

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Steven R. Moore, District I Mr. Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr., District II
Rev. William S. "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 6, 2006 at 3:00 pm in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with Council Members Mr. Lyles, Mr. Crumpton, Mr. Rinehart & Mr. Moore (came in at 3:45 pm) present. Also present were County Administrator Ron Rabun, County Attorney Bradley A. Norton & the Clerk to Council.

Press:

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

Members of the press present: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio, Dave Williams – Anderson Independent & Brett McLaughlin.

Other Organizations Notified:

Also notified were the Oconee County Tax Payers Association, Citizens for Recreation Center and the Oconee County Democratic Party.

Call to Order:

Vice Chairman Lyles 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:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 3 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held May 16, 2006 be adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council regarding increasing the number of Council Members and School Board Members to seven. Mr. Nichols also addressed Council regarding the County Appropriations Ordinance and the School District Appropriations Ordinance.

Mr. Les McMahan expressed appreciation to Council for their support of the Rural Fire budget request.

Mr. Ron Leppig addressed Council regarding the reassessment that is to be implemented this year.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding taxes and the County parks.

Sewer Commission Budget:

Mr. Howard Adams, Chair; Mr. Robert Winchester, Superintendent & Mr. Rhett Smith, Budget Chair, Sewer Commission, presented the attached proposed 2006-2007 fiscal year Sewer Commission budget to Council. The total budget amount is \$5,594,793 which is \$171,961 less than it was last year and in part, contains the following:

Capital Projects:	\$ 345,000
SWAG Upgrades:	\$ 609,947
Infrastructure Project Expense:	\$1,000,000 (carried over from last year)
User Fee Decrease:	\$ 25,430
Transfer of Retained Earnings:	\$ 14,414
O&M Plus Contingency:	\$ 76,539
A 3% COLA for employees	

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 3 – 0 that the proposed Sewer Commission budget for 2006–2007 be adopted.

Public Hearing RE: Ordinance 2006-15:

At this time Council held a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding proposed Ordinance 2006-15, “THE 2006-2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY”.

There was no one present with either written or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2006-15.

Public Hearing RE: Ordinance 2006-16:

Council then held a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding proposed Ordinance 2006-16, "THE 2006-2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TRI COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE".

There was no one present with either written or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2006-16.

Update RE: Patriot's Hall:

Mr. Charles Brickett addressed Council regarding the Patriot's Hall Museum, which is a non-profit, tax exempt organization. Mr. Brickett informed Council the Patriot's Hall Association had completed some of their renovations with \$60,000 Heritage Corridor Grants and the work was performed by Trehel Corporation. The Patriot's Hall Association has a membership of 150 families and they are planning to open on Saturday, July 8, 2006.

Ordinance 2006-13:

Mr. Norton advised Council that the Keowee Fire District wanted to change the auditing requirements in 2006-13, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2003-12 WHICH ESTABLISHED THE KEOWEE FIRE TAX DISTRICT AND THE KEOWEE FIRE COMMISSION" from calendar year to fiscal year and requested that third and final reading be postponed until June 20, 2006.

Ordinance 2006-19:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 3 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-19, "AN ORDINANCE FORMALLY ADOPTING VALUES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY ASSESSOR AND SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE BASED ON A DECEMBER 31, 2005 VALUATION DATE FOR TAX YEAR 2006" be adopted on first reading.

Proclamation:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 3 – 0 that the attached proclamation declaring June 5 – 11, 2006 as "Hurricane Awareness Week in Oconee County" be adopted on first and final reading.

Economic Development:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 3 – 0 that Economic Development apply for a State Budget & Control Board grant in the amount of \$300,000 for infrastructure improvements and sewer expansion/development to the I-85 project. This grant requires no matching funds from the County.

Rock Quarry:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that Council confirm and ratify an emergency sole-source purchase order to make necessary repairs to the inoperable jaw crusher in an amount not to exceed \$79,834 to Telsmith, Inc. and \$70,000 to Superior Machine Co., Inc. (See attached quotes from Telsmith, Inc. & Superior Machinery, Inc.)

Rural Fire:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 4 – 0 that the attached lease agreement by and between Oconee County and the Oconee County Fire Chief's Association for utilization of the mobile fire safety house be adopted.

Budget, Finance & Procurement Recommendations:

Upon recommendation of the Budget, Finance & Procurement Committee, Council adopted the following recommendations:

- (1) A crew cab truck for the Road Department
- (2) A crew cab truck for Emergency Management
- (3) One of the surplus trucks at Vehicle Maintenance be transferred to the Road Department

Further, the 2006-2007 appropriations ordinance will state: Should the one-cent referendum fail, it is the intent of Council to use general obligation bonds in the amount of \$8,000,000 for construction of the Seneca Library and \$4,000,000 for construction of the recreational complex.

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Recommendations:

The Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee reviewed the listing of all County owned properties and made the following recommendations which were adopted by Council:

- (1) The 2.72 acre tract of land located on Highway 76, Holly Springs Community purchased for possible use by the Road Department be appraised and brought back to the committee.
- (2) The sale of six acres of the 400 acre tract in the lower part of the County be approved in concept only, this property be appraised and brought back to the committee.

Further, the requested right-of-way adjacent to manned convenience #9 center was tabled pending additional information.

Ordinance 2006-16:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-16, THE 2006-2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TRI COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE” be adopted on second reading.

Administrator Report:

The Administrator had no report to make.

Blue Laws:

Mr. Norton gave the attached memorandum to Council regarding information requested concerning blue laws.

Council Districts:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion that the County Attorney research County Council and the School Board going from five to seven members. After a brief discussion this motion was withdrawn.

Executive Session:

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

Open Session:

When open session resumed Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 3 – 0 (Mr. Rinehart had to leave) that the August 27, 2004 contract by and between Oconee County and Ron Rabun be rescinded and a new contract be adopted with Mr. Rabun employing him to assist the County in the administration of County government and rewriting the County Purchasing Policies and Procedures and the County Personnel Policies and Procedures.

Mr. Crumpton then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 3 – 0 that Mr. Tom Hendricks be engaged as the County Administrator with no contract.

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 4:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green,
Clerk to Council