

# Restaurant dispute heading to court

## Oconee County Council votes to file for declaratory judgment

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WALHALLA — Plans for a Lake Keowee restaurant are quickly turning into a hell's kitchen.

Developer Richard Cottingham watched as the Oconee County Council voted Tuesday night to let a court judge rule on legal issues surrounding his petition to relocate Doug Hollow Road.

Nearby residents on Kelley Ridge Road are

opposed to the relocation because it would effectively close off their access to the lake with their boats.

Council's vote authorizes the county to file for a declaratory judgment in court so that a judge could settle the dispute between the developer and residents.

Councilmen Reg Dexter and Wayne McCall voted against dragging the

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issue to court because it would entail legal costs for the county.

McCall said he went through a similar experience related to an easement given to his family by Duke Energy that other interests wanted to take away.

"I had many sleepless nights," McCall said. "We won after five lawsuits, but I know how hard this is."

Dexter and McCall said the county would be better served if the parties settled their differences.

Councilman Paul Corbeil said the matter needed to be resolved because it "has been going on for months."

In other developments, County Administrator Scott Moulder received council approval on two crucial requests.

Moulder got council to issue a request for qualifications to see what companies would be interested in designing and building a wastewater treatment plant at the Golden Corner Commerce Park on Highway 59 in Fair Play.

"I'd like to give momentum to this thing," Moulder said, adding that there's been too much talk and nothing done.

Moulder did scale back his request by putting off extending lines to the Interstate 85 corridor for another time. Moulder said the county has a permit for sewer at GCCP, but not for I-85.

Council also approved Moulder's request to fill a new assistant administrator position. He said the Assistant Administrator for External Services is one of the positions he outlined in his countywide fire plan.