



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

January 21, 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 [via phone], & 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: None

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 by County Council Chaplain

Mr. James, District IV Councilmen, gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Consent Agenda

- 1. January 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Procurement Item:**
2025 Kenworth T-880 with Roll-Off Cable Hoist
Department: Solid Waste
Amount: \$273,431.00

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

Budget: \$273,431.00 Project Cost: \$273,431.00 Balance: \$0.00
(Funding from Capital Equipment / (325) Vehicle Fund)

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of a 2025 Kenworth T-880 with Hoist and Tarp System to Worldwide Equipment Enterprises, Inc. of Columbia, SC in the amount of \$273,431.00, per Sourcewell Contract Number 032824-KTC.

3. Procurement Item:

ITB 24-01 Detention Center Sewage Screen

Department(s): Detention Center

Amount: \$441,790.00

Contingency 10%: \$44,179.00

Total: \$485,969.00

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

Budget: \$485,969.00 Project Cost: \$485,969.00 Balance: \$0.00

It is the staff's recommendation that Council:

- 1. Approve ITB 24-01 Detention Center Sewage Screen to Greenstone Construction, LLC of Seneca, SC in the amount of \$441,790.00, plus a 10% contingency in the amount of \$44,179.00, for a total award of \$485,969.00.*
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to execute documents for this project and sign any change orders within the contingency amount.*
- 3. Authorize the County Administrator to transfer funds to the appropriate line items.*

4. Procurement Item:

PO 56330 Change Order No. 1

Department(s): Solid Waste

Amount: PO 56330: \$34,740.00

Change Order No. 1: \$29,680.00

Total: \$64,420.00

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

Budget: \$64,420.00 Project Cost: \$64,420.00 Balance: \$0.00

It is the staff's recommendation that the Council:

- 1. Approve Change Order No. 1, PO 56330 to Linder Industrial Machinery of Greer, SC in the amount of \$29,680.00, for a total purchase order amount of \$64,420.00.*
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to transfer funds to the appropriate line items.*

5. Council consideration and approval of payment allocation for Amendment #3 to Owner-Engineer Agreement between the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority [OJRSA] and David & Floyd Engineering for additional services related to a permanent creek crossing and water service for the Welcome Center Pump Station for Sewer South Phase II.

Amendment Amount: \$89,313.00

Total Project Cost (Amended) \$513,813.00

Original Approved Amount: \$424,500.00

Original Approved Contingency Amount: \$575,500.00

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Project Total: \$1,000,000.00

Amended Amount: \$513,813.00 (Increase \$89,313.00)

Amended Contingency Amount: \$486,187.00 (Decrease \$89,313.00)

Project Total: \$1,000,000.00

Budget: \$1,000,000.00 Project Cost: \$379,762.00 Balance: \$620,238.00

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve payment allocation for Amendment #3 to the Owner- Engineer Agreement between the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority and Davis and Floyd, Inc. in the amount of \$89,313.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve all items on the consent agenda as presented.

Attorney's Comments

None for this meeting.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock informed Council of a scrivener's date error on the actual document related consent agenda item entitled, "Amendment #3 to Owner-Engineer Agreement between the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority [OJRSA] and David & Floyd Engineering for additional services related to a permanent creek crossing and water service for the Welcome Center Pump Station for Sewer South Phase II", and noted the date on the Agenda Item Summary is the correct date.

Mr. Elliott suggested that "Consent Agenda" items may need to be placed after "Attorney Comments" and "Administrator Comments" going forward, in the case clarification is needed related to one or more of the items presented.

Mr. Durham agreed with Mr. Elliott's suggestion.

Presentation to Council

Mr. Jerry Dyar – Oconee County Veterans Affairs

Mr. Dyar expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Council for the sacrifices they make for the citizens of Oconee County and for the support Council extends to the Veteran's Affairs Office and Veterans of Oconee County.

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.

No speakers for this meeting.

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Council Members Comments

Mr. Hart noted that he believes Mr. Dyar goes far beyond his call of duty for the Veterans of Oconee County.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

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. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2024-08** on second reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

None for this meeting.

Action on Matters Removed from Consent Agenda at Council Member Request

None for this meeting.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Discuss and take appropriate action with respect to Upcountry Fiber, LLC's request to transfer remaining fixed wireless assets to Net Doctors.

Mr. Root, County Attorney, provided Council with details related to the above request.

Mr. Hart inquired about the level of service the customers with wireless connection would get in comparison to those with a wired connection.

