



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

January 03, 2023

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, Chairman, District I
Mr. Julian Davis III, Chairman Pro Tem, District IV
Mr. Don Mize, District III
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V
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, & Jennifer C. Adams, 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 and Caleb Gilbert / The Journal, Dick Mangrum / WGOG

Call to Order

Mr. Root called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted to Council that the posted agenda appeared to be out of order with the current agenda format and asked for an order to amend the agenda.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to approved amending the agenda by moving Public Comment and Council Member Comments to follow Attorney Comments.

Mr. Root then went on to ask for a motion to remove **Ordinance 2022-31** from third reading, noting that the public hearing would still occur but the ordinance is not ready for third reading at this time.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to remove Ordinance 2022-31 from third reading.

Mr. Root then asked for a motion to remove item number two, “Discuss and receive legal advice regarding a contractual matter related to the City of Seneca”, from Executive Session.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to remove item number two from Executive Session.

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Moment of Silence

Mr. Root 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

Ms. Amanda Brock 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 4 - 0, to approve the December 16, 2022 special meeting minutes as presented.

Election of Officers

Council Chairperson

Mr. Elliott was nominated by Mr. Davis and received two votes [Mr. Davis and Mr. Elliott].
Neither Mr. Hart nor Mr. Mize voted for the candidate.
No majority being had, the nomination failed.

Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Hart to serve as Council Chair.
This nomination received no votes, therefore the nomination failed.

Mr. Root noted that since no majority vote passed, Mr. Elliott would continue to serve as Council Chair until his successor is appointed and qualified.

Council Vice Chairperson

Mr. Elliott nominated Mr. Davis to serve as Council Vice Chair.
Mr. Hart nominated Mr. Mize to serve as Council Vice Chair.

Mr. Davis received two votes [Mr. Elliott and Mr. Davis].
Neither Mr. Hart nor Mr. Mize voted for the candidate.
No majority being had, the nomination failed.

Mr. Mize received no votes, therefore the nomination failed.

Mr. Root noted that since former Council member, Mr. Paul Cain, served as Vice Chair last year and is not able to serve this year, the Vice Chair position would remain empty.

Mr. Davis withdrew from the nomination by Mr. Elliott to serve as Vice Chair.

Mr. Hart was nominated by Mr. Elliott and received two votes [Mr. Elliott and Mr. Davis].
Neither Mr. Hart nor Mr. Mize voted for the candidate.
No majority being had, the nomination failed.

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Mr. Mize was nominated by Mr. Davis and received two votes [Mr. Davis and Mr. Elliott]. Neither Mr. Hart nor Mr. Mize voted for the candidate. No majority being had, the nomination failed.

Mr. Root noted that with no majority vote for any of the above nominations, the Vice Chair position will remain empty at this time.

Council Chairperson Pro Tem

Mr. Davis was nominated by Mr. Elliott and received two votes [Mr. Elliott and Mr. Davis]. Neither Mr. Hart nor Mr. Mize voted for the candidate. No majority being had, the nomination failed.

Mr. Hart was nominated by Mr. Davis and received two votes [Mr. Elliott and Mr. Davis]. Neither Mr. Hart nor Mr. Mize voted for the candidate. No majority being had, the nomination failed.

Mr. Mize was nominated by Mr. Davis and received two votes [Mr. Elliott and Mr. Davis]. Neither Mr. Hart nor Mr. Mize voted for the candidate. No majority being had, the nomination failed.

Mr. Root noted that since no majority vote passed, Mr. Davis would continue to serve as Council Chair Pro Tem until Council has a member that is elected into the position by a majority vote.

Re-Appointment of the following Appointed Officials

Clerk to Council

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to re-appoint Jennifer C. Adams as Clerk to Council.

County Chaplain

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, re re-appoint David Root as County Chaplain.

Appointment of Council Committees for 2023 by Chairman

Mr. Elliott made a nomination for the following County Council Committee appointments:

- **Budget, Finance, and Administration**
Mr. Elliott as Chair, with all of Council as committee members.
- **Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health and Welfare**
Mr. Davis as Chair, with Mr. Mize and Mr. Elliott as committee members.
- **Planning and Economic Development**
Mr. Davis as Chair, with Mr. Mize and Mr. Elliott as committee members.
- **Real Estate, Facilities, and Land Management**
Mr. Mize as Chair, with Mr. Davis and Mr. Hart as committee members.

