



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

November 19, 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, 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: Dick Mangrum / 101.7 WGOG, Caleb Gilbert / The Journal

Call to Order

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

Moment of Silence

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

Invocation

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Shirley 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 5 - 0, to approve the November 04, 2024 special meeting minutes as presented.

Attorney's Comments

None at this meeting.

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Administrator's Comments

None at this meeting.

Proclamations

PROCLAMATION 2024-06 A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2024-06** on first and final reading.

PROCLAMATION 2024-07 A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL FAMILY LITERACY MONTH

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Proclamation 2024-07** on first and final reading.

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. David Crockett addressed Council with his interest in serving as a commission member for the newly created Corinth-Shiloh Special Fire District for fire protection.
2. Mr. William Howiler addressed Council with his interest in serving as a commission member for the newly created Corinth-Shiloh Special Fire District for fire protection.
3. Mr. Don Ham addressed Council with his interest in serving as a commission member for the newly created Corinth-Shiloh Special Fire District for fire protection.
4. Ms. Helen Mohr addressed Council with her interest in serving as a commission member for the newly created Corinth-Shiloh Special Fire District for fire protection.
5. Mr. Kevin Christenbury, Corinth-Shiloh Fire Chief, addressed Council in support of the citizens who approached Council at tonight's meeting with their interest in serving as a commission member for the newly created Corinth-Shiloh Special Fire District for fire protection.
6. Ms. Donnine Billingsley addressed Council in support of the citizens who approached Council at tonight's meeting with their interest in serving as a commission member for the newly created Corinth-Shiloh Special Fire District for fire protection.
7. Mr. Andrew Brown addressed Council with his concerns related to the increased cost in taxes for citizens living in the newly created Corinth-Shiloh Special Fire District.
8. Mr. Jason Boyle addressed Council with his opinion that there is corruption in Oconee County.
9. Mr. Kevin Whelan addressed Council with his interest in serving as a commission member for the newly created Corinth-Shiloh Special Fire District for fire protection.
10. Ms. Susie Cornelius addressed Council with her concerns related to Sewer South.
11. Ms. Elspeth Murday addressed Council with her concerns related to election security.

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Council Members Comments

Mr. Durham asked if Ms. Brock could address Ms. Murday's concerns regarding election security.

Ms. Brock kindly provided Ms. Murday answers to all questions she presented to Council related to election security.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

None for this meeting.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Follow up discussion by Council regarding County Council Member Salaries

Ms. Brock informed Council of her findings related to Council Salaries as they compare to similar counties within the State, noting Oconee County Council salaries are on the low side.

Mr. Elliott noted that since he would not be running for re-election, he would leave it up to his fellow Council members as to if they wanted to discuss increasing Council salaries.

Mr. Durham, Council Chair, noted that he had no interest in increasing County Council salaries.

Procurement #: ITB 24-02

Shoreline Stabilization for High Falls and South Cove County Parks

Department(s): PRT

Amount: \$135,000.00

Contingency (10%): \$13,500.00

Total: \$148,500.00

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

Budget: \$148,500.00 Project Cost: \$148,500.00 Balance: \$0.00

***(Funding is from Habitat Enhancement Program (HEP) Grant \$45,232.00
and PRT Capitol Projects Fund \$103,268.00)***

High Falls and South Cove County Parks contains and maintains 14,030 feet of shoreline on Lake Keowee. High Falls County Park has 4,380 feet and South Cove County Park has 9,650 feet of Shoreline. This project is to stabilize approximately 957 feet of shoreline at High Falls County Park and approximately 290 feet at South Cove County Park. The shorelines at both parks have been eroding at significant rates. By completing this project, it will reduce the amount of erosion on the shorelines of the parks.

This project successfully went through the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) approval process and

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received approval according to the submitted plans. Additionally, the shoreline plans were presented to the HEP (Habitat Enhancement Program) grant committee and \$45,232.00 was approved for this project. On October 24, 2024, formal sealed bids were opened for the Shoreline Stabilization at High Falls and South Cove County Parks. Twenty-Two (22) companies downloaded this bid opportunity. Two (2) companies submitted bids, with The Belk Company, LLC of Anderson, SC submitting the lowest, responsive bid of \$135,000.00. Staff is requesting a 10% owners' contingency to allow for unforeseen items that may arise.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council:

- 1. Approve the Award of ITB 24-02, Shoreline Stabilization at High Falls and South Cove County Parks, to The Belk Company, LLC of Anderson, SC in the amount of \$135,000.00, plus a 10% contingency in the amount of \$13,500.00, for a total award of \$148,500.00.***
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to execute documents for this project and sign any change orders within the contingency amount.***

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, to approve the Award of ITB 24-02, Shoreline Stabilization at High Falls and South Cove County Parks, to The Belk Company, LLC of Anderson, SC in the amount of \$135,000.00, plus a 10% contingency in the amount of \$13,500.00, for a total award of \$148,500.00 and authorize the County Administrator to execute documents for this project and sign any change orders within the contingency amount.

Mr. Mize inquired as to what was causing the shoreline erosion.

Mr. Phil Shirley, PRT Director, addressed Council with details related to shoreline erosion and reinforced the need for shoreline stabilization in the above requested areas.

Mr. Hart questioned the cost of this project and inquired if the shoreline stabilization could be completed by County staff at the Rock Quarry and from the Roads and Bridges Department.

Mr. Shirley noted that the challenge with the requested locations is that they are really only accessible by barge and he would connect the Belk Company, LLC, if this request is approved, to the Oconee County Rock Quarry as an option to obtain the rock needed for this project.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

Title: Printing and Mailing All Type Tax Notices

Department(s): Assessor, Auditor, Delinquent Tax & Treasurer

Amount: Not Exceed Approved Ordinance 2024-01 Budget Amount(s)

Procurement anticipated to be approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget process.

