

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present: Chairman Melvin Davis
Commissioner Jim Luke
Commissioner John Daniell
Commissioner Margaret Hale
Commissioner Chuck Horton

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

Jeff Benko, Finance Director
Wes Geddings, Assistant Finance Director
BR White, Planning Director
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director
Lisa Davol, Interim Parks and Recreation Director
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
William White, Project Coordinator
Chris Thomas, Utility Director
Rusty Haygood, Economic Development Director

Media Present: Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise
Blake Giles, The Oconee Enterprise
Adam Thompson, Athens Banner Herald
Anna Dolianitis, The Oconee Leader

FY 2010 Budget Hearing: At 6:30 p.m., the Board held a public hearing on the proposed 2010 Fiscal Year Budget.

Chairman Davis reported the proposed FY2010 Annual Budget was prepared with the awareness and sensitivity of these uncertain economic times. He stated the draft budget utilized very conservative revenue figures and utilized fund balance to provide for the continuation of basic governmental needs.

Chairman Davis shared the major items proposed for the FY 2010 Budget:

1. The budget for all funds is balanced in accordance with all applicable state laws.
2. The overall budget reflects an approximate 12% decrease from the FY09 budget while maintaining the current property tax millage rate of 6.68 mils.
3. In an effort to avoid adverse employment decisions, no COLA or merit increases are recommended.
4. Our workforce has been reduced through a voluntary retirement incentive program. Vacant positions have been left unfilled or eliminated. Only positions that are deemed vital to operations are being recommended to be filled. We have provided appropriate funding for our Public Safety needs.
5. We will continue our road resurfacing and road maintenance minimization program through our previously adopted FY 2009 – FY 2010 TIM Plan.
6. Only Law Enforcement critical capital acquisitions are recommended for the General Fund.
7. \$25,000 has been added to Economic Development for joint county economic development marketing.
8. \$921,734 from our unreserved fund balance is recommended to be used to balance the general fund budget.
9. All previously submitted fees are recommended for approval with the exception of Code Enforcement Plan Review and Building Permit fees. It is recommended that those proposed fees for FY2010 be the same as submitted to the BOC by email on April 30th and scheduled to be acted upon at the May 26th meeting.
10. For the Utility Department Enterprise Fund, their suggested BASE water rate increase is recommended to be reduced by 50%, their expenditures reduced accordingly, and their unreserved fund balance be utilized as MAY be required. All other suggested FY2010 rates are recommended for approval as previously submitted.

Finance Director Jeff Benko presented a power point presentation on the proposed budget. He reported the FY 2010 proposed budget includes a 13% decrease in the General Fund budget, maintaining the 6.68 millage rate, reductions in growth requirements and base operating expenditures,

the elimination of the Homestead Tax Relief Grant credit and only critical Law Enforcement capital expenditures. The overall budget reflects a 12% decrease over the FY 2009 budget. The proposed budget for the General Fund is \$21,921,829. The proposed budget for all funds is \$34,721,824.

Bill Mayberry asked if the proposed budget would be placed on the county website and if there would be an additional meeting where the public could make comments.

There being no further public comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

Agenda Meeting: At 7:00 p.m. Chairman Davis called the Agenda Setting Meeting to order and began with a Moment of Silence. Commissioner Horton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

FY 2010 Budget: The Board spoke on the proposed 2010 Fiscal Year Budget. District Attorney Ken Mauldin reiterated his request for Oconee County to fully fund three positions (two Assistant District Attorneys and one Investigator) for the District Attorney's Office.

Discussions were concentrated on balancing the FY2010 budget without drawing from fund balance. Several thoughts and ideas were presented and Commissioner Daniell made a motion to remove all travel funds from the Chairman and Commission budgets. The motion died for a lack of a second.

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board voted unanimously for the preparation of a revised FY 2010 budget proposal, utilizing \$500,000 in fund balance, and to have further discussions at the end of the June 2, 2009 regular meeting.

Chairman Davis asked the Board members to quickly relay any specific reduction requests to the Finance Director, Administrator Officer or himself.

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council – Private Sector Representative: Chairman Davis reported the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center will undergo mandated changes in its Board of Directors due to legislation passed by the General Assembly this past session. The new legislation requires the county government and the cities to agree on a private sector appointment to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council. The cities of Watkinsville, Bogart, Bishop and High Shoals have submitted their concurrence to the appointment of Amrey Harden as the private sector appointment.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 2, 2009.

Modified Alcohol License – Taqueria La Parrilla: County Clerk Gina Lindsey presented a modified application for a 2009 Beer and Wine License submitted by Taqueria La Parrilla. The applicant, Alonso Haro, was present. Ms. Lindsey stated the applicant has added an outdoor seating area and is requesting a modification to the alcohol license in order to serve beer and wine in this new area of the restaurant. She noted all requirements of the Alcohol Ordinance have been met.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 2, 2009.

Utility Accommodations Ordinance: The Board held the First Reading of the Utility Accommodations Ordinance. County Attorney Daniel Haygood explained the ordinance adopts the 2009 Georgia Department of Transportation Utility Accommodation Policy and Standards by reference and is designed to give the County the maximum legally permissible control over the location of utilities in the right-of-ways.

The Board will hold the Second Reading and take final action on the proposed Ordinance at the June 2, 2009 meeting.

EIP/CDBG Stimulus Funding Grant: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for EIP and/or CDBG Stimulus Funding to assist in the construction of a gravity sewer line from Zoom Bait to the pump station behind Kohl's. **See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 18.**

Plan Review and Permit Fees: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault presented a proposed fee schedule based on a sliding scale for Plan Review and Permit Fees. Mr. Theriault noted Mr. Mike Power, representing Prince Avenue Baptist Church, worked closely with Code Enforcement Director Steve Hansford in developing the schedule and Mr. Power is in agreement with the proposed fees. If approved, the fee schedule would be retroactive to July 1, 2008. Mr. Theriault said the only structure affected would be Prince Avenue Baptist Church.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 2, 2009.

Crime Victims Office Lease Agreement: Finance Director Jeff Benko reported the lease agreement for the Crime Victims Office expires on June 30, 2009. Hardigree Properties has offered to extend the lease for another year, beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010 at the same existing rate of \$1,350 per month.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 2, 2009.

June, 2009 Agenda: The agenda for the June 2, 2009 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina Lindsey.

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date