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- **Transportation**

Mr. Hart as Chair, with Mr. Davis and Mr. Elliott as committee members.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 4 – 0, to appoint Committee Chairs and members as nominated.

Appointment of 2023 Council Representatives by Chairman

Mr. Elliott made a nomination for the following Council Representatives:

- **SC Appalachian Council of Government Board of Directors**
Mr. Elliott
- **Oconee Business Partnership**
Mr. Davis
- **Ten At The Top [TATT] Board of Directors**
Mr. Jamie Gilbert

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to appoint Council Representatives as nominated.

2023 Meeting Schedule Establishment for Council / Committees

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to approve the 2023 County Council and Council Committee schedules as submitted. [Copy filed with these minutes.]

Attorney's Comments

None at this meeting.

Administrator's Comments

None at this meeting.

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, Jennifer C. Adams at jennifercadams@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record.

Mr. Tom Markovich addressed Council with opinion that the Sewer South Project should be put on hold until prices on labor and materials come down.

Council Members Comments

Mr. Elliott welcomed Mr. Mize to Council.

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances *If you would like to be heard during either of the public*

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hearings, please contact Clerk to Council Jennifer C. Adams at jennifercadams@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023 so that your participation may be coordinated.

ORDINANCE 2022-26 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 6 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES IN RELATION TO THE ADOPTION OF MANDATORY AND PERMISSIVE BUILDING AND RELATED CODES AND STANDARDS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

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 and no citizen submitted or presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2022-26**.

ORDINANCE 2022-29 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 4 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED THE OCONEE COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ACT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

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 and no citizen submitted or presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2022-29**.

ORDINANCE 2022-31 AN ORDINANCE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF WALHALLA FOR THE PROVISION OF A COUNTY MAGISTRATE TO ACT AS MUNICIPAL JUDGE FOR THE CITY OF WALHALLA; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

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 and no citizen submitted or presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2022-31**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2022-26 [see caption above]

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2022-26** on third and final reading.

ORDINANCE 2022-29 [see caption above]

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Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2022-29** on third and final reading.

ORDINANCE 2022-31 *[see caption above]*

Ordinance 2022-31 was removed from third reading on a motion made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

First and Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

None at this meeting.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

None at this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

Aeronautics Commission

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 4 – 0, to re-appoint Mr. Randy Renz as the District I representative on the Aeronautics Commission.

Mr. Elliott made a nomination to re-appoint Mr. Albert Brightwell to the At-Large seat on the Aeronautics Commission.

Mr. Hart made a nomination to appoint Mr. Bobby Fendley to the At-Large seat on the Aeronautics Commission.

Mrs. Jennifer Adams, Council Clerk, noted that Mr. Fendley does not have a current questionnaire on file requesting appointment to the Aeronautics Commission.

Ms. Brock asked Mr. Hart to have Mr. Fendley submit a new questionnaire for consideration.

Nominations for the District III and the At-Large seats on the Aeronautics Commission have been postponed until the January 17, 2023 Council meeting.

Board of Zoning Appeals

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Mr. Elliott made a nomination to re-appoint Mr. Jim Codner as the District I representative on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Codner received two votes [Mr. Davis and Mr. Elliott].

Neither Mr. Hart nor Mr. Mize voted for the candidate.

No majority being had, the nomination failed.

Mr. Codner will continue to serve as the District I representative on the Board of Zoning Appeals until a majority vote is obtained for a qualified candidate.

Mr. Mize made a nomination, approved 4 – 0, to re-appoint Mr. William Gilster as the District III representative on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 4 – 0, to re-appoint Mr. John Eager as the At-Large representative on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Executive Session:

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, enter into Executive Sessions for the following purposes, as allowed for § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

1. Discussion regarding a personnel matter related to the Solid Waste, Roads and Bridges, and Building Codes departments.

~~*2. Discuss and receive legal advice regarding a contractual matter related to the City of Seneca.*~~
Item two was removed from Executive Session on a motion made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0.

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:24 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:11 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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