Daily Journal • Daily Messenger

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Council appoints interim county boss

Kendra Brown, assistant administrator and finance director, given top job until new administrator is hired

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WALHALLA — The Oconee County Council is trusting the day-to-day operations of government to Kendra Brown and Beth Hulse until its concludes its search for a new administrator.

Over the weekend, council appointed Brown as Interim Administrator and Hulse as her assistant. As compensation for their extra duties, each will receive an additional 20 percent of their regular salaries.

In announcing the appointments, council showered Brown and Hulse with praise and accolades for their work, particularly since County Administrator Dale Surrett was fired on April 14.

Ironically, Surrett hired Brown in January to wear the dual hats of assistant administrator and finance director. Hulse has been Clerk to County Council since fall 2007.

District 2 Councilman Wayne McCall was first to acknowledge their work.

"Both these persons are doing an excellent job," McCall said. "They've taken a world of burden off of our shoulders."

Mario Suarez said Brown and Hulse are "a good model of teamwork."

Councilman Joel Thrift also commended their work.

"You've done a wonderful job under a very stressful situation," Thrift said.

Even County Attorney Tom Martin took the opportunity to chime in.

"This has been a trying time," Martin said. "Kendra and Beth have been very good at what they do regularly, and they've been remarkable at what they've taken on additionally."



Jessica Nelms/Staff

The Oconee County Council appointed Kendra Brown, left, as interim administrator, and Beth Hulse as her assistant, to run the day-to-day operations of county government until a new administrator is hired.