# Council OKs SC 11 site for Tech campus

**BY STEVEN BRADLEY**
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WALHALLA — County council, the last of three governing bodies required to do so, gave final approval Tuesday to locating a Tri-County Technical College campus at the Oconee Industry and Technology Park near Westminster.

Council unanimously voted for a resolution endorsing the creation of the workforce development center at the site on S.C. Highway 11 after the Oconee school board and Tri-County Technical College Commission recently passed similar measures.

The workforce development center would include a career center for high school students, an adult education program and the county's economic development offices, in addition to the TCTC campus.

Initially, the project focused on a TCTC campus in Oconee, but earlier this year, the SDOC joined the conversation as it began planning for the construction of a new career center.

The site was selected after the team narrowed its search to four potential locations: 57 acres owned by Pattillo

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# **TECH:** Campus 2-3 years from construction

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Construction on U.S. Highway 123 between Seneca and Westminster, OITP, an undisclosed property on S.C. 28 in the Bountyland area and the current site of the Covidien plant in Seneca.

The workforce development center will take up approximately 52 acres at the park, which has 407 total acres, of which 303.3 are developable.

County administrator Scott Moulder said the county had identified the parcel — on the left as one enters the park — to allow room for "industrial development around its perimeters, along the deeper sections of the park."

Even with all parties signing a memorandum of understanding, that doesn't mean the facility will be built anytime soon.

School District of Oconee County superintendent Michael Thorsland said Monday approval from the S.C. Commission on Higher Education and the state Office of School Facilities is still necessary.

Now that each governing body has approved the proposed project, the next step will be to commission a pre-design study. The study will generate a master plan for the site, cost estimates, generalized floor plans and phasing options. All parties will collaborate on funding options and cost sharing.

County administrator Scott Moulder said last week the county is two to three years away from construction on the campus, but council would need to consider funding the project prior to that.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, council unanimously approved on third and final reading an ordinance rescinding the controversial indemnity ordinance designed to protect elected officials and county employees in the event of personal legal action.

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