Council upholds Biggerstaff rulings

BY MIKE EADS
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — The Biggerstaff zoning bid has been rejected again and Fair Play's future cleared its first hurdle.

The Oconee County Council voted 5-0 Tuesday night to accept the findings of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals that Ordinance 2012-12 is effectively dead. Council members sent the measure back to planning staff with instructions to advise the petitioners as to their options.

The Biggerstaff zoning bid was rejected for lack of valid petitions. It would have imposed zoning on 457 parcels near Biggerstaff Road, including a 5-acre parcel on Lake Keowee owned by St. John's Lutheran Church in Walhalla. The land remains control free.

The council also approved the first reading for Ordinance 2012-34, which would make legal the proposed development standards sought by Fair Play residents. The changes would only apply to future building projects.

They were developed over the course of several public meetings in the last few months by town residents, who consulted with County Council District 5 member Reg Dexter, Planning Commission Chairman Ryan Honea and county Planning Director Art Holbrooks.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- County Auditor Ken Nix made a presentation on back taxes that he said are owed the county.
- The council amended the Oconee County Regional Airport's fuel sales budget by $350,000 to reflect higher sales volume. "We're selling more jet fuel and AV gas than we thought we would," said County Administrator Scott Moulder. "We don't buy (more fuel) unless we sell it."
- Moulder introduced Mark Pulliam as the county's new finance director. Pulliam is a native of Marietta, Ga., and graduate of Western Carolina University. He has previous public financing experience and has served as controller for the University of Montana, overseeing a $400 million annual budget.

meads@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6685