



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

September 21, 2021

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, Chairman, District I
Mr. Paul Cain, Vice Chairman, District III
Mr. Julian Davis III, Chairman Pro Tem, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V
Mr. Matthew Durham, 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 and County Attorney David Root 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: Dick Mangrum / WGOG and Riley Morningstar / The Journal

Call to Order

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

Mr. Elliott opened the meeting reminding the public they have two opportunities to speak during Council meetings, which is during the public comment session and also during the public hearing session, if scheduled. Other than those two instances, the public should remain silent during the Council meeting. Anyone making a disturbance during the meeting will be asked to leave Council Chambers for the remainder of the meeting.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Elliott requested a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by County Council 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. Durham, approved 5 – 0, to approve the September 7, 2021 Regular Minutes as presented.

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Attorney's Comments

Mr. Root had no comments.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock addressed Council regarding the District V questionnaire for the Aeronautics Commission, received on September 21, 2021, which was provided to Council for review (copy filed with backup materials).

Additionally, Ms. Brock recognized the five (5) Oconee County employees identified by the Oconee Chamber of Commerce among the Top 20 Under 40 for exceptional professionalism:

- Liz Johnson, High Falls County Park;
- Sgt. Nina McKee, Oconee County Sheriff's Office;
- Lt. Anna Orr, Oconee County Sheriff's Office;
- Kyle Reid, Roads & Bridges; and
- Quintell Walker, Oconee County Public Library.

Appointment of Interim Clerk to County Council

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Kim Wilbanks as the Interim Clerk to Council.

Ms. Brock provided a brief description of the responsibilities of the Interim Clerk to Council.

Public Comment Session

If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting the Clerk to Council at councilclerkinfo@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023, so that your comment may be read into the record.

Mr. David Dial addressed Council to express his support of County Auditor Christy Hubbard's proposed millage decrease for the upcoming fiscal year.

Ms. Margaret Harper addressed Council regarding homelessness and the need to alleviate the suffering of homeless people in Oconee County.

Council Member Comments

Mr. Elliott announced that Oconee County identified a new location for the Bountyland Fire Substation, adjacent to the Maranatha Baptist Church at 240 Keowee School Road, and expressed gratitude to the church, the Board of Deacons and the congregation for their willingness to subdivide their property for this important investment for emergency services and public safety.

Mr. Durham agreed with Mr. Dial regarding his statements on Federal spending and stated that he hoped to get the ball rolling on a Homeless Task Force.

Mr. Davis addressed Ms. Walker regarding homelessness and the various organizations which are currently in effect in Oconee County. Additionally, Mr. Davis recognized Ms. Brock for her work toward finding a location for the Bountyland Fire Substation.

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Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to direct the County Attorney to draft a Right to Life and Opportunity Proclamation to be presented at the Regular Council Meeting scheduled in October or November, as feasible.

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

If you are not able to attend in person and you would like to be heard during the public hearings, please contact the Clerk to Council at 864-718-1023 or by email at councilclerkinfo@oconeesc.com.

Ordinance 2021-17 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AMENDED FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND PREZERO US SERVICES, LLC, AND AMENDING THE AMENDED FEE AGREEMENT DATED AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2019; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

General Government matter

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

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

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

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2021-17**.

Ordinance 2021-18 “AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE PARCEL 192-00-04-028 FROM THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO THE LAKE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, PURSUANT TO OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 38, ARTICLE 8.”

Forwarded from the Planning Commission

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

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

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

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2021-18**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2021-17 *[see caption above]*

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2021-17** on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2021-18 *[see caption above]*

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2021-18** on third and final reading.

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Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2021-20 “AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF A PORTION OF LOCAL CORONAVIRUS FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDING THAT HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO OCONEE COUNTY UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (“ARPA”), AS FOLLOWS: (1) APPROPRIATING THREE MILLION AND 00/100 (\$3,000,000.00) DOLLARS OF COUNTY ARPA FUNDING FOR PURPOSES OF NECESSARY WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF SENECA (“SENECA WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT”); (2) AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS, OF UP TO THREE MILLION AND 00/100 (\$3,000,000.00) DOLLARS OF SUCH APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR THE SENECA WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT; AND (3) OTHER MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED THERETO.”

As directed by Council on August 17, 2021

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5-0, to approve **Ordinance 2021-20** on second reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2021-21 “AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF A PORTION OF LOCAL CORONAVIRUS FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDING THAT HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO OCONEE COUNTY UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (“ARPA”), AS FOLLOWS: (1) APPROPRIATING TWO MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOUR THOUSAND, EIGHTY AND 00/100 (\$2,474,080.00) DOLLARS OF COUNTY ARPA FUNDING FOR PURPOSES OF NECESSARY WATER / WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF WALHALLA (“WALHALLA WATER / WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT”); (2) AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS, OF UP TO TWO MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOUR THOUSAND, EIGHTY AND 00/100 (\$2,474,080.00) DOLLARS OF SUCH APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR THE WALHALLA WATER / WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT; AND (3) OTHER MATTERS DIRECTLY RELATED THERETO.”

As directed by Council on September 7, 2021

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve **Ordinance 2021-21** on first reading.

The City of Walhalla Administrator, Brandon Burton, provided a brief presentation regarding the necessary water / wastewater infrastructure projects for which the allocated funds would be utilized, including improvement across multiple Council Districts in the Poplar Springs area and along Hwy 11 (copy filed with backup materials).

Regarding the motion made by Mr. Durham, Council unanimously approved **Ordinance 2021-21** on first reading.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

Resolution 2021-11 “A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND EXPRESSING OCONEE COUNTY’S SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION OF DUKE ENERGY FOR ITS NUMEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OCONEE COUNTY.”

