

A Work Session Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Jury Room at the Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present: Chairman Melvin Davis
Commissioner Jim Luke
Commissioner Donald H. Norris
Commissioner Margaret Hale
Commissioner Chuck Horton

Staff Present: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault
County Attorney Daniel Haygood
County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey

Jeff Benko, Finance Director
Rusty Haygood, Econ Development Director
BR White, Planning Director
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director

Media Present: Billy Vaughn, The Oconee Enterprise
Adam Thompson, Athens Banner Herald

Ordinance Regulating the Sale of Wine and Malt Beverages: County Attorney Daniel Haygood presented a draft Ordinance Regulating the Sale of Wine and Malt Beverages in Oconee County and asked for the Board's input on what they would like to see in the Ordinance. The Board expressed their desire to have a strict ordinance with strong consequences for violations.

Mr. Haygood reviewed each section of the Ordinance and by consensus the Board agreed to include the following:

- License renewals will be handled on the Consent Agenda.
- New license applications will come before the Board of Commissioners for final approval.
- A full menu is to be served during all hours of operation of a restaurant.
- A restaurant must serve a minimum of one evening meal a day for at least five days a week.
- All drink orders in a restaurant must be accompanied by a food item order of equal value.
- Restaurant servers dispensing, serving, selling or taking orders for alcoholic beverages must be at least 19 years of age.
- Alcoholic beverages may not be sold by any licensee unless there is present a person of at least 25 years of age who is in charge of that location at that time.
- A licensed package store is required to be a distance of at least one mile of another package store.
- A detailed plan showing all areas where alcoholic beverages will be sold, served or consumed is to be attached to the license application.
- No consumption of alcohol outside of the designated restaurant area.
- Restaurants are allowed to serve alcoholic beverages between the hours of 11:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- No drive-in windows are allowed.
- The County has the ability to require an audit of the licensee's financial records at the licensee's expense to determine compliance.

The Planning Department was asked to recommend distance requirements and appropriate locations (defined areas) for restaurant licenses.

Chairman Davis noted a Public Hearing is scheduled for March 18, 2008 to allow public comments on the proposed Ordinance and the Board will hold a second work session on March 20, 2008 for additional work on the Ordinance.

Farmland Protection Program: Russ Page reported the Partnership for Farmland Protection has been notified that \$1.2 Million has been earmarked for Georgia's Farmland Protection Program. The 2002 Farm Bill lapses on March 15, 2008, however, and any funds not spent or spoken for by that time will revert back to the Federal Government.

Mr. Page said the Athens Land Trust is willing to sign a Cooperative Agreement with the USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program for the funds if Oconee County agrees to include Farmland Protection in the upcoming SPLOST. He requested the Board commit to help raise a match of \$525,000 and place Farmland Protection on the next SPLOST. Mr. Page said the funds would probably not be needed until June, 2009 due to the length of time to finalize and close on the easements.

The Board explained funds could not be committed on an unapproved SPLOST and agreed they could only commit to funding \$75,000 in the annual budget. On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously agreed to the intent to budget \$75,000 annually for the Farmland Protection Program in the future FY 2009 and FY 2010 budgets.

There being no further business, on motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Luke, the meeting was adjourned.

County Clerk

Chairman

Date