Budget: \$179,920.00 Project Cost: \$179,920.00 Balance: \$0.00

(Note: The total budget for this service comes from the Assessor, Auditor, Delinquent Tax and Treasurer's operational and postage approved budget amounts.)

The solicitation was issued to contract with an outside firm that will furnish all labor, equipment, materials and postage to provide tax bills and assessment forms, print notices and bills from data provided by the County, fold and insert into envelopes, presort, deliver to US Post Office and mail. QS1/Smith Data will generate the data files that will be provided electronically to Laser Print Plus, LLC n/k/a Laser Print Plus WY, LLC d/b/a Doxim. This will save the County money in postal expenses, and also provide tax notices that are easy to read and understand and a return envelope to be used for tax

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payments.

The pricing for this purchase is per a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the County of Greenville; which allows other South Carolina Counties, at their discretion, to make use of the County of Greenville's competitive process and to purchase directly from Laser Print Plus, LLC n/k/a Laser Print Plus WY, LLC d/b/a Doxim. This RFP was awarded, by the County of Greenville, in August of 2024 with the option to renew for four additional years. The amount requested is based on estimated quantities and will fluctuate based on the actual number of notices mailed and the Assessor's reassessment year.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council:

- 1. Approve the Award for Printing and Mailing of All Type Tax Notices to Laser Print Plus, LLC n/k/a Laser Print Plus WY, LLC d/b/a Doxim of Columbia, SC in an amount not to exceed the approved 2024-01 Budget, for one year, with an option to renew for four additional one-year periods.***
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to execute documents and renew the award for up to four one-year periods, provided their work is satisfactory and the amount does not exceed the future years approved budgets for this expenditure.***

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, to approve the Award for Printing and Mailing of All Type Tax Notices to Laser Print Plus, LLC n/k/a Laser Print Plus WY, LLC d/b/a Doxim of Columbia, SC in an amount not to exceed the approved 2024-01 Budget, for one year, with an option to renew for four additional one-year periods and authorize the County Administrator to execute documents and renew the award for up to four one-year periods, provided their work is satisfactory and the amount does not exceed the future years approved budgets for this expenditure.

Mr. Elliott asked Ms. Brock if she was aware of any other counties use only digital tax notices.

Ms. Brock noted that while you can receive your tax notice online, they are also mailed out individually.

Mr. Durham inquired if there was a state law that required tax notices to be sent by mail, to which Mr. Root informed Council it is a state law that requires tax notices to be mailed.

Mr. Mize inquired if any feedback from Greenville County, who also uses this service, was received regarding the reliability of this service.

Ms. Brock noted that she believes all requesting County departments contacted Greenville County for feedback regarding this service.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

Title: Vehicle Up-Fitting

Department(s): Vehicle Maintenance / Sheriff's Office

Amount: \$89,283.11

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

Budget: \$89,283.11 Project Cost: \$89,283.11 Balance: \$0.00

On October 15, 2024, Council approved the purchase of two (2) 2023 Ram 1500 SSVs, one (1) 2024 Ram 1500 SSV, and ten (10) 2025 Dodge Durango's for the Sheriff's Office, specifically for use in Investigations, Narcotics, and Road

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Deputies. This purchase request includes the upfitting of these vehicles with a range of emergency lighting and safety equipment, as detailed in the quotes. The equipment consists of emergency lights, mounting brackets, speakers, sirens, control heads, fuse panels, and other necessary components for installation and operation.

The procurement of this equipment is crucial for maintaining the department's readiness and response capability. It will ensure that the new vehicles are fully equipped to handle emergency situations with reliable lighting, sirens, and communication devices, which are essential for public safety and efficient operations.

Dana Safety Supply, Inc. of Greensboro, NC was awarded the SC State Contract award for emergency light bars and equipment per contract # 4400025308. This contract is 40% off retail / list price.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase up-fitting equipment to Dana Safety Supply, Inc., of Greensboro, NC, in the amount of \$89,283.11 per State Contract #4400025308.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve the purchase up-fitting equipment to Dana Safety Supply, Inc., of Greensboro, NC, in the amount of \$89,283.11 per State Contract #4400025308.

**Title: One (1) 2024 Ford F-150
Amount: \$51,598.00**

Department: Emergency Services

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

Budget: \$ 51,598.00 Project Cost: \$51,598.00 Balance: \$0.00

(Funding from Emergency Services Capital Equipment / (335) Vehicle Fund)

The Fiscal year 2024-2025 Emergency Services Capital Replacement plan includes a Ford F-150 4x4 for Emergency Services. This vehicle will be assigned to the Oakway Volunteer Rescue Squad, replacing one of their existing units. This vehicle is on the lot at the dealership and there will be very little wait time in delivery. If the County places an order for this vehicle, it could be late Summer 2025 before it is received and delivered.

The new vehicle will replace a 2008 F250, which will be transferred into Emergency Services Reserved Fleet to support Rescue Response units during their service and repair periods. The vehicle being replaced will be sent in for repairs to ensure it remains in service continues to support the fleet. The Fleet Maintenance Director also approves this purchase.

Santee Automotive of Manning, SC was awarded SC State Contract # 4400035151 for Ford vehicles.

Santee Automotive of Manning, SC is a SC State Contract holder for Ford vehicles.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of a 2024 Ford F-150 from Santee Automotive of Manning, SC, in the amount of \$51,598.00.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve the purchase of a 2024 Ford F-150 from Santee Automotive of Manning, SC, in the amount of \$51,598.00.

Council Committee Reports

None for this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

None for this meeting.

Executive Session

None for this meeting.

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Adjourn:

Mr. Elliott made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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