

Minutes

6:00 PM, Monday, December 11, 2023

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members Present

Tessa Moxley
Josh Owens
Charlie Whiten
Nate Duncan
Kim Alexander
Rex Blanton
Trent Smith

Staff Present

James Coley

Media Present

None

1. **Call to order-** Ms. Alexander called the December 11th meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. **Moment of silence**
3. **Invocation**
4. **Pledge of allegiance**
5. **Approval of minutes-** November 13, 2023. Mr. Whiten made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Mr. Blanton and approved 7/0.
6. **Public discussion Session** [*3 minutes per person*] *If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting the Planning Department at planninginfo@oconeesc.com or 864-638-4218, so that we may receive your comment and read it into the record*
7. **Discussion** [to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up in discussion if required]
 - o **Mr. Jamie Gilbert-Oconee Economic Alliance**
 - i. Recognizes the importance of Agriculture to the local economy
 - ii. Mainly work with industrial and manufacturing companies.
Recruitment, negotiations, etc.
 1. Crystal geyser-bottled water
 2. Mine America-poultry processing equipment company opening a distribution (and potentially manufacturing) facility in the county
 3. Attending the poultry expo show next year to recruit poultry equipment companies
 4. John Deere, CAT, Komoto suppliers in the county

- iii. Would like to have a discussion about what the Ag Board would like to see
 1. Ms. Alexander-offload grain site on the rail site in Seneca. There are also potential possibilities that could come with the establishment of the Poultry Research Center in Clemson.
 2. Mr. Whiten- satellite location for Trucks on 59 with grain storage, cotton gins, fertilizer storage
 3. Mr. Owens- The Canton Mill closing has had a detrimental impact on the timber market. Recently, there was a shortage of milk cartons that affected schools across the county. The Canton Mill produced the paper for the milk cartons.
 4. The general consensus of the Ag Board is that the timber industry would also like to see some form of energy production through wood as fuel.
 5. Recruitment and Expansion of companies is what Economic Development is good at. There needs to be a partnership with folks who are educated on matters of Agriculture in order to be most effective.
 6. There is some interest in the county for a biodiesel plant. Economic development would support a biodiesel plant and poultry processing as long as there is a viable location.
 7. Beef and pork processing is also a pressing issue
 8. Mr. Blanton-what is the possibility of having an ag person on the economic development board?
 - a. Ask Amanda Brock or County Council
 9. Mr. Blanton-signage for the promotion of agriculture in the County-Agriculture produces 159 million in revenue every year.

- 8. Discussion** [to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up in discussion if required].
- o **Dr. Adam Kantrovich**-Extension Specialist, Agribusiness Asst. Director of Clemson Extension- on the Agenda in January.
 - o **Year in Review**- *Ms. Alexander*

Mr. Owens made a motion for the AAB to send Mr. Issac Quaye's presentation for a Voluntary Agricultural District to the County Council and the Planning Commission, Seconded by Mr. Whiten and approved 7/0.

- o **Calendar for 2024 Meetings**-*Ms. Alexander*
 - i. A visit to District V is of top concern because of the development in their area
 - ii. Invite all of the county ag teachers to a meeting
 - iii. Budget proposals need to be prepared for submission in January
 - iv. The 2022 Agricultural census is coming out in February of 2024
 - v. Homework before 2024-look into the Right to Farm Act instead of the Voluntary Agricultural District

Mr. Owens made a motion to invite all of the county Ag teachers, elementary through

high school to the council chambers for the March meeting, seconded by Mr. Blanton, and approved 7/0

Mr. Blanton made a motion to have the district meetings in the same order as they were conducted in 2023, seconded by Mr. Whiten, and approved 7/0.

9. **Adjourn:** Mr. Whiten made a motion to adjourn at 7:16pm, seconded by Mr. Smith and approved 7/0.