



# MINUTES

## LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING

July 18, 2023

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Don Mize, Chair, District III

Mr. Matthew Durham, District II

Mr. Glen Hart, District V

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee met at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee Members present, County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & Jennifer C. Adams, Clerk to Council, present.

Members of staff present: Scott Krein / Director of OC Emergency Services, Sheriff Mike Crenshaw, Swain Still / Director of Solid Waste and Recycling, James Coley / Planning and Zoning Director, Frankie Pearson / Planning Commission Chair

**Press:** Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [[www.oconeesc.com/council](http://www.oconeesc.com/council)]. In addition, it was made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Riley Morningstar / The Journal

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Mize called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

### **Moment of Silence**

Mr. Mize asked for a moment of silence.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Durham led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

### **Invocation by County Council Chaplain**

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 3 – 0, to approve the May 16, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Emergency Services update – Scott Krein / Director OC Emergency Services**

Oconee County Emergency Services Director, Mr. Scott Krein, provided the Committee with updates regarding staff shortages, employee training and employee retention within the Emergency Services department, specifically related to fire fighter positions.

A video recording of this meeting is available at [www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com). Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

Mr. Krein also offered details regarding the Emergency Services Capital Replacement Plan, noting the 2018 twenty-year replacement plan for all engines, rescue trucks and equipment has increased to an almost thirty-year plan due to supply and demand of fire trucks, along with an increase in cost to purchase.

Mr. Durham offered comments related to employee pay, employee retention and the Capital Replacement plan within the Emergency Services Department.

Mr. Mize inquired as to why employee retention is a problem for Emergency Services, other than leaving for more pay.

Mr. Krein noted fire fighters are leaving for the opportunity to work in a more traditional firehouse and went on to add that the entire state is experiencing staff shortages in the Emergency Services area as well.

Short discussion continued between the Committee and Mr. Krein related to employee retention within the Emergency Services department.

**Law Enforcement update – Sheriff Mike Crenshaw**

Sheriff Mike Crenshaw addressed the Committee regarding employee retention within Oconee County Law Enforcement, the detention center and dispatch and went on to ask for consideration of increasing the starting pay from \$40,000.00 to closer to \$55,000.00 for highway patrol to help with employee retention.

Sheriff Crenshaw also added comments related to the increase of police vehicle prices.

**Discussion regarding constructing an alternate tipping area for passenger vehicles at the Seneca Landfill –Swain Still / Director Solid Waste and Recycling**

Mr. Swain Still, Director of Solid Waste and Recycling, addressed the Committee utilizing a power point presentation entitled, “Landfill Update: Alternate Tipping Area for Phase 2, Tonnage Increase, Expected Life, and Equipment and Staff Update”, and provided a detailed update to the Committee related to Solid Waste and Recycling.

Short discussion between Mr. Still and the Committee followed related to fill dirt, out-of-county landfill use, brown good containers at the convenience centers and inmate help at the landfill.

**Discuss commercial junkyard ordinance proposed by the Planning Commission**

Mr. Root provided an overview to the Committee of the changes made within the Junkyard Ordinance, noting the Planning Commission would like input from the Committee and Council in regards to the grandfather clause contained within the ordinance.

Mr. Frankie Pearson, Planning Commission Chair, address the Committee with comments related to the grandfather clause.

Mr. Mize noted that he is against the grandfather clause contained within the ordinance.

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Mr. James Coley, Planning and Zoning Director, provided Mr. Durham with answers to his questions regarding existing commercial junkyards in Oconee County.

Short discussion followed related to the proposed Junkyard Ordinance and concluded with a request by the Committee for Mr. Root, County Attorney, to revise the Junkyard Ordinance in relation to the grandfather clause and amount of required setback area, to then be reviewed by the Planning Commission and brought back before who Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Committee for consideration.

**Discuss electric vehicle battery disposal**

Mr. Root provided an update regarding electric vehicle battery disposal, noting that the EPA suggested, and DHEC confirmed, that these batteries should be treated under the category of Universal Waste.

Mr. Root provided the Committee, who was in agreeance, with his suggestion on how to incorporate the proper disposal of electric vehicle batteries into the Junkyard Ordinance.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council