



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
February 20, 2018

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.oconeesc.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: Norm Cannada / Daily Journal & John Lyon / Channel 4 News.

Call to Order

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

Public Comment Session

Mr. David Hubbard, Hubbard Paving & Grading, addressed Council utilizing handouts [copy filed with these minutes] in opposition of potential purchase/lease of the Oconee County Rock Quarry.

Mr. Wade Cobb, Randy Cobb Grading, addressed Council in opposition of potential purchase/lease of the Oconee County Rock Quarry.

Mr. Randy Cobb, Randy Cobb Grading, addressed Council in opposition of potential purchase/lease of the Oconee County Rock Quarry.

Mr. Tommy Crumpton addressed Council in opposition of potential purchase/lease of the Oconee County Rock Quarry.

Mr. Robbie Lee, Lee's Groundcovers, addressed Council regarding a closed door lease that is set up by companies making an offer.

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council in opposition of potential purchase/lease of the Oconee County Rock Quarry and Clemson University.

Mr. Albert Shuler addressed Council noting there is a lease deal going and the Oconee County Rock Quarry is a moneymaker.

Ms. Jean Jennings addressed Council regarding the fire department and old Oakway Elementary School. She noted the municipal fire departments need to stay the way are and not under the Rural Fire Department. She further asked for figures regarding what is being paid and by whom to the Oakway Elementary School.

Mr. Bo Horne, representing the Picket Post, West Union, & Keowee-Ebenezer Fire Departments with the Fire Commission, addressed Council thanking them for the funds provided in this year's budget and to help plan for the future.

Mr. Michael Mason, Chairman of the Fire Commission, addressed Council thanking them for the funds provided and noted they represent all of the fire departments in the County. Further, a new fire plan or proposal to the municipalities continues to keep being offered but has not been discussed with the Fire Commission. Mr. Mason noted if there are to be any changes in the system, they should be involved.

County Council Response to Public Comment

Mr. McCall thanked the truck drivers and also thanked Mr. Mason and his volunteers for all of their hard work. Mr. McCall provided pictures and a video relating to the Oconee County Rock Quarry [DVD filed with these minutes].

Mr. Davis thanked everyone for coming and their investment in the County. Mr. Davis also thanked the fire departments and volunteers as well as the citizens of Oconee County.

Mr. Cain thanked the volunteers with the fire departments and noted this is a huge asset to the County. He further noted that public safety is number one in this County. Mr. Cain noted companies are constantly asking if they can buy or lease the Rock Quarry and further noted this is not a new issue.

Mr. Hart echoed everyone and thanked the firemen for their hard work.

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 February 6, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

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:

- Public Hearing of Ordinance: 2018-04
- Third Reading of Ordinance: 2018-04
- Second Reading of Ordinance: 2018-05
- First Reading of Ordinance: 2018-06
- Discussion Regarding Action Items
- Board & Commission Appointments
- New Business
- Council Committee Reports

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2018-04 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 38 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS ONLY, REGARDING SETBACK LANGUAGE FOR COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO."

[Commercial Structure Setback Language]

Ms. Cammick opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Ms. Cammick opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. 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 2018-04**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2018-04 *[see caption above]*

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2018-04** on third & final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2018-05 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN OFFICE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AS LESSOR AND JULIE IBRAHIM AS LESSEE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, LOCATED ADJACENT TO HANGAR E, OCONEE COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT, 365 AIRPORT ROAD, SENECA, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.."

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve **Ordinance 2018-05** on second reading.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to amend the caption as stated in red revising the language.

Ms. Cammick called for the vote. It was approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2018-05** on second reading as amended.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2018-06 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE OCONEE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.”

