



**MINUTES**  
**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MARCH 15, 2022**  
**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**  
Mr. Paul Cain, District III, Chairman  
Mr. John Elliott, District I  
Mr. Julian Davis, District IV

The Planning and Economic Development Committee met at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present, as well as County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, and Jennifer C. Adams, Clerk to Council, present.

**Staff Present:** Gabriel Hernandez / Code Enforcement Officer  
James Coley / Planning and Zoning Director

**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](http://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

**Call to Order**

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

**Moment of Silence**

Mr. Cain asked for 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. Elliott 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. Elliott, approved 3 - 0, to approve the August 17, 2021 minutes as presented.

**A video recording of this meeting is available at [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com). Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.**

## **Discussion & Action Regarding the Following Items**

### Update on Code Enforcement Activities

Mr. Gabriel Hernandez, Oconee County Code Enforcement Officer, addressed the Committee utilizing a power point presentation entitled “IPMC Code Enforcement” [copy filed with backup] and gave a brief overview and update to the Committee related to IPMC (International Property Maintenance Code), Code Enforcement, and the departments current case load.

A brief discussion followed between the Committee and Mr. Hernandez related to Code Enforcement and IPMS.

Mr. Cain ended the discussion with a request for Mr. Hernandez to return to the May 17, 2022 Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting with an update related to Code Enforcement and their progress on outstanding cases.

### Planning Department Year to Date Update

Mr. James Coley, Oconee County Planning and Zoning Director, addressed the Committee utilizing a printed chart [copy filed with backup] displaying the number of plat and subdivision reviews dating from 2015 – 2022 and gave a brief overview related to the increase in reviews.

Mr. Coley answered Mr. Cain’s questions related to plat and subdivision reviews.

Ms. Brock noted that as of March 1, 2022 the Building Codes department has issued 2,548 building permits, which is a large increase from two years ago.

Mr. Cain noted that statements have been made that Oconee County is not growing but adds that the above referenced numbers seem prove otherwise.

### Introduction of Stormwater Program and Timeline

Mr. Cain offered a brief introduction related to Oconee County’s current stormwater infrastructure.

Mr. Coley informed the Committee the he has had some preliminary conversations with Kyle Reid, Oconee County Roads and Bridges Director, related to stormwater and the fact that both departments will need to work together on this project.

Mr. Coley noted that a County Engineer’s job description has been in the works and should be ready for posting in the near future.

Mr. Elliot informed Mr. Coley that he receives a lot of calls about a stormwater drainage issue on Keowee School Road, near the intersection of Hwy 28, across from the previous Hamilton Career Center.

Ms. Brock noted that Keowee School Road is a State road and that the County has reached out to the State concerning this area and was informed that there is an improvement plan in the works for this particular problem area.

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Mr. Coley informed the Committee that a determination has not been made as to if the Stormwater Program will be a regulation, guide, or code but hopefully this will be determined with the input from an engineer, Council, and the public.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Elliott made a motion to adjourn, approved unanimously at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council

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