



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
April 18, 2017

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Paul Cain, District III
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II
Ms. Edda Cammick, Chairwoman, District I
Mr. Julian Davis III, Vice Chair, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, Chair Pro Tem, District V

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Scott Moulder, County Attorney David Root and Katie D. Smith, Clerk to Council present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Stephen Bradley / Daily Journal & Dick Mangrum / WGOG.

Call to Order

Ms. Cammick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session

Ms. Jean Jennings addressed Council regarding a major housing development to Hwy 123 near Clemson.

Mr. Jerry Barnett addressed Council in opposition of Ordinance 2016-41. He noted if citizens wanted to participate in zoning, they should be able to go back to the control free zone if they so wish.

Ms. Alesia Smith addressed Council utilizing a handout [copy filed with these minutes] regarding Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for Delta Days.

County Council Response to Public Comment

Mr. Hart thanked Mr. Barnett for his comments regarding the public comment session.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to amend agenda under executive session for an update on the pending ligation regarding Pioneer Water.

Moment of Silence

Ms. Cammick asked for a moment of silence prior the Invocation by the County Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain:

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0 to approve the March 31, 2017 Special Meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the April 4, 2017 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

Presentations to Council

Mr. Steve Hanvey, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint and handout [copy of both filed with these minutes] regarding the FY18 General Fund Budget.

Administrator's Report & Agenda Summary

Mr. Moulder briefly reviewed with Council and for the public's benefit specifics related to the following matters before Council at this meeting:

- Presentations to Council
- Public Hearing for Ordinance: 2016-41, 2017-07, 2016-37
- Third Reading of Ordinance: 2016-41, 2017-07, 2016-37
- First Reading of Ordinance: 2017-05, 2017-08
- First & Final Reading of Resolution: R2017-02, R2017-04
- Discussion Regarding Action Items
- Board/Commission Appointments
- Council Committee reports

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2016-41 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 38 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS ONLY, REGARDING THE ADDITION OF AGRICULTURAL ZONING DISTRICTS, AMENDING AN EXISTING ZONING DISTRICT, AND AMENDING THE CONDITIONAL USES PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 38; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Ms. Gwen McPhail, Planning Commission member, addressed Council in support of **Ordinance 2016-41**. She thanked Council for their patience and the work they do for the county.

Mr. Mike Smith addressed Council in support of **Ordinance 2016-41**. He noted the Ag5 and Ag50 would create more protection for those who desire additional farmland protection.

Mr. Jerry Barnett addressed Council in opposition of **Ordinance 2016-41**.

No additional citizens spoke at this meeting.

Ms. Cammick opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance and asked if any citizen. No citizen addressed Council.

Ms. Cammick asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Ms. Cammick closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2016-41**.

Ordinance 2017-07 “AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CERTAIN EASEMENT RIGHTS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY FOR OPERATION OF A SEWER SERVICE LINE AT THE FORMER OAKWAY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Ms. Cammick opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance and asked if any citizen. No citizen addressed Council.

Ms. Cammick asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Ms. Cammick closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2017-07**.

Ordinance 2016-37 “AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CERTAIN EASEMENT RIGHTS TO BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEAR THE OCONEE REGIONAL AIRPORT FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELOCATING EXISTING ABOVE-GROUND ELECTRICAL LINES TO UNDERGROUND LINES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Ms. Cammick opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance and asked if any citizen. No citizen addressed Council.

Ms. Cammick asked if any citizens wished to submit written comments regarding this ordinance; no citizen presented any written comments for the record.

Ms. Cammick closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2016-37**.

Third & Final Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2016-41 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 38 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS ONLY, REGARDING THE ADDITION OF AGRICULTURAL ZONING DISTRICTS, AMENDING AN EXISTING ZONING DISTRICT, AND AMENDING THE CONDITIONAL USES PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 38; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve **Ordinance 2016-41**.

Lengthy discussion followed to include:

- Should be able to return to control free zone if you volunteer to join
- Time limit to return to control free
- Farming is a way of life
- Preserve the farm
- On a volunteer basis to be zoned
- Ordinance sent to Planning Commission, sent to Council, back to Planning Commission, back to Council, three presenters today [2 in favor, 1 opposed]

Mr. Davis called for the vote. The motion **failed** 2-3 [Ms. Cammick, Mr. Hart, & Mr. McCall opposed].

Ordinance 2017-07 “AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CERTAIN EASEMENT RIGHTS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY FOR OPERATION OF A SEWER SERVICE LINE AT THE FORMER OAKWAY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2017-07** on third & final reading.

Ordinance 2016-37 “AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CERTAIN EASEMENT RIGHTS TO BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEAR THE OCONEE REGIONAL AIRPORT FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELOCATING EXISTING ABOVE-GROUND ELECTRICAL LINES TO UNDERGROUND LINES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2016-37** on third & final reading.

