



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

February 18, 2020

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, Chair Pro Tem, District I

Mr. Paul Cain, Vice Chair, District III

Mr. Julian Davis III, Chairman, 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, 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: Caitlin Herrington / Daily Journal

Call to Order:

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session

Ms. Sharon DeRidder addressed Council regarding the hiring contract with the current County Administrator, Ms. Amanda Brock.

Mr. Jerry Barnett addressed Council regarding previous comments made by Ms. Sharon DeRidder and the comprehensive land use plan.

Mr. Frankie Pearson addressed Council utilizing a handout [copy filed with backup materials] regarding his comments at the February 4, 2020 County Council meeting.

Mr. Matthew Durham addressed Council regarding healthcare, economic development, and the South Carolina Association of Counties [SCAC].

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County Council Response to Public Comment

Mr. Davis responded to Ms. DeRidder's comments noting he stands by making Ms. Brock the County Administrator.

Mr. Cain echoed Mr. Davis' comments regarding the County Administrator and noted she is doing a great job.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Davis asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by the County Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve the February 4, 2020 Regular Minutes as presented.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock briefly updated Council regarding the following:

- Delay the Presentation of the Serve Member Patriot Award until later in the meeting due to a staff member not present and is the recipient of the award

Attorney's Comments

Mr. Root briefly updated Council regarding the following:

- Will have Public Hearing for Ordinance 2020-06 but need a motion to postpone 3rd reading
- Need a motion to postpone first reading of Ordinance 2020-07
- Item #3 under Executive Session has been removed from the agenda as it is not needed

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to postpone 3rd reading of **Ordinance 2020-06**.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to postpone 1st reading of **Ordinance 2020-07**.

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2020-04 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A RESIDENTIAL LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OONEE COUNTY AS LESSOR AND JAMES KENT CROOKS AS LESSEE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, LOCATED AT 207 CROOKS ROAD, SENECA, SOUTH

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CAROLINA; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Davis opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Davis opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council.

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

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2020-04**.

Ordinance 2020-06 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING: (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT AZTEC, PROVIDING FOR A PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES; (2) THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; (3) THE ISSUANCE AND DELIVERY OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK AGREEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY; (4) THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Davis opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Davis opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council.

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

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2020-06**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2020-04 [see caption above]

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2020-04** on third & final reading.

Ordinance 2020-05 [see caption above]

Ordinance 2020-05 postponed earlier in the meeting – see Attorney’s Comments

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

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First Reading for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2020-07 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS OF SC INC.; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.”

Ordinance 2020-07 was postponed earlier in the meeting – see Attorney’s comments

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

Resolution 2020-02 “A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN OCONEE COUNTY AS AN ABANDONED TEXTILE MILL SITE, INCLUDING PARCELS IDENTIFIED BY TAX MAP NUMBERS 210-00-01-047, 210-00-01-056, 210-00-01-055, and 210-00-01-003.”

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2020-02** on first & final reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

2020 Finn T90T Hydro-Seeder / Roads & Bridges / \$60,645.78

Budget: \$593,057.71 **Project Cost:** \$60,645.78 **Balance:** \$532,411.93

This purchase is for a Finn T90T Hydro-Seeder that will be used by the Roads and Bridges Maintenance Crew to stabilize shoulders, slopes and other disturbed areas. This machine will also be used to assist other Departments as needed. This will be replacing a 1999 Finn T90T Hydro-Seeder. The Roads and Bridges Department plans to retrofit this machine to be used as a storm pipe washer.

It is the staff’s recommendation that Council approve the purchase of a 2020 Finn T90T Hydro-Seeder to Flint Equipment of Simpsonville, SC, in the amount of \$60,645.78, per Contract Number 052417-FNN.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0, to approve the purchase of a 2020 Finn T90T Hydro-Seeder to Flint Equipment of Simpsonville, SC, in the amount of \$60,645.78, per Contract Number 052417-FNN.

2018 Motor Grader 620G / Roads & Bridges / \$222,198.09

Budget: \$532,411.93 **Project Cost:** \$222,198.09 **Balance:** \$310,213.84

This purchase is for a 2018 John Deere 620G Motor Grader that will be used by the Roads and Bridges Maintenance Crew to maintain gravel roads, cut shoulders, and clean out ditches throughout the County. It will also be used to remove snow and ice during a severe Winter Weather event. This Motor Grader will be replacing a 1994 Champion 720A which will be sold as surplus via public auction or GovDeals.

It is the staff’s recommendation that Council approve the purchase of a 2018 John Deere 620G Motor Grader to Flint Equipment of Simpsonville, SC, in the amount of \$222,198.09, per Contract Number 032515-JDC.

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Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0, to approve the purchase of a 2018 John Deere 620G Motor Grader to Flint Equipment of Simpsonville, SC, in the amount of \$222,198.09, per Contract Number 032515-JDC.

