County to hire lawyer in zoning dispute

WALHALLA — The Oconee County Council is holding a special meeting Thursday, at 6 p.m., to discuss in executive session the hiring of an attorney to handle pending litigation.

Residents of the North Fairview Community filed a lawsuit last week in an attempt to overturn a zoning decision.

Although County Attorney Tom Martin is not named as a defendant, he is referenced in the lawsuit as having participated, along with other county officials, in private email discussions with others that could have influenced the decision against the Fairview residents.

It is unlikely that Martin or his McNair Law Firm will be able to represent the county against the lawsuit, making it necessary for the county to hire another attorney.