

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, June 19, 2007 at 3:00 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, WSPA TV & WSNW Radio.

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

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. Blanchard explained that minutes of June 5, 2007 should be amended so that the Commission Member's term on the Oconee County Emergency Service Protection Commission be co-terminus with the term of the Council Member appointing that Commission Member.

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes of the June 5, 2007 meeting, as amended, be adopted.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Michael Bartlett addressed Council regarding the fire protection plan and ISO ratings.

Mr. Larry Linson addressed Council regarding their vote on the budget.

Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council regarding rescinding Ordinance 2007-08, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE OCONEE COUNTY SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION".

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council regarding Ordinance 2007-14, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT PHOENIX PLUS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES RELATED TO THE PROJECT"

Mr. Bob Littleton addressed Council regarding the budget, reassessment, tax increases and the citizens' trust of County Council.

Mr. Charles Gray addressed Council regarding the budget and revenues for the County airport.

Mr. George Cleveland addressed Council regarding the tax increase being necessary to fund the emergency management plan and increasing the time during public comment to five minutes.

Mr. Bo Horne addressed Council regarding the special tax district and tax caps proposed by the Delegation.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the public comment session and free speech.

Sewer Commission:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Howard Adams, Chair, & Mr. Robert Winchester, General Superintendent, Sewer Commission, Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the attached 2007-2008 budget in the amount of \$5,713,578 for the Sewer Commission be adopted.

ATAX Grants:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 that the attached ATAX Grant in the amount of \$3,100 to Oconee Community Theater for Weekend Theatre advertisement package be adopted.

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Blanchard voting against) that the attached ATAX Grant in the amount of \$1,487.90 to Walhalla Civic Auditorium for printing of brochures be adopted.

Rock Quarry:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Ables voting against) that the bid for drilling and blasting at the Rock Quarry be awarded to Southern Blasting Services, Inc., who was the only bidder at an estimated cost of \$336,575 for fiscal year 2007-08 with the option to renew for an additional four one-year periods.

EMS Grant:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Oconee Memorial Hospital be authorized to apply for an EMS Grant in the amount of \$6,150 with the local match of \$400 being paid by the hospital.

Sheriff's Department Grant:

Mrs. Lombard also informed Council that the Sheriff's Department would be applying for a FY 2007 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$15,150 which requires no local match.

Ordinance 2007-04:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-04, "THE 2007-2008 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR OCONEE COUNTY" be adopted on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2007-05:

Mr. Crumpton a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-05, "THE 2007-2008 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE" be adopted on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2007-10:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-10, “ROAD NAMING AND ADDRESSING ORDINANCE OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2007-11:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-11, “AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE OCONEE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM COMMISSION, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 2003-26, AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE OCONEE COUNTY PARKS AND TOURISM COMMISSION AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 2003-27, AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE OCONEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2007-12:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-12, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2004-16, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2002-14, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2001-05, AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAX TO APPLY TO ALL ACCOMMODATIONS LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY” be adopted on second reading.

Ordinance 2007-13:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-13, “AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE AMENDMENT BY AND BETWEEN JOHNSON CONTROLS BATTERY GROUP, INC. AND OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (JOHNSON CONTROLS BATTERY GROUP, INC. PROJECT), PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SOUTH CAROLINA CODE ANNOTATED, SECTION 4-12-30 (1976) AS AMENDED” be adopted on first reading.

Ordinance 2007-14:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2007-14, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT PHOENIX PLUS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES RELATED TO THE PROJECT” be adopted on first reading.

Council Committee Reports:

There were no Council Committee reports.

Administrator Report:

Mrs. Lombard expressed her appreciation to Mr. Rodney Burdette, Emergency Services Director and the volunteers who had worked so tirelessly trying to find the body of little Joshua Dorchak who drowned June 8th on Lake Jocassee.

Salem Recreational Funds:

Also, upon recommendation of Mrs. Lombard, Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the request of the Town of Salem for \$1,000 recreational funds be adopted.

Health Department (Contingency):

Upon recommendation of Mrs. Lombard, Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that \$30,000 be taken from contingency to complete the HVAC system at the Health Department.

Red Cross (Contingency):

Further, upon recommendation of Mrs. Lombard, Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard that \$5,000 be taken from contingency and given to the American Red Cross.

Budget:

Mr. Suarez informed those present that he was sorry to have missed the public hearing on the budget but had a death in his family. Mr. Suarez also stated he would not say the County financial house was in order but he felt Council was on the way to putting it in order.

Clerk to Council:

Mr. Lyles announced the new Clerk to Council would be named next week.

Road & Transportation Meet:

Mr. Crumpton scheduled a Road & Transportation Committee Meeting July 17, 2007 at 1:00 pm.

Executive Session:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Council go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter.

Open Session:

When open session resumed, Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 that Council enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Seneca for fire protection adjacent to the City of Seneca.

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 4:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green
Clerk to Council