



MINUTES

BUDGET, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OCONEE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, WALHALLA, SC

February 9, 2016

MEMBERS, ALL OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Paul Cain, District III, Chairman

Ms. Edda Cammick District I Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV

Mr. Wayne McCall, District II Mr. Reg Dexter, District V

The Oconee County Budget, Finance & Administration Committee met at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [except Mr. McCall], Administrator Scott Moulder and Elizabeth G. Hulse 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.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available [upon request] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens. Member of the press present: Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent & Steven Bradley – Daily Journal.

Call to Order: Mr. Cain called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0 to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2015 meeting as presented.

Chief Magistrate Request for Part Time Bond Judges

Mr. Cain provided the Committee with a handout [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting his request for two new part time bond judges. Lengthy discussion followed regarding various aspects of this request to include but not limited to: benefits vs. costs; delegation support; requirements for appointment; etc.. Mr. Moulder noted that this request had been made in previous years but not recommended as part of any of his budgets. Additionally, he noted that he is scheduling a meeting with Senator Alexander to discuss issue. The Committee took no action on this matter at this meeting.

Adoption of 2016 Budget Calendar

Mr. Cain asked the Committee to review the calendar provided. Discussion followed and amendments were suggested to allow all member of the Council to be present for all presentations and votes. The Committee took a brief break between 6:40 p.m. to 6:46 p.m. to allow the Clerk to amend the document [copy filed with these minutes]. The Committee reconvened at which time Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0 to adopt the Budget Calendar as amended at this meeting.

Preliminary Budget Discussions

Mr. Moulder provided the Committee with preliminary raw numbers associated with this preparation of the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget which will be presented to Council on Thursday, April 14, 2016.

Current Operating Budget:	\$41.8 Million
FY 16-17 Requests:	\$51.1 Million
Requests over Current Budget:	\$ 9.3 Million
New Positions Requested	\$ 1.5 Million
Capital Equipment Requested	\$ 221Thousand
New Vehicles Requested	\$ 2.3 Million
Land/Building Improvements	\$ 835 Thousand
ESTIMATED TOTAL	\$ 5.0 Million
Anticipated Revenue for FY 16-17	Slightly Less Than \$ 42 Million

Lengthy discussion followed regarding various aspects of the requests to include:

- City of Walhalla request for a joint/shared planner position
- Other Post-Employment Benefits [OPEB] and the feasibility of continued funding
- funding for Sheriff Office salary matrix
- mill value
- Sewer South project
- Reassessment
- recession forecast for +/- 2018
- state mandated operations
- county reserves / policy.

The Committee also discussed at length funding for the Local Government Fund [LGF] and the impact on the county budget. Mr. Thrift noted that it is each council members responsibility to make the citizens aware that the taxes they pay that are earmarked to be returned to the county to fund state mandated agencies are not coming back as promised therefore the citizens are paying the tax twice. He encouraged citizens to contact their local delegation representatives to request that they support fully funding of the LGF for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. The Committee concurred.

Mr. Moulder requested that the Committee plan a meeting to discuss in detail prioritization and funding for needed capital projects in conjunction with discussions regarding a potential tax increase. He noted that these issues will require a fair amount of time to discuss each in depth in order to establish a plan for taxation and for capital projects.

Mr. Moulder noted that the next Budget, Finance & Administration Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at which time he anticipates he will be able to update the Committee regarding progress on his preparation of a Fiscal Year 2016-2017 balanced budget.

Other Business

None discussed at this meeting.

Adjourn

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 4 – 0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council