Mr. Root noted the customers included in this request have always had a wireless connection but Upcountry was unable to migrate them to a wired connection.

Mr. Durham noted that Blue Ridge (Upcountry Fiber) does not want to provide service to wireless points of access any longer, to which Mr. Root confirmed.

Mr. Root further noted this transfer request just needs Council approval before all documents were signed by the County Administrator.

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Ms. Brock explained to Mr. Hart that due to the geography of the land surrounding these businesses, the necessary easements were impossible to obtain to provide wired access.

Mr. Hart provided further comments regarding the transfer of fiber to Blue Ridge from the County, a transaction that took place several years ago.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to approve Upcountry Fiber, LLC's request to transfer remaining fixed wireless assets to Net Doctors.

Mr. Mize inquired if there was confidence in the ability of Net Doctors to maintain these current wireless connections.

Ms. Brock noted that wireless connections are in Net Doctors field of expertise and that they also provide similar services on a much larger scale to different areas of the County.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

Council consideration of approval of conservation easement funding from the Oconee County Conservation Bank in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the Stevenson Century Farm property.

On December 10, 2024, the Oconee County Conservation Bank Board voted to approve the grant request of \$20,000 for a conservation easement on Stevenson Century Farm, a fourth-generation family farm situated in an area of Oconee County designated for agricultural preservation by the 2020 Comprehensive Plan. The board met, followed all procedures and policies stated in Policy No. 003 (Grant Procedures), reviewed the grant, and scored the submitted grant above the required minimum score of 30 for farmland. Funding for the \$20,000.00 grant will come from our current Local Government Investment Pool bank balance of \$359,590.00.

The complete grant application can be found on the Conservation Bank Board website:

<https://oconeesc.com/documents/council/committees/conservation-bank-board/2024/backup-material/2024-12-10-backup.pdf>

Oconee County Conservation Bank Board recommends approval of support and funding of a grant request of \$20,000 by Council for a conservation easement on Stevenson Century Farm.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve support and funding of a grant request of \$20,000.00 for a conservation easement on Stevenson Century Farms.

Mr. Elliott noted the above requested funding would come from private sources and that no taxpayer money would be involved.

Mr. Hart also noted this request included 30 acres of land in Oconee County and approximately 120 acres in Anderson County, where he imagines the same request for funding a conservation easement has been made.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

Council Committee Reports

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Board & Commission Appointments

Planning Commission

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to re-appoint Mr. David Nix as the District II representative on the Planning Commission.

Mr. James made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Charles Fravel as the District IV representative on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Hart made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Jake Marcengill as the District V representative on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to re-appoint Mr. Mike Johnson as the At-Large representative on the Planning Commission.

Aeronautics Commission

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Bryan Duncan as the District II representative on the Aeronautics Commission.

Mr. James made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to re-appoint Mr. Wayne Rholetter as the District IV representative on the Aeronautics Commission.

Mr. Hart made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Casey Whittington as the District V representative on the Aeronautics Commission.

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to re-appoint Mr. Dan Suddeth as the At-Large representative on the Aeronautics Commission.

Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Kelli Thomason as an At-Large representative on the PRT Commission.

Mr. James made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Tony Adams as an At-Large representative on the PRT Commission.

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Noah Baker as an At-Large representative on the PRT Commission.

Executive Session

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, 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. Discuss potential appointments to Corinth-Shiloh Special Purpose Tax District Commission. S.C. Code § 30-4-70(a)(1).*

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2. *Receive legal advice and discuss potential contractual matter related to property development proposal.*

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:21 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:01p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0.

Council moved on to the appointments of the Corinth Shiloh Special Tax District for Fire Protection Commission.

Board & Commission Appointments

The Board & Commission seats listed below are co-terminus with Council District seats and will require [in the 1st quarter of 2025] appointment and/or reappointment as follows:

Corinth Shiloh Special Tax District for Fire Protection Commission..... 5 Seats

9 questionnaires requesting appointment

Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. William Howiler as an At-Large representative on the Corinth Shiloh Special Tax District for Fire Protection Commission.

Mr. Hart made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Richard Walton as an At-Large representative on the Corinth Shiloh Special Tax District for Fire Protection Commission.

Mr. Mize made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Monty Marcengill as an At-Large representative on the Corinth Shiloh Special Tax District for Fire Protection Commission.

Mr. James made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Joel Wayne Smith as an At-Large representative on the Corinth Shiloh Special Tax District for Fire Protection Commission.

Mr. Durham made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Ms. Misty Morris as an At-Large representative on the Corinth Shiloh Special Tax District for Fire Protection Commission.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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