

# Council to retool

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WALHALLA— Oconee County's 22-month-long journey to implement a zoning enabling ordinance (ZEO) is about to get longer.

Oconee County Council, which has three new members who were not on board when the ZEO was approved in October, wants to amend the document.

Specifically, council members would like to revise the methods required for enacting or imposing overlay districts, including land-use protections around lakes Keowee and Jocassee.

Last week during a Planning and Economic Development Committee workshop, attended by more than 80 residents, Council Chairman Reg Dexter and Councilman Wayne McCall strongly called for a revision of the ZEO.

## If you go

**What:** Oconee County Council meeting  
**When:** 7 p.m. today  
**Where:** Government Administrative Building, 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla

Among other things, Dexter and McCall would like a discussion as to the

# zoning plan

method for funding zoning administration in Oconee. County Administrator Dale Surret told the Planning and Economic Development panel that it would cost about \$125,000 annually to administer zoning. Dexter said he thought that was a low figure.

The ordinance to amend the ZEO also proposes that procedures for rezoning property be uniform with state requirements.

Finally, the ordinance to amend the ZEO would refer the proposed changes to the Oconee County Planning Commission for review, comments and recommendations.

Planning Commission Chairman Tommy Abbott, who missed last week's workshop, said Monday he was not surprised by council's action.

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## ZONING

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"We knew all along that we would need revisions," Abbott said. "I expected it to be coming back to us."

Abbott is on record as being opposed to an overlay of Lake Keowee.

He said the council's ordinance to amend the ZEO lends itself to include an overlay for Lake Hartwell, which was not included in the ZEO. Abbott said the ordinance also lends itself to eliminating the over-

lay at Lake Keowee.

Asked why he was opposed to an overlay at Keowee, Abbott said it is too costly to administer.

"Who is going to pay for that?" Abbott asked. "Do you put it on the backs of people the overlay effects, or do you put it on the backs of all Oconee County residents? I don't think it's right for them to pay for something the minority few want."

Other first readings of ordinances on the meeting agenda, which takes place at 7 p.m. today at the Government Administrative Building in Walhalla, include one to enlarge the joint Oconee and Pickens Industrial/Business Park and another to consider a Fee In Lieu of Tax agreement between Oconee and Project US-EV, which would bring an investment of not less than \$20 million to the county.