



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

January 07, 2025

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, District I
Mr. Matthew Durham, Chairman, District II
Mr. Don Mize, Vice Chairman, District III
Mr. Thomas James, 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. Root called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Root asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by County Council Chaplain.

Invocation

Mr. Root, County Attorney, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Brock 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 December 3, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve the December 06, 2024 special meeting minutes as presented.

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Election of Officers

Council Chairperson

Mr. Hart nominated Mr. Durham as Council Chairperson. No other nominations were made. Mr. Root called for the vote. Mr. Durham was elected Council Chairperson on a 5 - 0 vote.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Durham to preside as Chair.

Council Vice Chairperson

Mr. Durham nominated Mr. Mize as Council Vice Chairperson, approved 5 – 0, with no other nominations for Council Vice Chairperson being made.

Council Chairperson Pro Tem

Mr. Mize nominated Mr. Hart as Council Chairperson Pro-Tem, approved 5 – 0, with no other nominations for Council Chairperson Pro-Tem being made.

Re-Appointment of the following Appointed Officials

Clerk to Council

Mr. Mize nominated Ms. Jennifer Adams as Clerk to Council, approved 5 – 0, with no other nominations being made for Clerk to Council being made.

Appointment of Council Chaplain

Mr. Hart nominated Mr. David Root, County Attorney, as Council Chaplain, approved 5 – 0, with no other nominations for Council Chaplain being made.

Appointment of Council Committees for 2025 by Chairman

Mr. Durham made a nomination for the following County Council Committee appointments:

- **Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health and Welfare**
Mr. Mize as Chair, with Mr. Hart and Mr. Durham as committee members.
- **Planning and Economic Development**
Mr. James as Chair, with Mr. Mize and Mr. Hart as committee members.
- **Real Estate, Facilities and Land Management**
Mr. Elliott as Chair, with Mr. Mize and Mr. James as committee members.
- **Transportation**
Mr. Hart as Chair, with Mr. James and Mr. Elliott as committee members.
- **Budget, Finance, and Administration**
Mr. Durham as Chair, with all of Council as committee members.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Committee Chairs and members as nominated.

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Appointment of 2025 Council Representatives by Chairman

Mr. Durham made a nomination for the following Council Representatives:

- **SC Appalachian Council of Government Board of Directors**
 - Council Representative – Mr. Glen Hart
 - Citizen Representative – Mr. David Underwood
 - Minority Representative – Mr. Wayne Wright

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 - 0, to appoint Council Representatives for the SC Appalachian Council of Government Board of Directors as nominated.

Mr. Durham made a nomination for the following Council Representatives:

- **Oconee Economic Alliance Board Member** – Mr. Don Mize

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to appoint Mr. Don Mize as the Oconee Economic Alliance Board Member.

2025 Meeting Schedule Establishment for Council / Committees

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 5 - 0, to approve the 2025 County Council and Council Committee schedules as submitted. [Copy filed with these minutes.]

Attorney's Comments

None for this meeting.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock wished all a Happy New Year and congratulated new and incumbent Council members on their swearing in ceremonies this evening.

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 Hammond addressed Council regarding a personal matter involving the Department of Social Services and his mother.
2. Mr. Nathan Chambers addressed Council with his thoughts regarding a recent personnel matter within the 10th Circuit Solicitors Office.
3. Mr. Jason Boyle addressed Council with his thoughts regarding a recent personnel matter within the 10th Circuit Solicitors Office.
4. Mr. Durham read into the record an emailed public comment from Ms. Catherine Rohland regarding the camera angles on the live YouTube broadcast of County Council meetings.

Council Members Comments

Mr. Durham expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on Council for another four years and extended his thanks to all who attended the swearing in ceremony.

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Mr. Hart noted he was looking forward to the coming year.

Public Hearing for 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. Durham opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Durham opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council and no citizen submitted or presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Durham closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2024-26**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2024-26 (*see caption above*)

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

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

None at this meeting.

First and Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

None at this meeting.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

None at this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

Agriculture Advisory Board

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Nathaniel Duncan as the District II representative on the Agriculture Advisory Board.

Mr. James made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Gary Wilson as the District IV representative on the Agriculture Advisory Board.

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Mr. Hart made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to re-appoint Mr. Charlie Whiten as the District V representative on the Agriculture Advisory Board.

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 4 – 0 [Mr. Elliott abstained from voting, citing that he does not believe former County employees or County Council members should serve on boards or commissions], to appoint Mr. David McMahan as the At-Large representative on the Agriculture Advisory Board.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to re-appoint Ms. Gwen Fowler as the District II representative on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. James made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Jason Cox as the District IV representative on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Hart made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to re-appoint Mr. Timothy Mays as the District V representative on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 4 – 0 [Mr. Elliott abstained from voting], to appoint Mr. Wayne McCall as the At-Large representative on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Library Board

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to re-appoint Mr. Paul Holcombe as an At-Large representative on the Library Board.

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Mandy Ferguson as an At-Large representative on the Library Board.

Mr. Mize made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Kim Jackson as an At-Large representative on the Library Board.

Mr. Hart made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Vicky Smith as an At-Large representative on the Library Board.

Mr. James made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Kay Knapp as an At-Large representative on the Library Board.

Mr. Mize made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Judy Adams as an At-Large representative on the Library Board.

Mr. Durham made note of the upcoming Board and Commission appointments to be held at the next two Oconee County Council meetings.

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Executive Session:

None for this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Elliott made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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