



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

May 5, 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: None at this meeting.

Call to Order:

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

Public Comment Session

There will be no live general public comment period. If you have a comment you would like to submit, please contact our Clerk to Council, Katie Smith at ksmith@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record. [No citizen contacted the Clerk to Council to provide a written comment for the Public Comment Session.]

None at this meeting.

County Council Response to Public Comment

Mr. Cain thanked those who have continued to help in the Seneca area over the last four weeks in the aftermath of the tornado. He further noted it was amazing to see the community come together and appreciate all that the other local governments have contributed to our efforts and what the County staff and the City of Seneca staff have done.

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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:

Ms. Brock led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve the April 21, 2020 Regular Minutes as presented.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock updated Council regarding the following:

- First Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee meeting was held prior to the Council meeting and did not have 1st reading of the budget ordinances due to changing the dates due to the tornado response
- 1st reading is anticipated to be held at the May 19, 2020 Council meeting with a Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee prior to the Council meeting
- Received the FEMA Declaration of Disaster; have worked diligently with Anderson Interfaith Ministries, which is a local upstate non-profit organization that is registered with the state of SC through the SC Trust Fund
- Have another grant opportunity for direct assistance for tornado disaster victims
- Proclamation 2020-03 Recognizing May 15, 2020 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 10-16 as National Police Week is on the agenda and this is the first time that Law Enforcement has been absent from Council Chambers. Ms. Brock thanked Deputy Steve Wessendorf for representing law enforcement

Attorney's Comments

No comments at this meeting.

Proclamation 2020-03

Proclamation 2020-03 Recognizing May 15, 2020 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 10 – 16, 2020 as National Police Week

Mr. Davis read **Proclamation 2020-03** into the record.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to accept **Proclamation 2020-03** on first & final reading.

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Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

If you would like to be heard during either of the public hearings, please contact Katie Smith at ksmith@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023 so that she may coordinate your participation by telephone.

No citizen contacted the Clerk to Council to provide a written comment for the Public Hearing Session.

Ordinance 2020-08 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING: (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE CREDIT AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE CREDITS TO PROJECT TROUT; (2) THE ISSUANCE AND DELIVERY OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK AGREEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.”

Revised Caption:

Ordinance 2020-08 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING: (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE CREDIT AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE CREDITS TO THE MAY CORPORATION, LLC (previously identified as Project Trout); (2) THE ISSUANCE AND DELIVERY OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK AGREEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.”

Mr. Davis opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mr. Davis noted that no citizens called or sent an email to the Clerk to Council to sign up to address Council regarding **Ordinance 2020-08**.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2020-08**.

Ordinance 2020-11 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, TAX-EXEMPT OR TAXABLE, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$8,000,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING ALL OR A PORTION OF THE COUNTY’S OUTSTANDING SERIES 2011 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING, EQUIPPING, OR REHABILITATING VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS, INCLUDING A FIRE ENGINE AND RELATED EQUIPMENT; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PRESCRIBE THE FORM AND DETAILS OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS AND THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR BORROWING IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.”

Mr. Davis opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mr. Davis noted that no citizens called or sent an email to the Clerk to Council to sign up to address Council regarding **Ordinance 2020-11**.

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Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2020-11**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2020-08 [see caption above]

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to approve **Ordinance 2020-08** on third & final reading.

Discussion continued to include:

- Company has had various stories and has changed several times
- Came to Council with different Agreements
- Project is for the restoration of the Newry Mill
- Work that will be completed will make a huge difference in Newry in providing housing and will save a historic and important part of the County's history

Regarding the previous motion made by Mr. Cain, seconded by Mr. Elliott, it was approved 4 – 1 [Mr. McCall opposed] to approve **Ordinance 2020-08** on third & final reading.

Ordinance 2020-11 [see caption above]

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2020-11** on third & final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2020-12 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A GOVERNMENTAL REAL ESTATE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AS LESSOR AND CLEMSON UNIVERSITY AS LESSEE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, LOCATED AT 200 BOOKER DRIVE, WALHALLA, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2020-12** on second reading.

First Reading for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2020-13 “AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REAL PROPERTY REASSESSMENT IN OCONEE COUNTY BE DELAYED FOR ONE (1) YEAR, AS AUTHORIZED BY STATUTE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2020-13** on first reading.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

None at this meeting.

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Discussion Regarding Action Items

None at this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

Building Codes Appeal Board

No questionnaires were submitted for the 1 At Large seat.

Board of Zoning Appeals

No questionnaires were submitted for the District 5 seat.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Hart noted he and Mr. McCall have received several phone calls from truck drivers that cannot get the rock they are in need of.

Mr. McCall added triple production has not happened like it was supposed to and has heard several excuses as to why this has not happened. He noted the warranty is fixing to run out so the equipment needs to be sent back. He further noted the equipment has a habit of breaking down. He noted they were told the old crusher would continue to run as well.

Ms. Brock noted she was unsure how this was brought up under Unfinished Business because the Rock Quarry has not been on the agenda for over a year. She further noted she would ask this discussion be put on the June 2nd agenda and to complete an evaluation on how many tons the County is selling and how much the cost per ton is because we are making record sales. Additionally, she noted one of the reasons the County is running out of rock every single day is we can sell 900 tons in six hours in an amount that we couldn't sell before in four days. Further, she noted that is not that we are not making rock, we simply cannot meet the demand. Ms. Brock asked if Mr. Davis, Mr. Cain, or Mr. Elliott have received phone calls regarding this issue and all stated no. Discussion continued.

Per Mr. McCall, Mr. Root noted there was three tiers of different warranties that apply to different parts of the plant. He noted there was a one-year warranty but it was extended for the main part of the plant for up to three years.

Mr. Root further noted this can be discussed as a point of order but should be a new business matter but consistent with Freedom of Information Act and fairness to the public, this should be a cursory discussion and put on as an action item.

A question was asked as to why the old plant is not running. Ms. Brock noted we cannot simultaneously run two plants at the same time because DHEC does not allow us to run two quarries at the same time. She further noted we are not permitted for this. She further noted it is a mine and continuously have a lot of visitors that come into that mine without signing in, bypassing every single safety protocol in place. Discussion continued.

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New Business

None at this meeting.

Executive Session:

None at this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. McCall made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council

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