Neville zoning request set for final vote

Family wants Tradition Rural for more than 4,000 acres

BY CARLOS GALARZA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — One of the largest Traditional Rural District rezoning requests comes before the Oconee County Council tonight.

The Neville family's petition scheduled for public hearing and a final vote consists of 20 parcels with approximately 4,388 acres.

Parts of several parcels hug the shores of Lake Keowee or are situated close to the lake.

IF YOU GO

What: Oconee County Council meeting
When: 6 p.m. tonight
Where: Council Chambers, 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla

The Neville request is getting some resistance from lake residents pushing the Cane Creek II petition.

At a Sept. 19 meeting of the Oconee County Planning Commission, Cane Creek resident Jim Codner requested that those parcels touching the lake be designated Lake Residential District. Codner proposed that only those portions of Neville property that fall within the 750-foot Lake Overlay be classified Lake Residential.

Jess Neville, representing the family's interests at the Planning Commission meeting, rejected Codner's proposal.

Neville said his family has been cutting timber for more than 100 years, and that they don't have any desire to be zoned Lake Residential or Industrial District.

The commission unanimously recommended approval of the Neville petition, although Codner urged them to abide by the county's Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use

SEE VOTE, PAGE A3

VOTE: Meeting is 6 p.m. tonight

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Map, which generally designate lake areas as residential.

Codner, and the Advocates for Quality Development Inc. group he represents, are named, along with Oconee County and some county officials, in a zoning lawsuit.

Jean Jennings and David and Michelle McMahan filed the lawsuit in which they claim they were conspired against to thwart their petition asking that their property be rezoned Traditional Rural. The suit is pending.

Two other rezoning petitions — Moonlight Bay and Southern Hartwell — are scheduled for public hearing and final vote.

Except for a few parcels designated Community Commercial District, most properties in the Moonlight Bay and Southern Hartwell requests would be rezoned Lake Residential.

A public hearing also is scheduled for Ordinance 2011-30 — calling for the transfer of 6.21 acres within the Echo Hills industrial park site on Highway 11 to New Horizon Electric Cooperative Inc. for a power substation — and Ordinance 2011-33, which grants tax incentives to BASF in exchange for the company's commitment to invest $60 million over five years and create 25 new jobs.

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