

MINUTES OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL Regular Meeting June 03, 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: Andrea Kelley / 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 by County Council Chaplain

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. James Coley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Attorney's Comments

None at this meeting.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock offered a reminder that Council will not meet again until July 15, 2025.

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Consent Agenda

1. May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

2. Procurement Item:

ITB 24-11 Physicals for Firefighters Department(s): Emergency Services Amount: Not to exceed \$130,000.00

Procurement anticipated to be approved by Council in FY 2025-2026 budget process. Budget: \$130,000.00 Project Cost: \$130,000.00 Balance: \$0.00

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve; upon final approval of the FY 25-26 budget:

- 1. Award of ITB #24-11, Physicals for Firefighters, to Upstate Medical Associates, P.A., of Seneca, SC, and KAL Inc., d/b/a Fitness Forum Occupational Testing Services, of Florence, SC, for a combined not-to-exceed amount of \$130,000.00, for a period of one year with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods, contingent on approval of Ordinance 2025-01 (FY 25-26 Budget).
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to renew the contracts, not to exceed the future fiscal years approved budget amounts, for up to four one-year periods, provided their work is satisfactory.

3. Procurement Item:

RFP 24-08 Inmate Food Service Department(s): Detention Center

Amount: Not to Exceed Approved Ordinance 2025-01 Budget Amount

Procurement anticipated to be approved by Council in FY 2025-2026 budget process.

Budget: \$450,000.00 Project Cost: \$450,000.00 Balance: \$0.00

It is the staff's recommendation that Council; upon final approval of the FY 25-26 budget:

- 1. Approve the award of RFP 24-08, Inmate Food Services to Trinity Services Group, Inc., of Oldsmar, FL, in an amount not to exceed the approved Ordinance 2025-01 budgeted amount for the expenditure.
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to renew this contract for an additional four years, as long as the amount does not exceed the food amount budgeted and approved by Council for future years and all services are satisfactory.

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4. Procurement Item:

RFP 24-09 Institutional Healthcare Services

Department: Detention Center

Amount: \$867,810.00 Contingency: \$34,000.00 Total: \$901,810.00

Procurement anticipated to be approved by Council in FY 2025-2026 budget process. Budget: \$901,810.00 Project Cost: \$901,810.00 Balance: \$0.00

It is the staff's recommendation that Council; upon final approval of the FY 25-26 budget:

- 1. Approve the award of RFP 24-09, Institutional Healthcare Services to GENESYS Health Alliance, LLC of Waycross, GA, in the amount of \$867,810.00.
- 2. Approve Contingency in the amount of \$34,000.00 to cover any ADP overages and / or ancillary services not covered under the contract.
- 3. Approve any additions in services as long as the medical budget for the detention center is not exceeded.
- 4. Authorize the County Administrator to transfer funds to the appropriate line item(s) and to renew this contract for an additional four years, as long as the amount does not exceed the medical amount budgeted for the Detention Center and the services provided are satisfactory.

5. Procurement Item:

Tires from State Contract

Department(s): Rock Quarry & Vehicle Maintenance

Estimated Amount: \$195,000.00

Procurement anticipated to be approved by Council in FY 2025-2026 budget process.

Budget: \$195,000.00 Project Cost: \$195,000.00 Balance: \$0.00

It is the staff's recommendation that Council; upon final approval of the FY 2025-2026 budget:

- 1. Approve the purchase of Bridgestone/Firestone, Goodyear, and Michelin tires as needed from Super Service Tire & Alignment of Walhalla, SC in a combined estimated amount of \$195,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to approve future tire purchases through the existing and any future South Carolina Statewide Tire and Service Term Contracts, for as long as such contracts remain in effect, without requiring additional individual Council approvals, provided the purchase amounts do not exceed the budgeted and Council-approved allocations for tire purchases in future years.

(All above requested Procurement Items are anticipated to be approve by Council in FY 2025-2026 budget process.)

May 6, 2025 1st Reading of 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance was approved

May 20, 2025 2nd Reading of 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance was approved

June 3, 2025 3rd and Final Reading of 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance is anticipated to be approved

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

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Proclamations

None for this meeting.

Public Comment Session

If you are unable to attend in person and you have a comment you would like to be considered by Council, please email or call the Council Member for your district (https://oconeesc.com/council-home/council-officials), so that they may consider and perhaps include your comments during Council Member comments, as and if appropriate.

- 1. Mrs. Emily Hitchcock addressed Council in opposition to Ordinance 2025-12.
- 2. Ms. Martha File addressed Council in opposition to **Ordinance 2025-12**. [copy in backup]
- 3. Ms. Linda Lovely addressed Council in opposition to **Ordinance 2025-12**. [copy in backup]
- **4.** Mr. Chris Starker addressed Council in opposition to **Ordinance 2025-12**.
- 5. Mr. Joseph Tinsley addressed Council in opposition to Ordinance 2025-12.
- **6.** Mr. Gary Owens addressed Council in opposition to **Ordinance 2025-12**. [copy in backup]
- 7. Ms. Dale Wilde addressed Council in opposition to **Ordinance 2025-12**. [copy in backup]
- **8.** Ms. Donna Wexley addressed Council in opposition to **Ordinance 2025-12**.
- **9.** Mrs. Bettina George addressed Council in opposition to **Ordinance 2025-12**.
- **10.** Mr. Andy Smith addressed Council in opposition to **Ordinance 2025-12**.
- 11. Mr. Eddie Martin addressed Council in opposition to Ordinance 2025-12.
- 12. Mrs. Lynn Martin addressed Council in opposition to Ordinance 2025-12.
- 13. Ms. Lucretia Morgan addressed Council with concerns related to the Planning Commission.
- **14.** Mr. Alan Stuart addressed Council with Duke Energy's request related to Oconee County Conservation Bank funding. [copy in backup]
- 15. Mr. Shea Airey emailed a public comment in opposition to **Ordinance 2025-12**. [copy in backup]

Council Members Comments

Mr. Elliott made a motion to table **Ordinance 2025-12** on second reading.

