



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

August 20, 2024

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, District I
Mr. Matthew Durham, Chairman, District II
Mr. Don Mize, Vice Chairman, District III
Mr. Julian Davis III, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, Chairman Pro Tem, District V

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [Mr. Durham absent], County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & Jennifer C. Adams, Clerk to Council present.

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]. In addition, it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Andrea Kelley / The Journal, Brianna Walton / Fox Carolina News

Call to Order

Mr. Mize called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Mize asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation.

Invocation

Mr. David Root, County Attorney, gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 3 – 0 [Mr. Davis abstained from voting due to his absence from the July meeting], to approve the July 16, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented.

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Attorney's Comments

Mr. Root requested a motion to remove the discussion item entitled, "Request for Council's approval for the submission of the second round of 2024/2025 Oconee County Opioid Recovery Fund Applications to the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund (SCORF) Board", noting that some additional due diligence was required related to this request.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 4 – 0, to approve removing the discussion item entitled, "Request for Council's approval for the submission of the second round of 2024/2025 Oconee County Opioid Recovery Fund Applications to the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund (SCORF) Board" from the agenda.

Mr. Root then asked for another motion to remove the single Executive Session item from the agenda entitled, "Receive legal advice and discuss litigation related to expenditure of general obligation bond".

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 4 – 0, to removed the single Executive Session item from the agenda entitled, "Receive legal advice and discuss litigation related to expenditure of general obligation bond".

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock noted a scrivener's error on page 3 of 4, under the discussion item entitled, "NIST Manager Upgrade / Expansion", about 2/3 of the way down on the page, the contingency amount should read \$10,354.00, instead of \$113,927.00 as displayed on the agenda.

Public Comment Session

If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting our Clerk to Council, Jennifer C. Adams at jennifercadams@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record.

1. Mr. Doug Muzek addressed Council with his concerns related the General Obligation Bond for Sewer South.
2. Mr. Jim Mann addressed Council with his concerns related to the ongoing lawsuit against Oconee County regarding the General Obligation Bond for Sewer South.
3. Mr. Jason Boyle addressed Council with his opinion that there is corruption within the Oconee County Sheriff's Office and questioned the duties of Elected Officials.
4. Ms. Maria Green offered her apologies to Council for her conduct at the July 16, 2024 Council meeting and asked for Mr. Durham, who is absent from the meeting, to respond to her emails.

Council Members Comments

None for this meeting.

Public Hearing for the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2024-19 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF EASEMENT RIGHTS TO DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS, LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE AT PROPERTY OWNED BY OCONEE COUNTY IN WALHALLA, SOUTH CAROLINA, CURRENTLY DESIGNATED BY

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OCONEE COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER 500-19-01-006; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Mize opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council and no citizen submitted or presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Mize closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2024-19**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2024-19 *[see caption above]*

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 4 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2024-19** on third and final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2024-20 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO FINANCE AND ACQUIRE CERTAIN TANKER TRUCKS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$3,380,000; TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE FINANCING AND ACQUISITION; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to approve **Ordinance 2024-20** on first reading.

Mr. Elliott inquired if there were any grants available to help assist with the cost of purchasing the above requested tanker trucks and related equipment.

Ms. Brock noted that grant funds are available but only for used equipment or if there is a demonstration of need, going on to add that since the County has funding set aside in the Emergency Services Capital Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund, the County was unable to prove the demonstration of need to qualify for a grant.

Motion approved 4 – 0.

First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

None for this meeting.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Request for Council's approval for the submission of the second round of 2024/2025 Oconee County Opioid Recovery Fund Applications to the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund (SCORF) Board.

- The Opioid Recovery Fund is settlement funding through a yearly requisition process to the State of South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund (SCORF) Board.

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- The abatement strategies, or, proposed projects are approved by the SCORF Board after requests for funding and yearly strategies have been submitted to them.
 - Once abatement strategies and funding are approved by SCORF, awarded funds are sent back to Oconee County for program implementation(s).
 - These funds do not require a match and are guaranteed political subfunds designated for Oconee County.
 - The County's current available amount is \$2,232,473.57.
- These applications have been reviewed and approved by the Oconee County Task Force for Council consideration.

There is no match requirement for this grant.

It is staff's recommendation that Council approve the second application to the SCORF Board for additional abatement strategies under the Oconee County Opioid Recovery Fund.

This item was removed from the agenda as previously requested by County Attorney, Mr. David Root, with a motion made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 4 – 0.

