



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

December 03, 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

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

Mr. Hart 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 19, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Attorney's Comments

None for this meeting.

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Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock wished everyone a Merry Christmas and offered a reminder of the special County Council meeting scheduled for this Friday, December 6, 2024 at 9 a.m.

Proclamations

PROCLAMATION 2024-08 A PROCLAMATION HONORING KEOWEE FIRE COMMISSIONER, DR. DON S. CHAMBERLAIN, FOR HIS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2024-08** 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. Jason Boyles addressed Council with his opinions regarding prayer and the pledge during Council meetings, then went on to add comments related to a former Oconee County Sheriff's Office employee.

Council Members Comments

Mr. John Elliott expressed his appreciation to Mr. Davis for his eight years of service on the Oconee County Council.

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

ORDINANCE 2024-26 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CORINTH-SHILOH SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT FOR FIRE PROTECTION; ESTABLISHING THE CORINTH-SHILOH SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT COMMISSION; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2024-26** on first reading.

ORDINANCE 2024-27 AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT ORDINANCE 2024-05, WHICH APPROPRIATED AND AUTHORIZED THE EXPENDITURE OF FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$56,000.00) DOLLARS OF FUNDING UNDER THE LOCAL ASSISTANCE AND TRIBAL CONSISTENCY FUND OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 FOR THE SENECA LIBRARY ADA RAMP PROJECT, BY APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL NINETY THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE, AND 50/100 (\$90,173.50) DOLLARS, SO THAT THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR EXPENDITURE FOR THE

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SENECA LIBRARY ADA RAMP PROJECT EQUALS ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIX THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE AND 50/100 (\$146,173.50) DOLLARS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to approve **Ordinance 2024-27** on first reading.

Mr. Mize questioned the additional requested funds for the Seneca Library ADA Ramp.

Ms. Brock noted that construction has not begun and that bids for this project were just received.

Mr. Hart added lighthearted comments related to the above request.

Mr. Davis offered his opinion that a new Seneca Library needs to be constructed before more money is spent for renovations on the current facility.

Mr. Elliott questioned if the ARPA funding for this project had a deadline of December 31, 2024.

Ms. Brock informed Council that funding for this project was actually from the Tribal Funds, which is part of the ARPA allocation, but does not share the same deadline.

Mr. Davis noted that a new library, in combination with a satellite tax-payment office or tag office, would be a good dual facility to serve citizens.

Mr. Hart noted he liked that the ordinance included a statement under section 2(c) that states the County may discontinue this project any time for certain reasons.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

ORDINANCE 2024-28 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS ONLY, EFFECTING A LIMITATION ON CERTAIN EMERGENCY POWERS AND DESIGNATING THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR AS THE PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE COUNTY WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITIES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve **Ordinance 2024-28** on first reading.

Mr. Mize made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to amend Chapter 10, section 10-275, item number 3 (b) of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances by removing the statement numbered 9 (nine) that reads, “The suspension or limitation upon the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages” [copy filed in backup].

Mr. Mize added alcohol was used to make antiseptics and hand sanitizers during the Covid crisis and prohibiting the sale of alcohol could impact certain business owners, as well.

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Motion to amend approved 3 – 1 [Mr. Elliott opposed and Mr. Davis did not cast a vote].

Main motion as amended approved 5 – 0.

First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2024-19 A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL ELECTION, HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2024, IN RELATION TO THE CREATION OF THE PROPOSED CORINTH-SHILOH SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT FOR FIRE PROTECTION AND ITS GOVERNING COMMISSION.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Resolution 2024-19** on first and final reading.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Local ATAX Recommendations- Oconee County PRT Commission - \$74,380

A portion of Local ATAX revenues received by Oconee County are made available for ATAX grants through Ordinance 2011-12. ATAX grants are to be tourism related grants that meet the ATAX guidelines specified by local and State mandates. Grants are recommended by the PRT Commission based on tourism impact of the project and approved by County Council. All external ATAX grant recipients are required to turn in intermediate reports every 60 days to the progress of the grant and a final report upon completion of the grant. These reports are placed in the grant folder, which is kept active by the PRT staff until the grant is considered complete.

Internal projects through Oconee PRT are also recommended through local ATAX for eligible projects to lessen the impact to the general fund when available. These three (3) projects include:

1. Supplemental funds from local ATAX for FY25 wage and comp study adjustments for PRT part-time/seasonal staff (\$33,373) and Visit Oconee staff paid from ATAX (\$19,562).
2. Additional safety mulch to be added to a playground as a result of its annual inspection (\$3,795).
3. Funds to host ten (10) fishing tournaments this season (\$17,650). See attached lists.

Local ATAX available balance including encumbrances as of Nov. 1, 2024: \$814,089.94

If all grants/projects approved/new balance will be: \$739,709.94

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve of the ATAX grant recommendations as presented.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve of the ATAX grant recommendations as presented.

Mr. Mize made note of the numerous fishing tournaments on Lake Keowee that have requested ATAX funding and inquired if the lake was restocked after these tournaments?

