



MINUTES
BUDGET, FINANCE, & ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE
May 3, 2022

MEMBERS, ALL OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, District I, Chairman
Mr. Matthew Durham, District II Mr. Paul Cain, District III
Mr. Julian Davis, District IV Mr. Glenn Hart, District V

The Oconee County Budget, Finance & Administration Committee met Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 4:30 PM in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee members present, as well as County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, and Clerk to Council Jennifer C. Adams 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: Riley Morningstar / The Journal

Staff members present: Ladale Price / Finance Director, Connie Bellotte / Accounting Analyst

Call to Order:

Mr. Elliott called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Moment of Silence

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

Invocation by County Chaplain

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Hart 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. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the April 19, 2022 regular minutes as presented.

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Discussion Items

FY 2022-2023 Budget Discussion and Review

Mr. Elliott reminded everyone that it is each Councilman and citizen's responsibility to make an appointment with the County Administrator to discuss any budget line questions that they may have.

Ms. Brock started by welcoming the Committee and noted that there were budget documents on the Committee's desk to replace pages 32 of 101 and page 78 of 101 [copies filed in backup] in the proposed budget book.

The Committee went on to discuss the following budget items:

Recreation Funding

Mr. Davis provided information from letters and emails that he received from each recreation department within the County [copies filed in backup] to the Committee as to what each department plans to do with the proposed increased funding, if approved.

Ms. Brock provided the Committee with a handout entitled "District Recreation Funds Allocated – Oconee County" [copy filed in backup], showing the previous five years' expenditures of the recreation departments, which was requested by The Journal and provided by Mr. Phil Shirley, Oconee County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Director.

Mr. Elliott pointed out a numerical error in the FY19-20 Town of Salem funds and that the \$22,000 should be \$12,000.

Proposed 6% Employee Raises

Mr. Durham requested further clarification of the numbers on page 7 of 7 in the proposed budget book that shows current department salaries and the amount those salaries would increase with a 6% raise.

Ms. Brock clarified for Mr. Durham and the Committee that the numbers in question are including fringe and a new chart was printed at this time and given to the Committee with a breakdown of those numbers [copy filed in backup].

Short discussion continued related to employee salaries and a proposed 6% increase between Ms. Brock and the Committee.

Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Budget Line Items

Mr. Durham requested further clarification of several different departments gasoline and/or diesel fuel budget line item and suggested that with the rise of fuel costs he would recommend an increase in these budget numbers.

Ms. Brock explained that typically fuel consumption goes down as capital vehicle replacement goes up due to fuel efficiency and that several departments actual numbers from previous years are a lot less than what is budgeted for FY 2022-2023.

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Ms. Brock also explained that fuel numbers are reviewed on a monthly basis and funds can be transferred between departments fuel budget line items if the need should arise.

Ms. Brock stated she is very comfortable with the fuel budget numbers that have been presented to the Committee.

Lengthy discussion followed between Committee members and Ms. Brock related to the proposed budget.

Mr. Durham asked for an additional Budget, Finance, and Administration Committee meeting to be scheduled for further discussion of the above budget items.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Durham, approved 5 - 0, to hold a special Budget Workshop meeting with the Committee members on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. in Council chambers located at 415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC.

Adjourn

Mr. Durham made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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