

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Mr. Steven R. Moore, District I Mr. Kenneth E. Johns, Jr., District II
Rev. William "Bill" Rinehart, District III Mr. Marion E. Lyles, District IV
Mr. H. Frank Ables, Jr., District V

MINUTES, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Oconee County Council met Tuesday, June 1, 2004 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members except Mr. Moore present. Mr. Norton, County Attorney was also present.

Press:

Members of the press notified (via mail): Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Daily Journal, Anderson Independent, WGOG Radio, WYFF TV & WLOS TV.

Members of the press present: Ray Chandler – Daily Journal & Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio.

Other Organizations Notified:

Also notified were the Oconee County Tax Payers Association and the Oconee County Democratic Party.

Call to Order:

Chairman Ables called the meeting to order.

Invocation:

Mr. Rinehart gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Norton led the pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

Minutes:

By consensus, Council adopted the minutes of the regular meeting held May 18, 2004 and the minutes of the special meeting held May 25, 2004.

Workforce Investment Act Modification:

Upon recommendation of Ms. Terri Gilstrap, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that the attached modification to the Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board be adopted.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting June 1, 2004

ATAX Grants:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Gerald Foster, ATAX Committee, Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that the attached ATAX Grant to Walhalla American Legion Post #124 in the amount of \$3,000 and the attached ATAX Grant to Westminster Recreation Department in the amount of \$9,000 be adopted.

Economic Development Report:

Mr. Jim Alexander, Economic Development Director, informed Council that Next Day Apparel will be closing June 11, 2004, which means thirty-six (36) county citizens will lose their jobs. Mr. Alexander then presented Council with the following tentative schedule for sewer development if the referendum is adopted on August 3, 2004 giving Council the authority to use tax funds for water and sewer:

Phase I will take approximately between two and one half (2½) and four (4) years to complete and will cost approximately \$13,667,000. It will provide 46,000 feet of sewer lines, two lift stations, 41,000 feet of water mains and a new 0.5 MGD wastewater treatment facility.

Phase II will take approximately two (2) years to complete and will cost approximately \$11,573,000. It will provide 86,000 feet of sewer line and 76,500 feet of water mains.

Phase III will take approximately two (2) years to complete and will cost approximately \$3,100,000. It will provide 62,000 feet of sewer lines.

Phase IV will take approximately one (1) year to complete and will provide sewer service adjacent to the Welcome Center at an estimated cost of \$835,000 to provide sewer lines and lift stations.

Phase V is the last phase of the project and will include approximately 9,000 feet of sewer line along Highway 11 north of I-85 at a cost of approximately \$1,600,000.

The total cost of all these projects is an estimated \$30,775,000 and these costs do include an inflation factor. (See attached statement)

Recreation Funds:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that recreation funds in the amount of \$5,000 be approved for the City of Westminster and \$5,200 be approved for Fair Oak Youth Center, Inc.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting June 1, 2004

Animal Shelter:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that the County take over the operation of the Animal Shelter with the Humane Society continuing their assistance in an advisory capacity and as shelter volunteers.

Road Department:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that the bid for a track loader for the Road Department be awarded to Blanchard Machinery at a total cost of \$217,040 which includes a credit of \$6,250 for the trade in of an old FL20. (See attached bid sheet)

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that the bid for a motor grader for the Road Department be awarded to Blanchard Machinery at a cost of \$162,971.80 which includes a guaranteed buyback at \$70,000 after 10 years/10,000 hours. (See attached bid sheet)

Road Department (Contingency):

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that \$10,000 be taken from contingency for engineering services for the DAVCO site and the DAR site. (See attached recommendations of Goldie & Associates)

DAVCO Site (Contingency):

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 3 – 1 (Mr. Ables voting against) that \$12,000 be taken from contingency for the completion of the DAVCO Building to house the Road Department.

Department of Social Services (Contingency):

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 4 – 0 that \$1,465 be taken from contingency for a pauper funeral.

Ordinance 2004-16:

First reading of Ordinance 2004-16, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2002-14, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2001-05 WHICH WAS AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAX TO APPLY TO ALL ACCOMMODATIONS LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY" was tabled and referred to the Planning & Economic Development Committee.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting June 1, 2004

Ordinance 2004-14:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2004-14, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 99-14, OCONEE COUNTY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ORDINANCE" be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2004-15:

Mr. Norton, County Attorney, informed Council there were additional changes that need to be made to Ordinance 2004-15, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 97-14, OCONEE COUNTY POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL, SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 3-1, 3-4 & 3-5", therefore, second reading of this ordinance was tabled.

Ordinance 2004-13:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2004-13, "AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE THE OCONEE COUNTY FINANCE DIRECTOR, THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR & STAFF CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS" be adopted on third and final reading.

Capital Projects 2004-05 Fiscal Year:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that of the \$436,418 designated for capital projects that \$357,200 be approved for capital projects and the remaining \$79,218 be designated at a later date.

LEC Meeting:

Mr. Rinehart asked that Emergency Management, Sheriff and Rural Fire attend the Law Enforcement, Safety, Health, Welfare & Services Meeting scheduled Friday, June 11, 2004 at 10:00 AM in Council Chambers.

Referendum Educational Committee:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that Dr. Marion McMillan & Mr. Greg Dieterick be appointed to represent District III on the committee to inform the public of the pro's and con's concerning the adoption of the proposed referendum regarding water and sewer.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting June 1, 2004

Roads & Transportation Committee Recommendation:

Upon recommendation of the Roads & Transportation Committee, Council voted unanimously that the paving of roadways be considered on a case-by-case basis when the moving of utilities is involved.

Referendum Educational Committee:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 4 – 0 that Mr. Jerry Edwards & Mr. Buddy Herring be appointed to represent District V on the committee to inform the public of the pro's and con's concerning the adoption of the proposed referendum regarding water and sewer.

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 4 – 0 that Mr. Larry Dellinger & Mr. Sam Dickson be appointed to represent District IV on the committee to inform the public of the pro's and con's concerning the adoption of the proposed referendum regarding water and sewer.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Larry Linson addressed Council regarding the "spec" building at the commerce center.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding the deferment of Oconee County's payment from the SC Appalachian Council of Governments building.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the flag used in Council Chambers, the County Road Department patching crews, the shingle roof at the addition to the Law Enforcement Center, the School District budget and the Animal Shelter.

Executive Session:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that Council go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter.

Open Session:

There was no action taken when open session resumed.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting June 1, 2004

Adjourn:

Adjourn 8:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green, Clerk to Council