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2018-06** on first reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Tractor with Samurai Boom Mower / Roads & Bridges / Amount: \$124,718.22

Budget: \$124,718.22 / Project Cost: \$124,718.22 / Balance: \$0.00

This slope mower consists of a 2017 John Deere 6105E tractor with a 22 ft. Samurai Boom Mower attached. It is used by the Roads and Bridges department for vegetation management in areas that are not accessible by conventional mowers. This slope mower is a replacement for the tractor with boom mower; purchased in September of 2009, that was a total loss due to fire on December 7, 2017, while the tractor was being used to mow at the County Airport.

It is the staff’s recommendation that Council approve the purchase of a 2017 John Deere Tractor with a 22 ft. Samurai Boom mower from Flint Equipment Company of Simpsonville, SC, in the amount of \$124,718.22.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0, to approve the purchase of a 2017 John Deere Tractor with a 22 ft. Samurai Boom mower from Flint Equipment Company of Simpsonville, SC, in the amount of \$124,718.22. [Insurance reimbursement total loss was \$72,987.58. The remaining portion of \$51,730.64 will come for capital equipment of the budget for the Road Department in the general fund.]

Board & Commission Appointments

Building Codes Appeal Board

No nominations were made.

Conservation Bank Board

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve Mr. Ernie Lombard to Conservation Bank Board, District II.

Board of Zoning Appeals

No nominations were made.

Old / Unfinished Business

None at this meeting.

New Business

Ms. Cammick noted there is a new bill in the House of Representatives. South Carolina House Bill 4945 was sponsored by several Republicans and two Democratic representatives. They are looking to sell Greenville Hospital System due to not being happy with the leadership and how the leaders created a separate entity and robbed the community of their hospital. They are looking to establish a bidding process to sell Greenville Hospital System, appoint an interim President to preside, and an interim board. Discussion continued.

Council Committee Reports:

Ms. Cammick read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] outlining the discussions held at the February 13, 2018 Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee meeting.

Mr. Davis read from a prepared statement [copy filed with these minutes] outlining the discussions held at the February 13, 2018 Real Estate, Facilities, & Land Management Committee meeting.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cammick, to approve the County's commitment to explore an agreement with the City of Westminster to build a County Magistrate Office.

Discussion continued to include but not limited to:

- Exploring the possibilities at this time
- Magistrate needs a new space
- No plan, no location when presentation was made from Westminster City Administrator during the Real Estate, Facilities, & Land Management Committee meeting
- Prior study completed to look for commercial buildings in Westminster; not a whole lot of suitable places that wouldn't cost a fortune to renovate and make ADA compliant
- Joint facility

Mr. Davis called for the vote. The motion passed 5 – 0, to approve the County's commitment to explore an agreement with the City of Westminster to build a County Magistrate Office.

Executive Session:

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, 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] *“Receive legal advice in relation to and discuss potential claim against vendor for failure to provide agreed upon services.”*

[2] *“Receive legal advice regarding potential property purchase at Oconee County Rock Quarry.”*

Council entered Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:57 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0.

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

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to direct the County Attorney and County Administrator to work to resolve a claim against a vendor as noted in the Executive Session item as discussed during Executive Session.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to direct the County Administrator to proceed with the purchase of new equipment and upgrades necessary to maintain the Oconee County Rock Quarry.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to amend the previous motion and include the removal of current potential property purchase at the Oconee County Rock Quarry.

Ms. Cammick called for the vote. The amended motion passed 5 – 0, to approve to direct the County Administrator to proceed with the purchase of new equipment and upgrades necessary to maintain the Oconee County Rock Quarry and the removal of current potential property purchase.

Executive Session:

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session item “discussion of the annexation with Lakeside Lodge, Lot 8 in Hartwell Village.”

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, 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 of the annexation with Lakeside Lodge, Lot 8 in Hartwell Village.”

Council entered Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:55 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.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to direct the County Administrator, County Attorney, and Economic Development Director to engage in negotiations on Project Lakeside to discuss Economic Development incentives consistent with neighboring developments contingent upon no annexation into the City of Clemson.

Adjourn

Mr. Davis made a motion, approved unanimously 5 – 0, to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council