

OCONEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



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

Minutes

6:00 pm - Thursday, September 7, 2023

Council Chambers - Oconee County Administrative Complex

Members

Teresa Spicer

Brit Adams

Gary Gaulin - Absent

Mike Johnson

David Nix

Frankie Pearson

Mickey Haney

Staff Present

James Coley, Planning Director

Elise Dunaway, Assistant to Planning & Codes

Media Present

Lauren Pierce, The Journal

1. Call to order – Mr. Pearson called meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Invocation was led by Mr. Nix.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Spicer.
4. Approval of minutes from August 21, 2023 – Mrs. Spicer made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Nix. Approved 4/0
5. Public comment (non-agenda items): None
6. Commission member comments:
Mr. Pearson notified commission members and the public that the Apple Festival was starting Friday, September 8, 2023.
7. Staff comments:
Mr. Coley received feedback from the Folks Group from Ms. Dale Wilde regarding the last chapter review of the Comp plan about litter pickup. Ms. Wilde wanted to remind the commission Folks has been organizing litter sweeps around the lakes for the last 30 years and typically collect over 100 bags of trash every sweep.
Mr. Coley presented the Water Edge Reserve at Keowee River Sketch Plan. Discussion followed.

8. Discussion of Comprehensive Plan Goals for 2023, Chapters 9 and 10.
 - a. Public Comment: None
 - b. Discussion / Vote:

Mrs. Spicer made a motion that Chapter 9 of the Comprehensive Plan had been reviewed. Seconded by Mr. Pearson. Approved 6/0.

Mrs. Spicer made a motion that Chapter 10 of the Comprehensive Plan had been reviewed. Seconded by Mr. Nix. Approved 6/0.

9. Discussion regarding SC Right to Farm Act
 - a. Public Comment: None
 - b. Discussion / Vote:

The members had an open discussion regarding the Right to Farm Act and reviewed the material provided in the back up.

Mr. Haney made a motion to task Mr. Root to create an ordinance for Agricultural Control Free District to go parallel with the pursuit of the Right to Farm Act. Seconded by Mr. Adams. Discussion followed.

Mr. Pearson made a motion to table the discussion regarding Agricultural Control Free District. Seconded by Mr. Nix. Approved 6/0.

Mr. Haney made a motion to have Mr. Coley research other means to identify farm land without using zoning. Seconded by Mr. Johnson. Approved 6/0.

Discussion followed.

10. Discussion regarding County and State Roads.
 - a. Public Comment: None
 - b. Discussion / Vote:

Mr. Adams opened discussion on how to get involved with the county and the state to communicate the need for road enhancement and up keep. Discussion Followed.

Ms. Spicer provided members with handouts regarding past and future road construction plans within the county. The backup was amended to include the documents for the general public to view. Discussion followed.

11. Adjourn – The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:40 PM.