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Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0 [Mr. Durham recused], to approve **Resolution 2021-11** on first and final reading.

Resolution 2021-12 “A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH.”

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2021-12** on first and final reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Presentation of Millage Recommendation for Tax Year 2021 Fiscal Year 2022

Ms. Christy Hubbard, Oconee County Auditor

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to accept the recommended millage set by the Oconee County Auditor (copy filed with backup materials).

Mr. Cain and Mr. Hart expressed their gratitude to the Auditor for her hard work.

Local ATAX Grants / Fall 2021 Cycle / \$223,225

A portion of Local ATAX revenues received by Oconee County are made available for ATAX grants through Ordinance 2011-12. ATAX grants are to be tourism related grants that meet the ATAX guidelines specified by local and State mandates. Grants are recommended by the PRT Commission based on tourism impact of the project and approved by County Council. All external ATAX grant recipients are required to turn in intermediate reports every 60 days to the progress of the grant and a final report upon completion of the grant.

These reports are placed in the grant folder, which is kept active by the PRT staff until the grant is considered complete. Internal projects through Oconee PRT are also funneled through local ATAX for eligible projects.

It is the staff’s recommendation that Council approve ATAX grant recommendations per the attached spreadsheet.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve the ATAX grant funds as recommended.

Procurement #: RFP 21-02 Title: Aviation Fuel Department(s): Airport

Amount: \$675,000.00 (Av-gas \$200,000 / Jet A \$475,000)

This RFP is for the purchase and delivery of aviation fuels (100-octane low lead Avgas and Jet A) on an as needed basis to the County Airport fixed base operation (FBO). Pricing will be based on the Weekly Market Rack Price for Avgas and the Weekly U.S. Gulf Coast Mean Average for JetA, for the week prior to the order and delivery. The primary terminal for Avgas is Wilmington, NC and for Jet A it is North Augusta, SC. If fuel is not available at those terminals, alternate terminals would be utilized. Alternate terminal for Avgas is Savannah, GA and for Jet A it is Belton, SC. These fuels are sold to the public, both to the aircraft based at the Airport and to transient aircraft visiting the airport. There are currently 75 based aircraft at the airport.

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The current fuel contract expires on September 30, 2021, so it is important the RFP be awarded to avoid an interruption of fuel supply to the airport customers. Quantities in the RFP were estimated for pricing purposes. The cost of the bulk fuel is paid for by the retail sales and this is shown as revenue and expenditures in the Airport's budget. The total amount for Council approval is based on the fuel amount approved in the Airport's 2021-2022 budget.

On August 24, 2021, sealed proposals were opened. Eleven (11) fuel providers were originally notified of this opportunity, five (5) companies submitted proposals. An Evaluation Committee consisting of County Staff and a member from the Aeronautics Commission reviewed and scored the proposals and unanimously recommended the Award to Eastern Aviation Fuels, Inc., dba Titan Aviation Fuels, of New Bern, NC.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council:

1. Approve the award of RFP 21-02, Aviation Fuel to Eastern Aviation Fuels, Inc., dba Titan Aviation Fuels, of New Bern, NC, in an estimated amount of \$675,000.00.
2. Authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract documents and to renew this contract for up to four (4) one-year periods, as long as the amount does not exceed the amount budgeted for the aviation fuel and the services provided are satisfactory.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve the award of RFP 21-02, Aviation Fuel to Eastern Aviation Fuels, Inc., dba Titan Aviation Fuels, of New Bern, NC, and authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract document and to renew this contract for up to four one-year periods. Mr. Davis also stated the fuel is sold for a profit.

Networking Infrastructure for the Oconee County 911 Center

Department: Communications

Amount: \$85,407.48

This purchase is for networking infrastructure and installation in the Oconee County 911 Back-Up Center; located at 445 Oconee Business Parkway in Westminster, SC. A partnership with the School District of Oconee County is allowing a backup 911 center to be constructed at their campus. If the primary 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) were to experience failure or natural disaster, rendering the law enforcement center uninhabitable, this backup center will be utilized. The backup center will also be utilized for telecommunicator training.

Iron Grid Networks, LLC. of Commerce, GA is the current maintenance provider for the network infrastructure at the main Oconee County PSAP. These two systems will be required to seamlessly integrate in order to provide real-time connectivity and maintain a 24/7 service level agreement. Both 911 centers will be live and synchronized so that in the event of an emergency at the main PSAP, 911 service can be continued without interruption at the backup site.

Ruckus Wireless was awarded SC State Contract # 4400026706 for wired/wireless network hardware and software. Iron Grid Networks, LLC. is an authorized Ruckus Networking Solution Provider.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of networking infrastructure for the 911 Back-Up Center to Iron Grid Networks, LLC. of Commerce, GA in the amount of \$85,407.48.

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Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve the purchase of networking infrastructure for the 911 Back-Up Center to Iron Grid Networks, LLC. of Commerce, GA in the amount of \$85,407.48.

Council Committee Reports

None scheduled for this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

Aeronautics Commission

Mr. Hart made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Eric Barnhill as the District V representative on the Aeronautics Commission.

Building Codes Appeal Board

No nomination was made for the At-Large seat during this meeting.

Executive Session:

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] Receive legal advice and discuss opioid litigation.

[2] “Discuss personnel matter regarding Clerk to Council position, including candidate assessment.”

Council entered Executive Session at 6:45 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0.

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

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to [1] authorize Council Chair to issue a letter to the South Carolina Attorney General as requested by the County’s litigation attorney.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to [2] direct the County Administrator to extend an offer, as discussed, to candidate one for the Clerk to Council position and, if accepted, start the on-boarding process.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Acting Clerk to Council

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