**Title: Batteries for Voting Equipment
Amount: 60,315.63**

Department: Voter Registration & Elections

**Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget process.
Funds for these services will come from unutilized funding in the
FY 2023-2024 Administration Department budget.**

Oconee County purchased ES&S Equipment in 2019 and ES&S/Print Elect recommends replacing the batteries every 4-5 years, as that is the average battery lifespan. It is important to note that all ES&S Equipment, certified at both the federal and state level, require the replacement of the same certified component parts included in the ES&S Equipment at the time such ES&S Equipment was certified. By purchasing the ES&S battery and utilizing ES&S for the performance of preventative and repair maintenance and support services, the County will be assured that all component parts installed in the ES&S Equipment will be in compliance with both federal and state-certified equipment configuration. Only a certified ES&S/Print Elect technician can replace the battery in the equipment.

Election Systems & Software, Inc. currently provides service, licenses, and software for voting equipment for Oconee County in accordance with SC State Contract No. 4400021704.

The batteries were sent from the vendor and received without proper Procurement or Council authorization; thus, Council approval is requested for the disbursement of funds.

Procurement reviewed the invoice and SC State Contract, after the fact, and it is in accordance with SC State Contract.

Election Systems & Software, Inc. (ES&S) holds SC State Contract, 4400021704, Voting System Solutions for the SC State Election Commission. This contract is for a turn-key solution to the State Election Commission and the forty-six (46) Counties of South Carolina. Procurement issued Purchase Order Number 56157 to Election Systems & Software, Inc. for annual service, licenses, and software for voting equipment for Oconee County under SC State Contract No. 4400021704. Print Elect is a vendor partner with ES&S. Proprietary parts, maintenance, and installation of ES&S equipment can only be obtained directly from ES&S or Print Elect.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve:

- 1. Approve the payment of invoice # 33411 for the purchase of the batteries for voting equipment to Print Elect of New Bern, NC, in the amount of \$56,901.54.***
- 2. Approve the payment of sales/use tax directly to the SC DOR in the amount of \$3,414.09.***

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 4 - 0, to approve the payment of invoice # 33411 for the purchase of the batteries for voting equipment to Print Elect of New Bern, NC, in the amount of \$56,901.54 and to approve the payment of sales/use tax directly to the SC DOR in the amount of \$3,414.09.

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Title: NIST Manager Upgrade / Expansion

Department(s): Detention Center

Amount: \$103,570.00

Contingency (10%): \$10,357.00

Total: \$113,927.00

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year FY 2024-2025 Budget process.

Budget: \$113,927.00 Project Cost \$113,927.00 Balance: \$0.00

(Funding from the SC Department of Public Safety & Encartele Commissions)

The Oconee County Detention Center utilizes Dataworks Plus NIST Manager Express to obtain, store and transmit fingerprint cards and information to SLED. The current NIST Manager Express system is designed to store 50,000 fingerprint records but is currently storing 78,000 records, which far exceeds its capacity. The system slows down and is vulnerable to crashing because it was not designed for over 50,000 records. Additionally, the current NIST Manager system is at its end-of-life. If this system fails, the department will face unknown time and cost to restore system functionality, which would severely impact daily booking operations at the Detention Center.

Dataworks Plus, LLC recommends a server storage solution that will convert all current records and provide unlimited storage moving forward. Their recommendation is to upgrade / expand to NIST Manager Enterprise. By proceeding with this upgrade/expansion the Detention Center will have a storage solution that converts all current records to server storage and ensures unlimited future storage while maintaining uninterrupted daily operations for processing inmates.

Staff is requesting a 10% contingency, in the amount of ~~\$113,927.00~~ \$10,357.00, to cover any unforeseen items that may arise during this project.

If this system fails, the department will face unknown time and cost to restore system functionality, which would severely impact daily booking operations at the Detention Center.

It is the staff's recommendation that the Council:

- 1. Approve the Upgrade of the NIST Manager System to DataWorks Plus, LLC. of Greenville, SC in the amount of \$103,570.00.***
- 2. Approve a 10% Contingency in the amount of \$ 10,357.00.***
- 3. Authorize the County Administrator to execute documents for this project and sign any change orders within the contingency amount.***

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 4 - 0, to (1) approve the upgrade of the NIST Manager System to DataWorks Plus, LLC. of Greenville, SC in the amount of \$103,570.00, (2) approve a 10% Contingency in the amount of \$ 10,357.00 and (3) authorize the County Administrator to execute documents for this project and sign any change orders within the contingency amount.

Council Committee Reports

None for this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

None for this meeting.

Executive Session

- 1. Receive legal advice and discuss litigation related to expenditure of general obligation bond.***

As previously requested by County Attorney, Mr. David Root, Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 4 – 0, to remove the Executive Session item “Receive legal advice and discuss litigation related to expenditure of general obligation bond” from the agenda.

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Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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