OT for zoning

Changes coming after it becomes law

By CARLOS GALARZA
carlos@dailyjm.com

WALHALLA — Oconee's Zoning Enabling Ordinance will be in effect May 1 before the County Council gets around to taking a final vote on proposed changes to the document, Council Chairman Reg Dexter confirmed Tuesday night.

Dexter outlined a schedule for dealing with the ZEO during the council's regular meeting last night.

County Council received proposed changes to the ZEO from the Planning Commission last week. There is not much time left for councilmen to get those changes done given that there are two more readings left on an ordinance channeling those changes to the ZEO.

The scheduling became even tighter when Dexter and Councilmen Joel Thrift and Wayne McCall each said they would not be able to attend the Council's April 7 meeting and proposed changing it to April 14, which was approved.

Dexter proposed have a second reading of the ordinance amending the ZEO on April 14 and a public hearing at the regular April 21 meeting.

Wanting some time between the hearing and a third reading, he proposed a final reading to amend the ZEO for May 5, four days after it takes effect..

Blanchard, however, questioned why the Planning Commission is again considering proposed amendments to the ZEO next week.

"Can they do that," Blanchard asked. "They already sent the changes back to us. We haven't sent anything to them again."

Martin said the Planning Commission does have the right to self-initiate recommendations to the Council.

In a complete turnaround from its contentious meeting March 3, every action voted on by the Council ended in a harmonious 5-0 vote Tuesday.

Early on in the meeting, Dexter said there would be no executive session, ending any speculation about action being taken regarding embattled County Administrator Dale Surrett.