



**MINUTES**  
**OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 7, 2020**

**MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr. John Elliott, District I  
Mr. Paul Cain, District III  
Mr. Julian Davis III, District IV  
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V  
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & Clerk to Council Katie D. Smith, 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](http://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: Caitlin Herrington / Daily Journal.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Root called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Root presided over the meeting pending the election of a new chairperson.

**Public Comment Session**

Mr. Tony Adams addressed Council regarding the proposed sale of the 300 acres Golden Corner Commerce Park to the solar energy firm.

Mr. Paul Bitterman addressed Council introducing himself and noting he is opening the Westminster Motorsports Park this summer and gave each member of Council a business card [copy filed with backup materials].

Mr. John Bednar addressed Council announcing his decision to run for the District 3 office in the House of Representatives in Washington.

Mr. Root interrupted Mr. Bednar noting we do not allow any type of campaigning or partisan political activities of any nature during a Council meeting.

Mr. Bednar apologized and noted he was going to explain that he had to get a petition with 10,000 signatures but said he was not trying to get people to vote for him. He further noted his next comment had nothing to do with politics but rather with international trade program and noted that perhaps this area would be a good candidate for a free trade zone.

Mr. Jerry Barnett addressed Council regarding the oath, Bill of Rights, and the Planning Commission.

## **County Council Response to Public Comment**

Mr. McCall addressed Mr. Bednar's comments noting we were declared a trade zone from the State Ports Authority about four years ago.

Mr. McCall also addressed Mr. Adams' comments regarding the 300 acres at Golden Corner Commerce Park.

## **Moment of Silence**

Mr. Root 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:**

Ms. Amanda Brock 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 December 17, 2019 Regular meeting minutes as presented.

## **Election of Officers**

### **Council Chairperson**

Mr. Hart nominated Mr. Elliott as Council Chairperson. Mr. Cain nominated Mr. Davis as Council Chairperson.

Mr. Root noted there were a couple of ways to handle a nomination, which in this instance is the Council Chairperson position. One way to handle the nomination is by a voice vote and the first person nominated is voted for or against first and then the second person is voted for or against. He further noted the rules of procedure disfavor this method if there is more than one candidate. The second way and the preferred method when you have two candidates for one position is to use a ballot system. He noted that since Mr. Elliott and Mr. Davis are nominated, he would give each Council member a ballot and they are to write on the ballots who they are voting for and write their name on the bottom of the page and the ballots are then given to the Clerk to Council to tally.

Council decided to vote using the ballot system.

Mr. Root gave each member of Council a ballot to write their vote on and then collected them and gave to the Clerk to Council. The Clerk to Council read each ballot on the record [copy of ballots filed in backup materials] and tallied the votes. The following were the votes: Mr. Elliott, Mr. Cain, & Mr. Davis voted in favor of Mr. Davis; Mr. Hart & Mr. McCall voted in favor of Mr. Elliott. The majority of the votes were in favor of Mr. Davis.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Davis to preside as chair.

### **Council Vice Chairperson**

Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 0, as Council Vice Chairperson.

Mr. McCall left the meeting during the vote of Council Vice Chairperson.

### **Council Chairperson Pro Tem**

Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Elliott, approved 4 – 0, as Council Chairperson Pro Tem.

### **Appointment/Re-Appointment of the following Appointed Officials**

#### **Clerk to Council**

Mr. Davis nominated Katie D. Smith, approved 4 – 0, to re-appoint as the Clerk to County Council.

#### **County Chaplain**

Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Root, approved 4 – 0, to re-appoint as the County Chaplain.

### **Appointment of Council Committees for 2020 by Chairman**

- Budget, Finance & Administration  
Mr. Elliott as Chairperson; committee consists of all Council members.
- Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare  
Mr. McCall as Chairperson; Mr. Davis and Mr. Elliott as committee members.
- Planning & Economic Development  
Mr. Cain as Chairperson; Mr. Davis and Mr. Elliott as committee members.
- Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management  
Mr. Davis as Chairperson; Mr. Cain and Mr. Hart as committee members.
- Transportation  
Mr. Hart as Chairperson; Mr. Davis and Mr. Cain as committee members.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 4 – 0, to approve the appointment of Council Committees as submitted [copy filed with backup materials].

### **Appointment of 2020 Council Representatives by Chairman**

Mr. Davis made a nomination for the following Council Representatives.

- SC Appalachian Council of Government Board of Directors
- Oconee Business Education
- Ten At The Top [TATT] Board of Directors

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 0, to appoint the following as representatives: Mr. Elliott to the SC Appalachian Council of Government Board of Directors; Mr. Davis to the Oconee Business Education; and Mr. Eldridge to the Ten at the Top [TATT] Board of Directors.

### **2020 Meeting Schedule Establishment for Council / Committees**

#### **County Council meeting schedule & Committee meeting schedule**

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 4 – 0, to approve the Council meeting schedule & the Committee meeting schedule as submitted [copy filed with backup materials.]

**Public Hearing for the Following Ordinances**

None at this meeting.

**Third & Final Reading for the Following Ordinances**

None at this meeting.

**First Reading of the Following Ordinances**

None at this meeting.

**First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions**

None at this meeting.

**Discussion Regarding Action Items**

None at this meeting.

**Board & Commission Appointments**

Arts & Historical Commission

Mr. Cain made a nomination, approved 4 – 0, to appoint Mr. Thomas Jones as the District III representative on the Arts & Historical Commission.

Library Board

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 4 – 0, to appoint Mr. Clifton Powell an At-Large representative on the Library Board.

**Old / Unfinished Business:**

None at this meeting.

**New Business:**

None at this meeting.

**Executive Session:**

None at this meeting.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Katie D. Smith  
Clerk to Council