

The Regular Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, July 1, 2008, 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 S. 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  
Krista Gridley, Planner  
Brad Callender, Planner  
Jason Gantt, Planner  
William White, Project Coordinator  
Rusty Haygood, Economic Development Director  
Chris Thomas, Utility Director  
John Hatcher, Assistant Utility Director  
John Gentry, Parks & Recreation Director  
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise

Chairman Davis began the meeting with a Moment of Silence. Commissioner Norris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Davis announced this was the first night of the official videotaping of the Board of Commissioners meetings. The video will be available for viewing on the county's website, [www.oconeecounty.com](http://www.oconeecounty.com).

**Minutes:** On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, Minutes of the June 3, June 16 and June 24, 2008 meetings were approved as distributed.

**Rezone Request No. 5712 and Variance Request No. 5722 – Virgil Langford Road, LLC (Postponed):** On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board voted unanimously to postpone action on Rezone Request No. 5712 and Variance Request No. 5722 by Virgil Langford Road, LLC, ± 1.494 acres, located on SR 316 and Langford Drive, to the August 5, 2008 meeting, as requested by the applicant's agent.

**Rezone Request No. 5729 and Variance Request No. 5730 – Asif Aman (Withdrawn):** On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request by the applicant's agent to withdraw without prejudice Rezone Request No. 5729 and Variance Request No. 5730 by Asif Aman, ± 1.881 acres, located on SR 316 and Julian Drive.

**Rezone Request #5728 – P & A Ventures, LLC:** The Board held a public hearing on Rezone Request No. 5728 by P & A Ventures, LLC ±9.29 acres, located on Old Macon Highway, from B-2 and MH to B-2. Planner Krista Gridley presented the staff report.

Jeff Carter, representing the applicant, said the rezone is being requested to accommodate the development of a retail commercial shopping center. He stated the property was previously abandoned right-of-way owned by the Georgia Department of Transportation and has been conveyed to P & A Ventures.

The Board discussed the location of the entrance and its distance from the bridge, traffic volume during peak hours and inter-parcel access to a driveway serving the multi-family development to the south.

No one spoke in favor or in opposition to the rezone request.

On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board unanimously approved Rezone Request No. 5728, by P & A Ventures, from B-2 and MH to B-2, with conditions. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 18.***

**Oconee County Industrial Development Authority Appointment (Bogart Representative):** On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board voted unanimously to appoint John Larkin to the Oconee County Industrial Development Authority to serve in Mayor Tom Peavey's capacity as the Associate Member from the City of Bogart for the remainder of calendar year 2008 and a subsequent two-year term concluding December 31, 2010.

**Mars Hill Road/Experiment Station Road Widening Project – ROW Acquisition Contract:** Public Works Director Emil Beshara reported Oconee County has received a contract from the Georgia Department of Transportation authorizing the acquisition of right-of-way for the Mars Hill Road/Experiment Station Road widening project. GDOT will reimburse the county not to exceed \$10,781,000 for eligible right-of-way acquisition costs. Reimbursements will be made by GDOT in three stages of approximately \$3,594,000 per stage.

On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board unanimously approved the GDOT-County contract for right-of-way acquisition for the Mars Hill Road/Experiment Station Road widening project.

**Consent Agenda:** On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Agenda items:

- **Tax Refund Request:** Approved a request by Taylor, Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Corporation for a refund of property taxes paid in error for Tax Parcel B-03I-013B in the amount of \$1,868.63, as recommended by Tax Commissioner Harriette Browning.
- **Water Line Project – Elder Ridge Subdivision/Laurel Chase Subdivision/Pleasant Hill Road:** Approved the bid of \$1.50 per linear foot by Precision Planning for engineering design services for the Elder Ridge Subdivision, Laurel Chase Subdivision and Pleasant Hill Road Water Distribution System Improvements Project.

**Citizen Comments:** Bill Mayberry expressed appreciation to the Board for its efforts in addressing road and transportation issues. He noted the Board should anticipate questions from the public regarding the Mars Hill Road/Experiment Station Road widening project.

Russ Page thanked the Board for videotaping its meetings. He also commented that the allowance of rezone requests to be postponed or withdrawn the night of the public hearing is an inconvenience to citizens.

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

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

On motion by Commissioner Luke 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 Norris, the meeting was adjourned.

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County Clerk

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Chairman

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Date