

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, July 31, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Chambers 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
BR White, Planning Director
Gary Dodd, Utility Director
Chris Thomas, Assistant Utility Director
John Hatcher, Wastewater Supervisor
Wayne Provost, Strategic Planning Director
Rusty Haygood, Econ Development Director
John Gentry, Parks and Recreation Director

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise
Chris Butler, Athens Banner Herald

Chairman Davis began the meeting with a Moment of Silence. Utility Director Gary Dodd led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission: The Board interviewed Marge McKee for appointment to the Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission to fill an unexpired 3-year term. The Board will take action on this appointment at the August 7, 2007 meeting.

Planning Commission: The Board interviewed Penny B. Mills, Cindy Peck, William C. Steen and Bill Yarbrough for appointment to the Oconee County Planning Commission to fill two expiring 4-year terms and one unexpired term. The Board will take action on these appointments at the August 7, 2007 meeting.

Cultural Affairs and Tourism Committee: The Board interviewed Deborah A. Besse, Chris Gholson, Catherine Hartley, Joe M. Ruiz and Gregory Shoemaker for appointment to the Oconee County Cultural Affairs and Tourism Committee to fill four expiring 2-year terms. Applicants Pat Adams, A.L. Cuming and John Winterhawk were unable to attend. The Board will take action on these appointments at the August 7, 2007 meeting.

Recreational Affairs Committee: The Board interviewed Carol Elmore, Heather Marchant and Tedd Vaughan for appointment to the Oconee County Recreational Affairs Committee to fill three expiring 2-year terms. Applicants Bill Baker and Anthony Glenn were unable to attend. The Board will take action on these appointments at the August 7, 2007 meeting.

Land Use & Transportation Planning Committee: The Board interviewed Derrek Crowe and Flynn Warren for appointment to the Oconee County Citizens Advisory Committee on Land Use and Transportation Planning to fill six expiring 2-year terms. Applicants Courtney Gale and Mary Mellein were unable to attend. The Board will take action on these appointments at the August 7, 2007 meeting.

WaterFirst Community Program: Environmental Assistance Program Coordinator Deatre Denion reported on the WaterFirst Community Program sponsored by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Ms. Denion explained the program is a voluntary partnership between local governments, state agencies and other organizations working together to enhance the quality of life through the wise management and protection of water resources.

There are seven components of the WaterFirst Program: Watershed Assessment; Stormwater Master Planning; Water Supply Planning; Water Supply Protection; Water Conservation; Wastewater Treatment Systems and Management; and Water Reclamation and Reuse. The extent to which the participants have demonstrated they have addressed each component will determine if they are designated a WaterFirst Community.

Oconee County has been selected to participate in the WaterFirst class, a group of communities striving to achieve the designation. Ms. Denion noted Oconee County's assets are an aggressive erosion and sedimentation program, an extensive outreach program, an active Keep Georgia Beautiful affiliate, utilization of smart growth principles, low unaccounted water loss and excellent interdepartmental cooperation. Oconee County's goals toward designation as a WaterFirst Community are to address high septic tank use through education and/or the adoption of an inspection/maintenance ordinance and the adoption of a Xeriscape ordinance.

LAS Design Proposal: Assistant Utility Director Chris Thomas and Wastewater Supervisor John Hatcher reported three proposals were received for the design of the Rocky Branch Water Reclamation facility. The proposals will be graded on a 100 point scale by Chris Thomas, John Hatcher, County Engineer Dan Wilson and representatives from Precision Planning. The recommendation for the proposals will be placed on the August 7, 2007 meeting agenda for consideration.

Mr. Thomas stated the plan is permitted for up to five years. He estimated design and construction will take approximately 18 months to complete.

Sewer Policy: Utility Director Gary Dodd presented a recommendation for Sewage Flow Classification and explained the residential vs. commercial classified uses. Mr. Dodd also recommended continuing with the 50% commercial/50% residential sewer use policy. These items will be placed on the August 7, 2007 meeting agenda for consideration.

Tax Digest Error and Release Order: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved the Tax Digest Error and Release Order, 1997-2007, as recommended by Tax Commissioner Harriette Browning.

Street Light Tax District - Parkside: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the creation of Street Light Tax District No. B-05HL-L1 for Parkside MPD. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.***

August 7, 2007 Agenda: The agenda for the August 7, 2007 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey.

Citizen Remarks: Dr. William C. Steen remarked on the method for reviewing the bids for the design of the Rocky Branch Water Reclamation facility. Mr. Jerry Studdard presented a petition requesting the Board of Commissioners deny or to not vote on the sale of any alcohol by the drink, including beer and wine.

Executive Session: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken.

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board adjourned Executive Session.

On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board adjourned back into Regular Session.

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date