

Minutes

6:00 PM, Monday, February 13, 2023

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present

Christopher Talley
Charlie Whiten
Rex Blanton
Kim Alexander
Ashley Townsend
Tessa Moxley

Staff Present

James Coley

Media Present

None

1. **Call to order-** Mr. Coley called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.
2. **Moment of silence**
3. **Invocation**
4. **Pledge of allegiance**
5. **Nominations for 2023**
 - Ms. Moxley nominated Ms. Alexander for Chair, seconded by Mr. Blanton. Ms. Alexander accepted the nomination and the motion passed 5/0.
 - Mr. Whiten nominated Mr. Blanton for Vice Chair, seconded by Ms. Townsend. Mr. Blanton accepted the nomination and the motion passed 5/0.
 - Ms. Alexander nominated Ms. Moxley for Secretary, seconded by Mr. Blanton. Ms. Moxley accepted the nomination and the motion passed 5/0.
6. **Approval of Calendar**
 - Second Monday of each month.
 - Mr. Blanton made a motion to approve the calendar, seconded by Mr Whiten and approved 5/0
7. **Approval of minutes-** December 12, 2022. Ms. Townsend made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr Whiten. Ms. Alexander called for a vote. The motion passed 5/0.
8. **Public Comment Session** *[3 minutes per person] If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting the Planning Department at planninginfo@oconeesc.com or 864-638-4218, so that we may receive your comment and read it into the record*

9. Discussions [to include vote and/or action on matters brought up in discussion if required]

- Ms. Alexander made a motion to reorder the discussion presentations
- Gwen McPhail - Sewer South: "Sewer or Agriculture?"
 - i. With sewer systems comes development and the loss of agriculture
 - ii. Agricultural land in the southern part of the county is threatened
 - iii. Ms. McPhail requests that the agriculture advisory board ask the County Council to carefully review the Sewer South proposal before approval.
 - iv. Mr. Blanton asked where the video of the Sewer South proposal can be found
 - 1. www.youtube.com/@YourOconee
 - v. Ms. Alexander expressed a need to show the economic impact of farmers in Oconee County
 - vi. Ms. McPhail - The impacts of Covid-19 demonstrated the need to preserve agriculture in the county
- Mark Fischer – Oconee Soil and Water
 - i. District Manager
 - ii. Has received comments of concern from members of the community regarding Sewer South
 - iii. Ms. Alexander requests that Mr. Fischer help get the word out in order to organize the community around this issue
- Mandolin Bright – Food Council
 - i. Obtained 501c3 status
 - ii. Two main areas of focus for 2023:
 - 1. media and communications
 - 2. data management and assessment committee
 - iii. Opportunity for the Food Council to work with the Agriculture Advisory Board to create links between grassroots efforts and the County
- Member comments
 - i. Ashley moves that we ask the county to fund grassroots level organization i.e. the Food Council instead of funding a single position as written in line item 81110 of the Comprehensive Plan
 - 1. Mr Coley: The Ag Board can support budget requests from other organizations but cannot submit a budget request on behalf of an organization.
 - 2. Members of the Ag Board are to submit a proposed job description and general budget requests to Mr. Coley by Tuesday, February 20th.
- District Meetings 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
 - i. March 13-Charlie Whiten, as representative for District 5 is to obtain a location for the meeting and confirm with Mr. Coley. Mr. Coley will then send out the meeting location announcement.

Adjourn: Mr. Whiten made a motion to adjourn at 7:30pm, seconded by Mr Blanton and approved 5/0.