Four (4) Chevrolet Tahoe's / Sheriff's Office / \$134,112.00

Budget: \$310,213.84

Project Cost: \$134,112.00

Balance: \$176,101.84

Sheriff's fleet vehicles necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 operations includes four (4) 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit SUV's. Love Chevrolet of Columbia, SC was awarded SC State Contract # 4400017323 for Chevrolet SUV's. The order cutoff date for Chevrolet Tahoe's under contract # 4400017323 was 10/31/2019, however, Love Chevrolet has four on order for their dealership that they have agreed to sell the County at the State Contract pricing. The new vehicles will replace high-mileage vehicles currently used in the Sheriff's fleet. The vehicles being replaced will be sold as surplus or replace older vehicles used in other County departments. The Fleet Maintenance Director also approves this purchase.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve purchase of four (4) Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit SUV's to Love Chevrolet of Columbia, SC, in the amount of \$134,112.00, per State Contract # 4400017323.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the purchase of four (4) Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit SUV's to Love Chevrolet of Columbia, SC, in the amount of \$134,112.00, per State Contract # 4400017323.

Request for Council's approval to commit matching funds, not to exceed \$69,754.00 toward the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Grant Offer for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Project No. 3-45-0016-027-2020 and authorize the County Administrator to accept and execute the corresponding FAA Grant Offer / Oconee County Airport / Approximately \$69,754.00

The total amount to Expand Terminal Apron - Final Phase Project will be \$1,395,074.00. The FAA offers and agrees to pay ninety (90) percent of the allowable costs incurred accomplishing this Project, up to \$1,255,566.00. Oconee County's matching share of Grant 3-45-0016-027-2020 is five (5) percent of the costs to Expand the Terminal Apron- Final Phase Project, or approximately \$69,754.00. The South Carolina Aeronautics Commission (SCAC) will match the remaining five (5) percent.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council authorize County Administrator Amanda Brock to accept and execute the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Offer for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Project No. 3-45-0016-027-2020 and commit approximately \$69,754.00 in matching funds.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to authorize County Administrator Amanda Brock to accept and execute the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Offer for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Project No. 3-45-0016-027-2020 and commit approximately \$69,754.00 in matching funds.

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Council consideration and approval of adding a full time position for a Life after Lock Up participant when released from the Oconee County Detention Center

This inmate came to the Oconee Rock Quarry on 08/12/2019 from the Oconee County Detention Center as part of the inmate labor partnership between the Quarry and the Oconee County Detention Center. He completed new miner training and began driving a haul truck. He has operated heavy equipment in the past, and this has enabled him to quickly master operating different pieces of equipment around the Quarry.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve this request for adding a full time position for a Life after Lock Up Program to the Oconee Rock Quarry.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, to approve adding a full time position for a Life after Lock Up Program to the Oconee Rock Quarry.

Ms. Brock noted this is for a position, not a particular person. Discussion continued.

Mr. Davis noted he was grateful to the Rock Quarry and staff for giving someone a second chance and this is a great opportunity.

Regarding the previous motion made by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Cain, it was approved 5 – 0, to approve adding a full time position for a Life after Lock Up Program to the Oconee Rock Quarry.

Board & Commission Appointments

Building Codes Appeal Board

No questionnaires were submitted for the 1 At Large seat.

Agricultural Advisory Board

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Kim Alexander as the District 1 representative on the Agricultural Advisory Board.

Arts & Historical Commission

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Suzette Cross as the At-Large representative on the Arts & Historical Commission.

No questionnaires were submitted for the District 5 seat.

Board of Zoning Appeals

No questionnaires were submitted for the District 5 seat.

Council Committee Reports

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0, to approve funding in an amount not to exceed \$110,000 to the Joseph F. Sullivan Center [former DHEC building] located at 200 Booker Drive,

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Walhalla, SC 29691.

Presentation of the Serve Member Patriot Award – Employer Support of the Guard [ESGR]

Mr. Phil Boozer, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, addressed Council noting it is their responsibility to promote an understanding among the employers of the importance of the Guard and Reserve.

Sgt. Scott Smith nominated his supervisor, Deputy Chief of Special Operations Scott Krein, for the My Boss is a Patriot Award.

Deputy Chief Krein came forward to accept the award from Sgt. Smith and Mr. Boozer.

Unfinished Business

None at this meeting.

New Business

Mr. Elliott noted the Sheriff's Office hired a second litter officer and noted to "put some teeth" with the additional hiring, he would like to have a motion for the County Administrator to look at the current fine for litter and come back to the next meeting with her recommendations. He noted we have a beautiful County and we need to keep it beautiful.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to direct the County Administrator to look at the current fine for littering and bring back to full Council.

Mr. Root noted the enforcement of the County Ordinances are backup by the Magistrate's Court, which has a limit of \$500 jurisdiction or 30 days in jail. He further noted the litter enforcement officers sometimes cite under the County Ordinance, which has that cap and sometimes State, which goes on volume.

Mr. Cain noted it could potentially be more impactful and a better behavioral modification sentence if the citizens have to pick up litter.

Regarding the previous motion made by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Davis, it was approved 5 – 0, to direct the County Administrator to look at the current fine for littering and bring back to full Council.

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 and discuss litigation regarding a contractual matter.

[2] Discussion regarding a personnel matter related to the Administration Department.

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~~[3] Receive legal advice and discuss contractual matter regarding potential purchase of real property.~~

Council entered Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0.

Mr. Davis stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

[#2] Mr. Root asked for a motion to authorize the County Council Chairman to execute a new master employment agreement with the County Administrator along the terms discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to authorize the County Council Chairman to execute a new master employment agreement with the County Administrator along the terms discussed in Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council

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