

A Called Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Chairman Melvin Davis
Commissioner Jim Luke
Commissioner Don Norris
Commissioner Chuck Horton

Commissioner Margaret S. Hale was absent

Staff Present:

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

Wayne Provost, Strategic Planning
B.R. White, Planning Director
Jeff Benko, Finance Director

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise

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

Sign Regulations: Strategic & Long-Range Planning Director Wayne Provost and Consultant Bill Ross presented the proposed amendments to the Oconee County Sign Regulations. Mr. Provost stated the courts have continued to define free speech issues and new case law has determined counties cannot regulate sign content. Only the physical characteristics of the sign can be regulated.

Mr. Ross reported the majority of the proposed amendments to the Sign Regulations will remove regulations associated with the sign's message or content. He reviewed proposed revisions for signs that are exempt, signs at outdoor recreation facilities and flags. He also noted several "housekeeping" changes.

Additionally, Mr. Ross said regulations for "short duration signs" and "long duration signs" will be replaced with a definition of a "temporary event" and regulations of signs relative to the types of event, i.e. how many, where and when you can have such a sign. There will be no restriction on content, including no requirement that the message be related to the temporary event.

County Attorney Daniel Haygood explained the proposed changes to the Sign Regulations are not significant, but will allow Oconee County to be in compliance with new case law.

Final comments were made by Mr. Ross who noted the amended ordinance will be included in the Unified Development Code and open for public input.

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board unanimously approved the adoption of the amended Sign Regulations of Oconee County. **See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 16.**

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

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

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board adjourned back into Regular Session.

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date