



OCONEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



TEL (864) 638-4218 FAX (864) 638-4168

MINUTES

6:00 PM, TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

Members Present: Mr. Childress
Mr. Honea
Mr. Kisker
Mr. Lyle
Mr. Ownbey
Ms. McPhail
Mr. Richards

Staff Present: Josh Stephens, Deputy Director of Community Development
Matthew Anspach, Planner I
William Brewer, Planning Intern

Media Present: Mr. Ray Chandler, Anderson Independent
Mr. Dick Mangrum, WGOG

1. Call to Order

Ms. McPhail called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes for Monday, June 22, 2015

Mr. Kisker motioned to approve the minutes from June 22, 2015.

Mr. Honea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment for Agenda and Non-Agenda Items (3 minutes)

None.

4. Regular Meeting on Noise Ordinance Findings

Mr. Stephens introduced the item under discussion by presenting a recap of the events that took place in the previous meeting and topics to be considered “consensus points” that the Commission could consider. He also mentioned that County Council did not give specific direction but had requested a recommendation be provided by July 9th. He

proceeded to introduce Mr. Chad Rawlings to the Commission to present his experience with the subjects of sound and ordinances related to the regulation of sound and noise.

Ms. McPhail invited Mr. Rawlings to the table to explain his background, his experience with the various definitions and regulations of sound, and to answer any questions that the Commission may have to assist them in making a more informed recommendation to County Council.

Mr. Rawlings introduced himself and mentioned that he is present at the meeting to simply offer an objective point of view matters related to noise ordinances and his experience in past jurisdictions with noise ordinances. He also presented several documents that included information on the weighting of sounds along with some examples of other noise ordinances for reference. His explanations included two classifications of regulating sound: permanent establishments and special events.

Lengthy discussion among the Commission occurred concerning decibel levels, allowable time frames, and other matters related to the proposed noise ordinance amendment.

Mr. Stephens presented the Commission with the options in proceeding with a recommendation for County Council. He mentioned that they could send back the amendment to the ordinance with no recommendations, or agree on a consensus of selected topics for Council to consider.

Mr. Stephens listed the Commission's consensus points for the recommendation:

1. The noise ordinance should be more objective in general by establishing decibel level(s), as determined by Council, for a classification for established/normal businesses and one for special events and these classifications should be measured on a dB(A) scale and dB(C) scale, respectively; and
2. A simple permitting process should be established for special events, as defined by Council. Said process should include a reasonable time frame for notifying the Sheriff's Department. Said process should not include a 72 hour notice requirement for a 1000 foot notification area and should not include a cumulative hour component; and
3. The established decibel level(s), as determined by Council, should be reduced at 11:00 PM and again after 1:00 AM; and
4. The Sheriff's Department should be provided with American National Standards Institute approved measuring devices/equipment; and
5. When responding to complaints, measurements made for the dB(A) scale should be taken from the residence of the complainant, and measurements made for the dB(C) scale should be taken from the "mix position."

Mr. Richards motioned to approve the above stated recommendations to the County Council.

Mr. Honea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kisker motioned to make the recommendation that County Council should take the appropriate amount of time to draft an ordinance that strikes the right balance between the enjoyment of events and a person's enjoyment of their private residence.

Mr. Honea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens agreed to draft a written recommendation based on the consensus points to be approved by the Chair and submitted to County Council by July 9th.

5. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

6. New Business

Mr. Stephens informed the Commission that the next regularly scheduled meeting is on July 13th. He described the items on the agenda for the Commission to consider.

7. Adjourn

Mr. Kisker motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. 7:28PM