,000.00) DOLLARS OF COUNTY ARPA FUNDING FOR PURPOSES OF NECESSARY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER (“WESTMINSTER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT”); (2) AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS, OF UP TO ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$1,300,000.00) DOLLARS OF SUCH APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR THE WESTMINSTER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT; AND (3) OTHER MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED THERETO.”

General Government matter

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2021-15** on first

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reading.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

Resolution 2021-07 “A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND DESIGNATING APRIL 2021 AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH.”

General Government matter

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2021-07** on first & final reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Used 2014 Bell B30E Articulated Water Truck / Rock Quarry / \$215,000.00

Budget: \$782,000.00 / **Project Cost:** \$215,000.00 / **Balance:** \$567,000.00

Procurement pending approval of the FY 21-22 budget

This purchase is for a Used 2014 Bell B30E Articulated Water Truck. Its main use will be for dust suppression throughout the quarry. This will enable the Rock Quarry staff to meet DHEC requirements concerning particulate emissions as listed in Regulation 61-62.6, detailed in the operating permit GSOP 1820-0021. The machine is also equipped with a 50ft hose to assist in cleaning the crushing plant.

After researching the types of water trucks on the market, it has been determined that the used 2014 Bell B30E is the most cost effective machine that will meet the needs of the Oconee Quarry. Rock Quarry staff has inspected and tested this equipment and found it to be in good working condition.

It is the staff’s recommendation that Council approve the purchase of the Used 2014 Bell B30E Articulated Water Truck from National Equipment Dealers (dba: May/RHI) of Columbia, SC in the amount of \$215,000.00.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the purchase of the Used 2014 Bell B30E Articulated Water Truck from National Equipment Dealers (dba: May/RHI) of Columbia, SC in the amount of \$215,000.00.

Council Committee Reports

Mr. Cain read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] outlining the discussions held at the June 1, 2021 Planning & Economic Committee meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

Building Codes Appeal Board

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

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:

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- [1] Discuss employment / personnel matter - County Attorney.
- [2] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Ruby Slipper.
- [3] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Drift.
- [4] Receive legal advice and discuss contractual matter regarding County broadband network.

Council entered Executive Session at 6:38 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:35 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.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinance

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General Government matter

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2021-13** on third & final reading.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council

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