

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, October 28, 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 Hale
Commissioner Chuck Horton

Staff Present:

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

Jeff Benko, Finance Director
BR White, Planning Director
Rusty Haygood, Economic Development Director
John Gentry, Parks and Recreation Director
William White, Project Coordinator
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
Wayne Provost, Strategic/L-R Planning Director

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise
Adam Thompson, Athens Banner Herald

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

Parks and Recreation Department Awards: The Board recognized the Parks and Recreation Department and Staff on receiving the following awards at the recent Georgia Recreation and Parks Association Awards Banquet: 7th District Agency of the Year, Programmer of the Year (Tony Lathrup), and Student of the Year (Chris Heirs).

Regional Economic Development Task Force: The Board discussed and took public comment on the Regional Economic Development Task Force's recommendation to merge economic development efforts in Oconee and Athens-Clarke counties.

Richard McSpadden expressed his support for a regional economic development approach and said it would enable Oconee County to market the area for smart growth.

Commissioners Horton and Hale spoke on the need for the two county governments to meet and address any issues before moving forward. Commissioner Norris noted the State is curtailing its economic development efforts with individual counties and is encouraging a regional approach.

Chairman Davis suggested a couple of members from each county's Board meet together, along with members of the Regional Economic Development Task Force, to discuss the proposal. Chairman Davis recommended and, by consensus, the Board agreed Commissioner Hale and Commissioner Luke would represent Oconee County in a joint meeting.

Impact Fee Study Committee Report: Strategic and Long-Range Planning Director Wayne Provost reported the Impact Fees Study Committee had researched the questions presented in their "charge" and finalized their work into two products. The first work product is a table of the questions as posed, the individual committee members' responses and the subcommittee's responses to those answers. The second is a list of consensus points reached by the overall committee.

Mr. Provost and Committee Members Russ Page and Mike Power commended Gordon Maner for facilitating the committee meetings and keeping things on track.

The Commissioners expressed their desire to postpone any further impact fees study due to current economic. By consensus, the Board agreed to postpone any action on this issue until some future date.

Rezone Request #5462 – Fred Gunter Property, LLC: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board voted unanimously to postpone action on Rezone Request #5462 by Fred Gunter Property, LLC, ±13.43 acres, located on U.S. Hwy. 441, LaVista Road and Chaddwyck Drive, to the December 2, 2008 meeting.

Environmental Health Fees: Dr. Claude Burnett requested the Board adopt a revised Environmental Health Fee Schedule, as recommended by the Oconee County Board of Health. Dr. Burnett said the proposed fee schedule would increase revenue by approximately \$50,000 annually and noted the mandated requirements for restaurant inspections had increased significantly.

The Board asked for additional detail relating to the comparison of the prior year's fees. By consensus, the Board agreed to take up the issue again at their November 25, 2008 meeting.

Heritage Park Arena: On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved the bid of \$36,460 by Berry Coating, Inc. for the painting of the Heritage Park Arena and amended the SPLOST budget by \$11,460 for the expenditure.

November 4, 2008 Agenda: The agenda for the November 4, 2008 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey.

Citizen Remarks: Mike Power expressed his opposition to increasing environmental health fees and remarked on the need to decrease overhead in Oconee County's government. Mr. Power offered his services to help cut the county's budget.

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

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date