

Echo Hills sewer plans OK'd

Broadband project still alive

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THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County and City of Walhalla officials looked like clumsy



Moulder

partners dancing with two left feet in working out a water and sewer plan for the Echo Hills industrial park on Highway 11.



Corbeil

The awkward public display took place at Tuesday night's Oconee County Council meeting where it became painfully obvious that not everyone was on the same page as to who was to do what and at what cost.

By the time they figured everything out and came away with an understanding, a proposed engineering change order for \$128,500, presented by County Administrator Scott Moulder, was increased to \$184,500 to appease Walhalla officials.

In another development, county officials said they are not ready to give up on the be-



leaguered broadband project.

Coming out of a 40-minute executive session, Councilman Paul Corbeil made a motion that was unanimously approved that directed Moulder to "proceed with the normal procurement procedures in the case of the broadband project."

Asked later to explain his motion, Corbeil said council wants to continue the project.

"We want to bring closure to the contract," Corbeil said. "We want to proceed and make it happen."

A number of speakers, including Schools Superintendent Mike Lucas, showed up to support the broadband project during the public comments session of Tuesday night's meeting.

Moulder said he would not comment further on council's directive concerning broadband until the next council meeting.

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"I will say that at this point, it appears a little more promising that the project will continue," Moulder said. "It appears the project is more favorable in moving forward."

It also looks as if plans to put sewer and water at Echo Hills are moving forward after a few missteps.

City officials, headed by councilmen Tommy Crumpton, Josh Holliday, Davy Lee and Utilities Director Scott Parris, said it would be the county's responsibility to pay the engineering costs of putting sewer into Echo Hills.

Just two weeks ago, Council instructed Moulder to scrap a \$126,500

was on short list

engineering work order because it included engineering outside of the park.

Moulder said he thought everyone was on the same page two weeks ago because there was a desire to fast track the project because an unidentified company was considering investing \$50 million at Echo Hills.

Although Oconee was on the company's short list, it has since decided to visit three other sites.

"If for some reason they don't like what they see, they may choose to visit our site again," Moulder said. "We're not out of it."

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