

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, October 17, 2006 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members and the County Attorney present.

Press:

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

Members of the press present: Brett McLaughlin – Daily Journal, Peter Kent - WGOG Radio & Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier.

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:

Chairman Ables called the meeting to order.

Invocation:

Mr. Rinehart gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Minutes:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 (Mr. Moore abstaining) that minutes of the regular meeting held October 3, 2006 be adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Larry Linson addressed Council thanking Mr. Rinehart for asking for a truce between County Leaders and the Legislative Delegation and Mr. Crumpton for asking that the homestead exemption be increased. He further asked that Council apologize for asking that the other sixteen counties that are going forward with reassessment be reviewed by the SC Department of Revenue.

Ms. Leah Gunther addressed Council expressing displeasure with the Building Codes Department.

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council regarding proposed Ordinance 2006-27, (Multi-County Park Ordinance with Pickens County).

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the capital improvement projects list and the need for a jail.

Mr. Francis Maloney addressed Council regarding Building Codes.

Senior Solutions & Lakeview Assisted Living:

Mr. Douglas Wright, Director, Senior Solutions, addressed Council regarding services of Senior Solutions and Lakeview Assisted Living to the citizens of Oconee County. Mr. Wright informed Council that the Oconee Senior Center located in historic downtown Seneca has recently been recognized by the Oconee County African American Heritage Committee.

Mr. Wright also informed Council that the Senior Center offers the following in Oconee County:

- (1) Exercise facilities
- (2) Ballroom
- (3) Computer lab
- (4) Meeting rooms

In fiscal year 2005-06 Senior Solutions served meals to 617 clients and assisted 746 clients with various financial and legal issues – mostly Medicare Part D.

Senior Solutions also provides adult day care for 265 clients and transportation for 739 clients.

Lakeview Rest Home is a nineteen (19) bed facility located on Camp Road in Walhalla and is one of the few care facilities that will take clients based on their social security income. (See attached information)

Paving of Parking Lots:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rinehart, approved 5 – 0 that the bid for paving of the Friendship Fire Department parking lot be awarded to Campbell’s Asphalt Paving, Inc. at a cost of \$17,971; the bid for paving of the Mountain Rest parking lot be awarded to Campbell’s Asphalt, Inc. at a cost of \$28,822 and the bid for paving of the Keowee Ebenezer Fire Department parking lot be awarded to King Asphalt, Inc. at a cost of \$14,500 for a total cost of \$61,293.

Recreation Funds:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the following budgeted recreational funds be disbursed as per attached:

- (1) \$10,000 to Seneca Recreation
- (2) \$ 2,000 to Fair Oak Youth Center
- (3) \$10,000 to Westminster Recreation

Ordinance 2006-22:

Second reading of Ordinance 2006-22, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AS LESSOR, AND PROJECT TROUT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES” was removed from the agenda.

Ordinance 2006-23:

Second reading of Ordinance 2006-23, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT TROUT FOR GRANTING CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDITS TO PROJECT TROUT” was removed from the agenda.

Ordinance 2006-24:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-24, “AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING ORDINANCE 2004-19, OCONEE COUNTY EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN” be adopted on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2006-25:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-25, “AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE TIME FOR FILING AN APPEAL ON THE 2005 REASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE MONTHS” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2006-26:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-26, “AN ORDINANCE REGULATING FALSE FIRE ALARMS TO WHICH OCONEE COUNTY RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS RESPOND, RESCINDING ORDINANCE 2006-09” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2006-27:

First reading in title only of Ordinance 2006-27, “AN ORDINANCE TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK WITH PICKENS COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS FOR 1976, SECTION 4-1-170 ET SEQUITUR, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, AND THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX TO THE COUNTIES AND RELEVANT TAXING ENTITIES” was removed from the agenda.

ATAX Commission Appointment:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 5 – 0 that Ms. Ilene Sedy of Magnolia Manor be appointed to the ATAX Commission.

Council Committee Reports:

There were no Council Committee reports.

Administrator Report:

Administrative Services:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Hendricks, Council, by consensus confirmed the removal of Procurement, Occupational Licensing, Assessor, Board of Assessment Appeals, Auditor Liaison and Treasurer Liaison from the Administrative Services Director.

Department of Social Services:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that \$60,000 be taken from 2006-07 Capital Infrastructure funds to renovate the bays to be vacated by the Walhalla Rescue Squad for additional office space for DSS/DHHS.

2007-08 Budget:

Mr. Hendricks presented the proposed budget calendar to Council.

One Cent Sales Tax Projects:

Mr. Hendricks also presented the attached schedule to Council if the one cent sales tax referendum is adopted by the Oconee County citizens.

After a brief discussion all Council Members expressed support for the one cent sales tax referendum.

Mr. Crumpton reminded those present that the list of projects was not a County Council listing, but was formed by a committee of citizens and municipal representatives.

However, Mr. Rinehart did express some concerns with some of the projects listed and asked that at the November 7th Council Meeting there be a power point presentation showing the research on the aquatics facility the amortization schedule and revenue stream.

Mr. Rinehart also stated he would like to discuss the Seneca Library and will most likely make a recommendation regarding its location and set of plans.

Executive Session:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Council go into executive session for the purpose of discussing contractual matters and a litigation matter subject to attorney/client privilege.

Open Session:

When open session resumed there was no further business conducted by Council.

Minutes, Oconee County Council Meeting

October 17, 2006

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green,
Clerk to Council