



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
October 7, 2008

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. George Blanchard District I, Chairman
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

Oconee County Council met on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. Ables], County Administrator Dale K. Surrett, Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council & Mr. Bradley A. Norton, 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.

Member of the press present: Ashton Hester, Keowee Courier, Ray Chandler–Anderson Independent & Carlos Galarza–Daily Journal.

Call to Order:

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Crumpton led the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.

Minutes:

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 2 – 0 [Mr. Lyles & Mr. Crumpton abstained] that the amended minutes from the September 23, 2008 regular meeting be adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

Ms. Larry Linsin addressed Council regarding his concerns that Council is moving to quickly to adopt the Zoning Enabling Ordinance [ZEO]. In addition, he requested that the public hearing be postponed until the Planning Commission finishes with their meetings and revisions.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding his opposition to the ZEO and his desire that the Council stay out of the citizens business.

Extended Public Comment Session:

Mr. Berry Nichols was scheduled to address Council during the Extended Public Comment Session however he was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Public Hearings regarding the following Ordinances:

Ordinance 2007-18:

Mr. Blanchard announced that the public hearing for Ordinance 2007-18 would be postponed until Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in order to allow the Planning Commission additional time to meet and make final recommendations to Council.

Ordinance 2007-21:

Mr. Blanchard opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2007-21 "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM TO DESIGNATE OCONEE COUNTY'S SCENIC HIGHWAYS".

Mr. J. Harold Thomas addressed Council in support of Ordinance 2007-21 and discussed his appreciation that Council has put in place a way to protect our scenic highways.

Mr. Phil Soper, Keep Oconee Beautiful [KOBA], addressed Council regarding personal support and that of his group for this ordinance and he thanked the Council and Planning Commission for their hard work to complete this ordinance.

Mr. Blanchard questioned Mr. Soper regarding his groups "adopt a highway" program to determine if this ordinance would conflict in any way. Mr. Soper stated there was no conflict based on the ordinance.

Ms. Alice Wald addressed Council in support for the ordinance and noted that it fulfilled one of the 2008 Oconee By Choice Vision statements regarding protecting our natural resources.

Mr. Garry Littlefield addressed Council regarding concerns that this ordinance might conflict with state or federally designated roadways.

No written comments were submitted.

Mr. Blanchard called the public hearing at an end.

Ordinances for Approval:

Ordinance 2008-15:

Mr. Surrett addressed Council regarding Ordinance 2008-15 and the proposed revisions to the Oconee County Parks, Recreation & Tourism Policy & Procedure Manual. He outlined the necessity for fire arm language in the ordinance in order for the Park Rangers to obtain training from the South Carolina Justice Academy. In addition, the policy will be clearly set forth to prohibit the Park Rangers from carrying or using fire arms at any time when on duty. Discussion followed.

Mr. Surrett noted that nothing that is currently being done will change. The staff is authorized to use levels one, two and three in their duties as outlined in the draft policy and procedure manual.

Mr. Blanchard questioned if a motion was required to authorize implementation of the manual. Mr. Surrett noted that Oconee PRT Policy & Procedure manual will be implemented under his administrative authority and that no action was required by Council.

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2008-15** “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1997-06, AN ORDINANCE TO APPOINT AND COMMISSION COUNTY PARK RANGERS AS CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS” on second reading.

Items for Consideration by Council:

ATAX Grant: Oconee Conservatory of Fine Arts / \$7,718.50 / advertising:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 to approve \$7,718.50 for the Oconee Conservatory of Fine Arts for radio/newspaper advertising for the Talent Explosion 2009.

ATAX Grant: Blue Ridge Arts Council / \$1,427.50 / Advertising “HAM” exhibit @ Duke’s World of Energy:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 4 – 0 to approved \$1,427/50 for the Blue Ridge Arts Council for advertising the “Heritage, Arts & Music” festival.

