



MINUTES
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
March 10, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Paul Cain, District III, Chairman
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV
Mr. Reginald T. Dexter, District V

The Planning & Economic Development Committee met at 5:30 PM in the Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present, Administrator Scott Moulder and Clerk to Council, Elizabeth Hulse.

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Josh Stephens, Zoning Administrator; Mr. Richard Blackwell, Oconee Economic Alliance Director; and, Mr. Art Holbrooks, Strategic Planner.

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: None

Call to Order:

Due to unforeseen circumstances Mr. Cain arrived late for the meeting, therefore, Mr. Thrift called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Deferred to later in the meeting in anticipation of Mr. Cain's arrival from Court.

Economic Development:

Mr. Blackwell addressed the Committee utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [*copy filed with these minutes*] and discussed the following topics:

- Project Pipeline
 - 17 active projects
 - 10 prospects
 - 187 leads
- Workforce Development
 - Job Fairs
 - Partnerships with Schools
 - AOP Showcase
 - Workforce Summits
 - Workkeys
- 2014 Recap
 - 309 New Jobs
 - \$45 Million Capital Investments
- Oconee County: 8th Top Performing Micropolitan out of 576 in US & 1st in South Carolina

Planning Department / Community Development / Zoning:

Mr. Stephens addressed the Committee utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [*copy filed with these minutes*] and discussed key areas:

- Building Development – Permitting & Inspections
- Planning & Zoning Update
- Community Development Update

- Strategic Planning Projects
 - Comprehensive Plan Review
 - Keowee-Toxaway Project Relicensing

Both Mr. Dexter and Mr. Thrift thanked Mr. Blackwell and his team along with Mr. Moulder for their hard work in bringing new companies to the county and in assisting existing industry expand. Additionally, they stated that the county has come far but that additional work needs to be done.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Cain arrived at this point in the meeting.

Mr. Dexter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 2 – 0 – 1 [Mr. Thrift abstained – form filed with these minutes], to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2014 meeting as presented.

South Carolina Heritage Corridor Presentation / Ms. Michelle McCollum

Ms. McCollum addressed the Committee utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [*copy filed with these minutes*] and discussed key areas:

- Questions related to “What Does the Future of Oconee look like?”
- State Tourism Development Plans
- Upstate’s Position in Tourism Development
- Sanctuary Pointe & SC Great Out Doors Center
- Oconee County Great Outdoors Initiative
- Discussion related to “Appalachian Rustic Elegance”
- “Destination Oconee” Branding
 - Elements of the Plan
 - Potential Tourism goals/expansion
 - Marketing Material
- Appalachian Rustic Elegance – What will it take?
 - Greenwood, SC examples
 - Keys to Success
 - Strong Leadership
 - Investment
 - Community Engagement
 - Growth Management
 - Effective Marketing
 - Policy Examples

Mr. Dave Arnold was recognized from the floor and asked where Greenwood obtained their funding for the project. Ms. McCollum stated that they received federal grants, hospitality tax funds and a variety of other sources over a ten year period.

The Committee thanked Ms. McCollum for her presentation and asked questions related to next steps. Ms. McCollum stated that they would be preparing a plan for Oconee County to be presented at a future meeting.

Other Business:

None at this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Cain adjourned the meeting at 6:47PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council