



FILE

Already home to multiple industries, the School District of Oconee County's Hamilton Career and Technology Center and Tri-County Technical College's Oconee campus, the Oconee Industry and Technology Park could soon have another tenant.

## More movement set for Oconee industrial park?

### Business looking to invest \$10M, create 32 new jobs

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR  
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WALHALLA — Oconee County Council will take the first step at its meeting tonight to secure an economic development project that would invest \$10.4 million and create 32 new full-time jobs in the county.

Council will hold a first reading to approve a negotiated fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement and special source revenue

credits for Project Queso, which would be located on 24.34 acres in the Oconee Industry and Technology Park off S.C. Highway 11, according to backup agenda material. There would be a 6 percent assessment ratio for 20 years, and revenue credits for infrastructure investment for five years. Project Queso has popped up on council agendas

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## BUSINESS: Meeting planned in Walhalla at 6 p.m. tonight

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sporadically since September. Tonight's meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at 415 S. Pine St. in Walhalla.

Late last year, the county sold 27 acres at OITP to a Georgia-based liability company called Oconee Housing Solutions LLC and had plans for a 140,000-square-foot building at the park. The company agreed to invest \$15.4 million and create 215 new full-time jobs over a five-year period as part of the agreement.

### RECERTIFYING FOR TAX CREDITS

Council will also vote on whether to certify multiple property parcels as an abandoned textile mill site in the Highpointe development off West Cherry Road in Seneca. Under the South Carolina Textiles Communities Revitalization Act, government bodies can create incentives for rehabbing, renovating and redeveloping abandoned textile mills. About a decade ago, work first started on The Pier — which is directly across

from Highpointe — where student housing was constructed at the former Westpoint Stevens textile compound.

Developer Tom Winkopp said the properties have already been certified before, but had to be recertified for tax credits based on state law.

### OTHER ITEMS

Council will hold another public hearing on a redistricting plan that's required every decade in conjunction with the completion of the federal census. Second reading on allotting some \$1.7 million to more than 400 county employees with federal COVID-19 relief money is also up for a vote. The measure passed unanimously earlier this month. Council will also vote to spend \$1.3 million on a lease-purchase of self-contained breathing apparatuses.

Two council committees will meet for the first time this year at 4:30 p.m. today. Councilman Glenn Hart will lead the Transportation Committee meeting, again, to talk about road funding and road

conditions. Councilman Matthew Durham was also scheduled to oversee the Law Enforcement Public Safety Health and Welfare Committee, although no meeting agenda had been published by 5 p.m. Monday.

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