Mr. Durham requested that Mr. Elliott propose his motion later in the meeting when **Ordinance 2025-12** is up for second reading by Council, to which Mr. Elliott agreed.

Mr. Elliott thanked all who came out to speak during the public comment session.

Mr. Durham extended his thanks to Mr. James Coley for all the work he has done for Oconee County and its citizens, noting he will be missed.

<u>Public Hearing for the Following Ordinances</u> If you would like to be heard during either of the public hearings, please contact Clerk to Council Jennifer C. Adams at <u>jennifercadams@oconeesc.com</u> or 864-718-1023 so that your participation by may be coordinated.

ORDINANCE 2025-01 AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY AND PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES, FOR THE TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE VICTIM SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, FOR THE STATE ACCOMMODATIONS TAX SPECIAL REVENUE FUND,

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FOR THE LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAX SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE BRIDGE AND CULVERT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE CAPITAL VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT FUND, FOR THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, FOR THE FIRE / EMERGENCY SERVICES CAPITAL VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT FUND, FOR THE GENERAL ONE TIME CAPITAL FUND, AND FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND, ALL IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026.

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 2025-01**.

ORDINANCE 2025-02 AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026.

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 2025-02**.

ORDINANCE 2025-03 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT AND TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026.

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 2025-03**.

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ORDINANCE 2025-04 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE CORINTH-SHILOH SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT FOR FIRE PROTECTION AND TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE CORINTH-SHILOH SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT FOR FIRE PROTECTION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026.

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 2025-04.

ORDINANCE 2025-11 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A REAL PROPERTY LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOUTH UNION VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, AS LESSOR, AND OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AS LESSEE, FOR CERTAIN IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 111 FIRE STATION ROAD, WESTMINSTER, SOUTH CAROLINA, CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED BY TAX MAP NUMBER 324-00-04-031; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

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 2025-11.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2025-01 (see caption above)

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2025-01** on third and final reading.

ORDINANCE 2025-02 (see caption above)

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2025-02** on third and final reading.

ORDINANCE 2025-03 (see caption above)

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2025-03** on third and final reading.

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ORDINANCE 2025-04 (see caption above)

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2025-04** on third and final reading.

ORDINANCE 2025-11 (see caption above)

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2025-11** on third and final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2025-12 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OCONEE COUNTY CONSERVATION BANK ORDINANCE. O.C. CODE SECTIONS 2-398 THROUGH 2-409.

Mr. Durham announced that he is recusing himself from discussions and voting on **Ordinance 2025-12** [copy of recusal form is in the backup materials] and then turned the meeting over to Mr. Don Mize, Vice Chair, to proceed.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to approve **Ordinance 2025-12** on second reading.

Mr. Elliott made a motion to table **Ordinance 2025-12** on second reading.

Mr. Elliott's motion failed due to lack of a second.

Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to direct staff to investigate and begin the process of returning any remaining funds back to Duke Energy, and went on to provide further comments on this matter.

Mr. Elliott expressed his opposing views related this matter.

Motion to direct staff to investigate and begin the process of returning any remaining funds back to Duke Energy approved 3 - 1 [Mr. Elliott opposed].

Mr. Root clarified the above stated motion with Council.

Mr. Mize once again called for a motion to approve **Ordinance 2025-12** on second reading.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 3 - 1 [Mr. Elliott opposed], to approve **Ordinance 2025-12** on second reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

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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

Council consideration and request for approval on the recommendation from OCCB to support and fund a grant request of \$116,000.00 for a conservation easement on the Keese Family Farm.

On May 13, 2025, the Oconee County Conservation Bank Board voted to approve the grant request.

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. Due to familial interest, board member Ryan Keese recused himself from scoring and voting on the grant. The complete grant application can be found on the Conservation Bank Board website:

 $\underline{https://oconeesc.com/documents/council/committees/conservation-bank-board/2024/backup-material/2024-12-10-backup.pdf}$

Funding for the \$116,000.00 grant will come from our current bank balance of \$366,616.61.

Oconee County Conservation Bank Board recommends Council approval of support and funding of a grant request of \$116,000.00 for a conservation easement on the Keese Family Farm.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve grant funding in the amount of \$116,000.00 for a conservation easement on the Keese Family Farm.

Council Committee Reports

None for this meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

Building Codes Appeal Board...... 2 At-Large Seats

No questionnaires on file requesting consideration of appointment.

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. Discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Beamer.
- 2. Discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Snow.
- 3. Discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Stallion.
- 4. Discuss a personnel matter regarding the Planning Department.

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Council entered into Executive Session at 7:04 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5-0.

Mr. Durham noted no action was taken during Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Mr. James made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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