Mr. Root noted Blue Ridge submitted revisions to the following paragraphs on all easements:

- Paragraph one: property descriptions to include the neighbors;
- Paragraph three: easement premises;
- Paragraph 7: specific purpose.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2017-05 [Title Only] “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT ENTRY; THE GRANTING OF SPECIAL SOURCE CREDITS; THE INCLUSION OF PROJECT ENTRY IN A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES.”

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve **Ordinance 2017-05** on first reading. Discussion followed to include:

- Similar projects along route 123
- Revenue for the county
- Problems could arise to include noise pollution, increased law enforcement, fire protection, and litter that could potentially cost the county money
- Investments developers provide

Ms. Cammick called for the vote. The motion passed 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2017-05** on first reading.

Ordinance 2017-08 [Title Only] “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT RAVEN; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES.”

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2017-08** on first reading.

First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

Resolution R2017-02 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES AGREEMENT WITH PROJECT ENTRY WITH RESPECT TO A PROJECT IN THE COUNTY WHEREBY THE PROJECT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PAYMENT OF CERTAIN FEES IN LIEU OF TAXES, AND WOULD BE PROVIDED CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE CREDITS AGAINST FEE PAYMENTS, AND WOULD BE PLACED INTO A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK; AND RELATED MATTERS.”

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Resolution R2017-02** on first & final reading.

Resolution R2017-04 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY BY OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES AGREEMENT WITH PROJECT RAVEN WITH RESPECT TO A PROJECT IN THE COUNTY WHEREBY THE PROJECT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PAYMENT OF CERTAIN FEES IN LIEU OF TAX; AND RELATED MATTERS.”

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Resolution R2017-04** on first & final reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Response to Planning Commission's request for direction in relation to corridor planning

The Planning Commission sent County Council a letter asking for direction regarding corridor planning. Discussion followed to include:

- Traffic issues on the 123 corridor from Clemson coming into Oconee County are very concerning.
- Tackling one corridor at a time because each one is unique.
- Speak with the engineering department at Clemson that specializes in traffic and ask to make a senior project to design.
- Billboard regulations
- Corridors, i.e. Hwy 123, Hwy 11, Hwy 130, Hwy 28, Hwy 59, etc.
- Billboard and sign restrictions
- Architectural standards
- Parking lots
- Pedestrian Friendly areas
- Lighting

Additional discussion followed.

Ms. Cammick is to draft letter to send to the Planning Commission.

Gravel donation request for Oconee County Baptist Camp Meeting

The County Council gravel donation account has a negative balance at this time. No further funds for this fiscal year are available. Due to the tight budget for next year, there will not be a gravel donation account.

The request for gravel donation for Oconee County Baptist Camp Meeting has been denied.

Request "Amnesty Week" for Oconee County Public Library

Due to the high volume of penalties and fees, Council agrees to give the OCPL amnesty week so that patrons can return books they borrowed without having to pay the fees for the late return.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve Amnesty Week for Oconee County Public Library.

Board & Commission Appointments

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mr. McCall made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Gwen Fowler as the District II representative on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Building Codes Appeal Board

No nominations were made.

Old / Unfinished Business:

In the absence of Mr. Moulder and Mr. Root, Council wants someone appointed in case of any problems that may arise. Council requested Mr. Rick Martin to be considered.

Mr. Davis reminded everyone of The Great Oconee Cleanup that is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. He noted there has been a lot of great support and noted the signs out are for safety measures. Additionally, he noted he appreciates all that have signed up and all in the County that is helping out. Finally, he thanked Sheriff Mike Crenshaw and the inmate labor and also the inmates for their hard work.

Mr. Richard Blackwell, Economic Development Director, addressed Council regarding The Great Oconee Cleanup. He noted this is a start of an ongoing battle with the litter problem in our community. This will be starting on April 22, 2017 and thanked Sheriff Crenshaw for the idea.

At this time, 124 volunteers have registered and had received a call from a fraternity on Clemson campus that will bring about 40 additional volunteers.

New Business:

None at this meeting.

Council Committee Reports:

Mr. Cain read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] outlining the discussions held at the March 14, 2017 Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting.

Mr. McCall read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] outlining the discussions held at the April 11, 2017 Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee meeting.

Mr. Hart read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] outlining the discussions held at the April 11, 2017 Transportation Committee meeting.

Executive Session:

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0 to enter into Executive Session for the following purposes, as allowed for in § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

[1] discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Entry.

Council entered Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0.

Ms. Cammick stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Adjourn

Mr. Davis made a motion, approved unanimously 5 – 0, to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council