



Oconee County Planning Commission

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Minutes

Planning Commission Meeting

June 4, 2012

The Oconee County Planning Commission held a regular meeting on June 4, 2012 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Oconee County Administrative Building, 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC 29691.

Members Present: Ryan Honea, (Chairman)
Howard Moore
Tommy Abbott
David Lyle
Andrea Heller

Staff Present: Josh Stephens (Zoning Administrator)
Art Holbrooks (Planning Director)

Media Present: Carlos Galarza, Daily Journal

Item 1: Call to Order

Mr. Honea called the meeting to order.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Mr. Abbott made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2012 meeting; Mr. Lyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3: Public Comment

Ms. Susie Cornelius commented on what she feels to be a lack of information on the proposed 'public lands' rezoning, and expressed her desire for a presentation to be made in regards to Ordinance 2011-25.

Mr. Bo Horne stated that the proposed 'Biggerstaff Area' rezoning should be subject to the 51/75 (percent of supporting signatures/percent of acreage represented by support) recently adopted.

Mr. BJ Littleton spoke against the government's ability to 'take' private lands, and noted that the 'Wild Lands Project' is part of an environmental movement conspiracy.

Item 4: Discussion and Consideration of Ordinance 2012-12 'Biggerstaff'

Chairman Honea recognized Mr. Larry Brandt, attorney for St. John's Lutheran Church. Mr. Brandt stated that his comments were merely to put his position on the record in the

event of legal proceedings over the proposed rezoning of the church's land in the Biggerstaff Road area. He commented against said Ordinance and called into question the validity of multiple petitions, noting 26 potentially problematic examples.

Mr. Stephens then briefed the Commission on the status of the proposed ordinance, and presented maps of the area in question (attached). Discussion followed, with various members of the Commission noting concerns over Mr. Brandt's position regarding the petitions. Mr. Abbot made a motion that all involved parcels be rezoned Control Free. The motion died for lack of a Second.

Mr. Moore made a motion to table the matter until the County Attorney has reviewed the submitted the petitions and issued an opinion; Mr. Abbott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Discussion and Consideration of Ordinance 2012-16 'Watson II'

Mr. Stephens presented a variety of maps and staff's recommendation (attached). Ms. Heller made a motion to recommend staff's map; Mr. Lyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 6: Old Business

At the request of Chairman Honea, Mr. Stephens stated for the record that all lands proposed for rezoning in Ordinance 2011-25 are public lands, with no privately owned lands included.

Item 7: New Business

The meeting schedule was discussed by members of the Commission. No 2nd meeting will be held in June, and the July meeting had been previously cancelled due to Independence Day. It was the consensus of the Commission that staff are to remain in contact with the Chairman regarding the County Attorney's opinion, and if it is ready in July, a called meeting will be held to consider the matter.

Item 8: Adjourn