ATAX Grant: Blue Ridge Arts Council / \$2,500 / Advertising POP Studio Tour May 2-3, 2009

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles [Mr. Blanchard abstained – form filed with these minutes], approved 3 – 0 to approve \$2,500 for the Blue Ridge Arts Council for advertising the “Pickens, Oconee & Pendleton [POP] Open Studio” tour to be held on May 2-3, 2009.

ATAX Grant: Blue Ridge Arts Council / \$2,339.50 / Advertising 18th Annual Juried Art Show:

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez [Mr. Blanchard abstained – form filed with these minutes], approved 3 – 0 to approve \$2,339.50 for advertising the 18th Annual Juried Art Show.

Arts & Historical Grant: Seneca Chamber of Commerce / \$1,500 / 1,000 history videos titled “A History of the Land Beside the Water”:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 to approve \$1,500 for the Seneca Chamber of Commerce to purchase 1,000 history videos titled “A History of the Land Beside the Water”.

Arts & Historical Grant: Walhalla Merchants Association / \$1,500 / fund music and dance performances at the 2009 Oktoberfest:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 to approve \$1,500 for the Walhalla Merchants Association to assist fund music and dance performances at the 2009 Oktoberfest on Main.

PRT Commission: 2009 Southern Women’s Show, Savannah, Georgia / up to \$6,300 / exhibitor:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 to approve up to \$6,300 for Oconee County to have a booth at the 2009 Southern Women’s Show to be held in Savannah, GA in February 2009.

PRT Commission: Purchase [2] Tourism Banners / \$2,300:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 to approve \$2,300 for the purchase of two tourism marketing banners to add to the three currently being used for the promotion of Oconee County as a destination.

Procurement: Change Order #2 / PO 45345 / Timken Turn Lane / \$40,144.90:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 to approve a Change Order #2, PO #45345, in the amount of \$40,144.89 for S&S Construction, Inc. of Anderson SC, to cover the increased costs of base, binder and surface for the Timken turn lane project to be paid from account #010-707-60707.

Emergency Medical Services Community [EMS] Assistance Program Application:

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 to approve submittal of an application for the Emergency Medical Services Community EMS Assistance Program [DUI Funds].

Council Committee Reports:

Transportation:

Mr. Crumpton had no report, however, scheduled a meeting for the Transportation Committee to be held on Monday, October 20, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Law, Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee Report:

Mr. Blanchard had no report at this meeting.

Budget, Finance & Administration:

Mr. Ables was not present at this meeting – no report presented.

Planning & Economic Development:

Mr. Suarez had no report at this meeting.

Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management:

Mr. Lyles had no report at this meeting.

Commission / Board Reports to Council:

There were no reports presented at this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments:

There were no appointments at this meeting.

Administrator's Report:

Planning & Economic Development Committee:

Mr. Surrett asked Mr. Suarez to schedule within the next week a meeting of his committee with the County Attorney, Planning Director and Road Department Director to address movement of the road department regulations from the subdivision regulations. He requested Mr. Suarez to notify the Clerk to Council of available dates/time.

Forestry Service Check Presentation:

Mr. Surrett noted Mr. Jarrod Bruckle presented the County with a check for approximately \$500 from the wildlife management area. Mr. Blanchard asked where these funds are deposited. Mr. Surrett noted that checks in small amounts such as this are deposited to the miscellaneous revenue account in the general fund.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business discussed at this meeting.

New Business:

County Administrator's Contract:

Mr. Blanchard noted that part of Council responsibility is to annually review the County Administrator's work. This has been done and Council has been very pleased and feel Mr. Surret has done a wonderful job. In light of this Council has discussed extending Mr. Surret's contract.

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 to amend the employment agreement between Oconee County and Dale K. Surret to reflect a term for the agreement for a period of five [5] years from July 9, 2007 through July 8, 2012.

Executive Session:

Mr. Blanchard asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

Mr. Suarez made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 4 – 0 to enter into Executive Session for the reason stated above.

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:52 p.m.

Mr. Blanchard stated that no action will be taken at this meeting regarding matters discussed in Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Blanchard asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Crumpton made a motion at 8:53 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council