Mr. Phil Shirley, PRT Director, noted the County does not have a program that restocks Lake Keowee.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

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Title: One (1) 2023 Ford F-350 (4x4)
Amount: \$52,769.00

Department: Emergency Services

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

Budget: \$52,769.00 Project Cost: \$52,769.00 Balance: \$0.00

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

The Emergency Services Capital Replacement Plan includes the purchase of a Ford F-350 (4x4). This vehicle will be assigned to Salem Volunteer Rescue Squad. This vehicle will be used for Emergency response and will carry special rescue equipment and to haul / tow additional equipment. Due to the amount of equipment and the terrain of their response area a F-350 is required.

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.

This vehicle will replace a 2008 F250 (4x4), which will be transferred into Emergency Services Fleet to replace the 2006 Chevrolet 1500 (151,000 miles) Fire Investigation Truck.

The 2006 Chevrolet 1500 will be sold as surplus or replace older vehicles used in other County departments.

The Fleet Maintenance Director also approves this purchase.

Spartanburg Ford of Spartanburg, SC was awarded SC State Contract # 4400035159 for Ford vehicles.

Spartanburg Ford of Spartanburg, SC is a SC State Contract holder for Ford vehicles.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of a 2023 Ford F-350 from Spartanburg Ford of Spartanburg, SC, in the amount of \$52,769.00.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 5 - 0, to approve the purchase of a 2023 Ford F-350 from Spartanburg Ford of Spartanburg, SC, in the amount of \$52,769.00.

Title: One (1) 2025 Expedition Max (4x4)
Amount: \$57,000.00

Department: Emergency Services

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

Budget: \$ 57,000.00 Project Cost: \$57,000.00 Balance: \$0.00

(Funding from Emergency Services Capital Equipment / Vehicle Fund (335) and Radiological Support and Direct Aid Grant)

The Emergency Services Capital Replacement Plan includes the purchase of a 4x4 SUV. This vehicle will be used for Emergency response throughout Oconee County. This vehicle will be ordered with estimated delivery in Summer of 2025.

This vehicle will replace a 2012 Suburban (185,000 miles), which will be transferred into Emergency Services Reserve Fleet to provide support during times of maintenance and repair of other units. 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.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. \$30,000.00 will come from The Radiological Support and Direct Aid Grant funding provided by Duke Energy in support of Emergency Management during possible Nuclear Disasters.
2. 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 2025 Ford Expedition Max from Santee Automotive of Manning, SC, in the amount of \$57,000.00.

Mr. Mize made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve the purchase of a 2025 Ford Expedition Max from Santee Automotive of Manning, SC, in the amount of \$57,000.00.

Mr. Hart inquired if Duke Power was going to donate \$30,000.00 toward the purchase of this vehicle.

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Ms. Brock affirmed Mr. Hart's statement.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

Procurement #: ITB 24-05 Title: Hose Testing

Department(s): Emergency Services

Amount: \$49,300

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

Budget: \$49,300.00 Project Cost: \$49,300.00 Balance: \$0.00

Oconee County Emergency Services / Fire Service is equipped with approximately 170,000 feet of firefighting hose which requires yearly pressure testing of the hose, fittings, and couplings to ensure it is fit for continued service. All testing is required to meet the standards of NFPA 1962; which is the Standard for Care, Use, Inspection, Service Testing, and Replacement of Fire Hose, Couplings, Nozzles, and Fire Hose Appliances.

On October 31, 2024 formal sealed bids were opened for ITB 24-05, Hose Testing for Emergency Services. Twelve (12) companies were originally notified of this bid opportunity. Four (4) companies submitted bids, with Fire Catt, LLC of Troy, MI and Mill Dam Enterprises, Inc of Canton, NC submitting identical low and responsive bids in the amount of \$49,300.00. On November 7, 2024, Procurement conducted a coin toss to determine the Awarded vendor. There were three (3) witnesses present. The coin toss resulted in the Award going to Mill Dam Enterprises, Inc. of Canton, NC in the amount of \$49,300.00.

This bid solicitation was issued for a 1-year term with option to renew for up to 4 additional years.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council:

- 1. Approve the award of bid ITB 24-05, Hose Testing for Emergency Services to Mill Dam Enterprises, Inc., of Canton, NC in the amount of \$49,300.00.*
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to renew the bid for up to four one-year periods, provided services are satisfactory and does not exceed future years approved budget amounts.*

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve the award of bid ITB 24-05, Hose Testing for Emergency Services to Mill Dam Enterprises, Inc., of Canton, NC in the amount of \$49,300.00 and to authorize the County Administrator to renew the bid for up to four one-year periods, provided services are satisfactory and does not exceed future years approved budget amounts.

Mr. Hart made note of the total length of hose testing would equal almost 3 miles.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

Council Committee Reports

Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Committee / Mr. Mize.....November 19, 2024

Mr. Mize provided information outlining discussions held at the November 19, 2024 Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Committee special meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

None for this meeting.

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Executive Session

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to enter into Executive Session for the following purposes, as allowed for § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

1. *Receive legal advice and discuss potential litigation related to code enforcement.*
2. *Receive legal advice and discuss contractual matter related to Project Galt / Books for Less.*
3. *Discuss contractual and personnel matter related to the County Attorney.*

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0 [Mr. Davis did not return to the meeting following executive session].

Mr. Durham noted no action is needed after Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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