



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

August 19, 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: None

Call to Order

Mr. Durham called the meeting to order at 6:01 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. David McMahan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Attorney's Comments

None at this meeting.

Administrator's Comments

None at this meeting.

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Consent Agenda

1. **July 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**
2. **July 15, 2025 County Council / OJRSA Joint Meeting Minutes**
3. **Procurement Item:**
2025 Chevrolet Silverado PPV
Department: PRT
Amount: \$53,288.00

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget process.

Budget: \$53,288.00 Project Cost: \$53,288.00 Balance: \$0.00

(Funding from Capital Vehicle/ (235) Fund)

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado from Hendrick Chevrolet of Columbia, SC, in the amount of \$53,288.00.

Mr. James requested that item three entitled "2025 Chevrolet Silverado PPV" be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion later in the meeting.

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

Proclamations

PROCLAMATION 2025-08 A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE WESTMINTER GIRLS 10U ALL-STARS SOFTBALL TEAM ON THEIR WIN OF THE SCAP STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Proclamation 2025-08** on first and final reading.

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. Ms. Susan Christensen addressed Council with her concerns related to loud noise caused by fireworks in her neighborhood and suggested that changes needed to be made to the current Oconee County Noise Ordinance to address this issue.
2. Ms. Sue Blount addressed Council with comments and concerns related to homelessness in the County.
3. Mr. Jason Boyle addressed Council with comments related to his arrest in May of 2024.
4. Mr. Mario Suarez, former Oconee County Council member, addressed Council with a personal invitation to attend a reading of his play that will be held on October 18, 2025 in Greenville, SC.

Council Members Comments

Mr. Durham addressed Mr. Suarez with questions related to his invitation to Council.

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Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2025-13 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 20 (LAW ENFORCEMENT) OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING ARTICLE V, ENTITLED “PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED CONDUCT – SOLICITATION, OBSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC STREETS, UNAUTHORIZED CAMPING,” IN ORDER TO ADDRESS CERTAIN HAZARDS AND PUBLIC HARM RELATED THERETO; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2025-13** on second reading.

ORDINANCE 2025-14 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 20 (LAW ENFORCEMENT) OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING ARTICLE VI, ENTITLED “PUBLIC NUISANCES,” IN ORDER TO ADDRESS CERTAIN HAZARDS AND PUBLIC HARM RELATED THERETO; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2025-14** on second reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2025-15 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 (EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES) OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES BY REVISING THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE II.A., ENTITLED “RESCUE SQUAD ADVISORY COMMISSION”; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, to approve **Ordinance 2025-15** on first reading.

Mr. Hart offered comments related to GPS tracking methods of emergency response vehicles as they respond to emergency calls.

Mr. Durham inquired if the current Active 911 app had tracking capabilities.

Ms. Brock noted the Active 911 app does have tracking capabilities but due to the topography of the County and cell tower locations, it is not always 100% reliable.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

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ORDINANCE 2025-16 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 (EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES) OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES BY REVISING THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE II.B. "FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION"; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2025-16** on first reading.

First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

None for this meeting.

Action on Matters Removed from Consent Agenda at Council Member Request

2025 Chevrolet Silverado PPV

Amount: \$53,288.00

Department: PRT

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget process.

Budget: \$53,288.00 Project Cost: \$53,288.00 Balance: \$0.00

(Funding from Capital Vehicle/ (235) Fund)

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado from Hendrick Chevrolet of Columbia, SC, in the amount of \$53,288.00.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to approve the purchase of (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado from Hendrick Chevrolet of Columbia, SC, in the amount of \$53,288.00.

Mr. Durham questioned the funding source related to this procurement item.

Ms. Brock clarified that the "Capital Vehicle (235) Fund" is the PRT ATAX Fund and also noted the ballistic windshield for this vehicle will be installed after the vehicle has been purchased and delivered to Oconee County.

Short discussion followed related to ballistic windshield installation on Sheriff's deputy vehicles.

Mr. Durham noted that the newly added deputy position for County parks, boat ramps, lakes and rivers has been completely funded through ATAX dollars.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

None for this meeting.

Council Committee Reports

None for this meeting.

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Board & Commission Appointments

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

No questionnaires on file requesting consideration of appointment.

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. *Discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Broadway.*
2. *Discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Joe.*
3. *Discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Reclamation.*
4. *Discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Perot.*
5. *Receive legal advice and discuss potential three contractual matters related to three property development proposals.*
6. *Receive legal advice and discuss employment / personnel matters related to potential restructuring of certain Oconee County government departments and divisions.*
7. *Receive legal advice and discuss potential contractual matter related to sewer infrastructure.*
8. *Receive legal advice and discuss additional settlement agreements to opioid litigation.*
9. *Receive legal advice and discuss potential claims related to real property contractual issue.*

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 9:32 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0.

As requested by Mr. Root, relating to Executive Session item five, Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 – 0, to direct the County Administrator to correspond with the opposing party as discussed in relation to property development proposal number one of the three.

Also, as requested by Mr. Root related to Executive Session item eight, Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve settlements with the following defendants and the entrance into participation agreements for those settlements, the defendants are Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun, Zydus and Perdue, which Perdue will also include the assent to their bankruptcy plan.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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