

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. George C. Blanchard, District I Mr. Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr., District II
Mr. Mario Suarez, 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, May 1, 2007 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members except 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, WSPA TV & WSNW Radio.

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

Other Organizations Notified:

Also notified were the Oconee County Tax Payers Association & Citizens for Recreation Center.

Call to Order:

Chairman Lyles called the meeting to order.

Pledge to US Flag:

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

Minutes:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes of the April 17, 2007 meeting be adopted as presented.

Public Comment Session:

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding placing funds in the 2007-08 fiscal year budget for CAT funding.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the elimination of the Visioning Committee, Oconee Alliance and Economic Development.

Public Hearing RE: Ordinance 2007-03:

At this time Council conducted a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2007-03, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, LIFT, LLC AND LIFT TECHNOLOGIES, INC. WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY, WHEREBY SUCH PROPERTY WILL RECEIVE CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDITS IN RESPECT OF ITS INVESTMENT IN RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”.

There was no one present with written and/or oral comments regarding Ordinance 2007-03.

Third Reading of Ordinance 2007-03:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-03 (titled above) be adopted on third and final reading.

DSS Proclamation:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 that the attached proclamation recognizing foster care families during the month of May 2007 be adopted.

Keowee Fire Department Budget:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that the attached revised 2007-08 budget eliminating the 14.5 mil increase for the Keowee Fire Department be adopted.

Rural Fire:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that the following fire departments be authorized to apply for Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant for equipment. Further, that the 5% local match (\$70,359) be placed in the 2007-08 fiscal year budget.

Salem	\$180,000
Corinth-Shiloh	\$300,000
Cross Roads	\$100,000
Pickett Post	\$110,000
Keowee-Ebenezer	\$162,538
Oakway	\$195,000
Fair Play	\$225,000
South Union	\$134,634

GRAND TOTAL: \$1,407,172

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the Rural Fire Department be authorized to apply for a Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 for an aerial platform truck, a pumper truck, miscellaneous equipment and driver/operator training. Further that the 5% local match (\$200,000) be placed in the 2007-08 fiscal year budget.

Communications:

After considerable discussion in which Council Members expressed their displeasure with New World Systems, Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Ables voting against) that a change order in the amount of \$23,731.25 be issued to purchase order #42315 for redundancy capability in the 911 system. (See attached information)

Ordinance 2007-04:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-04, “THE 2007-08 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY” be adopted on first reading in title only.

Ordinance 2007-05:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-05, “THE 2007-08 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TRI COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE” be adopted on first reading in title only.

Ordinance 2007-06:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-06, “EMERGENCY RESPONSE EQUIPMENT ACCESS ORDINANCE OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA” be adopted on first reading.

Council Committee Reports:

Mr. Ables, Chair, Budget, Finance & Procurement Committee, scheduled a meeting Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at 1:00 pm for the purpose of discussing the 2007-08 fiscal year budget.

Administrator Report:

After explanation by Mr. Hendricks of how fire protection can be handled in Oconee County, Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-07, “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE OCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION DEPARTMENT” be adopted on first reading.

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-08, “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE OCONEE COUNTY SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION” be adopted on first reading.

Billboards:

Mr. Blanchard informed Council that the County can control billboards by refusing to issue permits for them. Mr. Norton, County Attorney, assured Council the Planning Commission is developing a billboard ordinance for their consideration.

Shaver Proclamation:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the attached proclamation declaring May 10, 2007 as “Thomas Wilton Shaver, Jr. Day” in Oconee County be adopted.

Eagle Scout:

Mr. Blanchard requested that Michael Durham be recognized for his achievement as an Eagle Scout.

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Road & Transportation Committee Meet:

Mr. Crumpton scheduled a Road & Transportation Committee Meeting either Monday, May 8 or Friday, May 11, 2007 for the purpose of looking at roadways that are to be overlaid/paved in the 2007-08 fiscal year budget.

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green
Clerk to Council