



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

December 02, 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, Interim County Administrator Phil Shirley, 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:

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. Elliott led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Attorney's Comments

None at this meeting.

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Administrator's Comments

Mr. Shirley reminded everyone that this meeting will be the last regular Council meeting of 2025 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Consent Agenda

1. November 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

2. Procurement Item:

Komatsu WA320-8 Wheel Loader

Department: Solid Waste

Amount: \$307,125.00

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

Budget: \$307,125.00 Project Cost: \$307,125.00 Balance: \$0.00

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of a 2026 Komatsu WA320-8 Wheel Loader from Linder Industrial Machinery Company of Greer, SC, in the amount of \$307,125.00, per Sourcewell Contract # 011723-KOM.

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

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.

None at this meeting.

Council Members Comments

Mr. Elliott wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and encouraged everyone to stay safe this holiday season.

Mr. Hart echoed Mr. Elliott's above statement.

Public Hearing for the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2025-22 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING, PURSUANT TO TITLE 4, CHAPTER 29, SECTION 68 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND HORTON, INC., ALSO KNOWN AS PROJECT JOE, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE CURRENT OR FUTURE AFFILIATES AND OTHER PROJECT COMPANIES (COLLECTIVELY, "COMPANY"); PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Durham opened the floor for Public Comment.

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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 2025-22**.

ORDINANCE 2025-23 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF EASEMENT RIGHTS TO BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE AT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 150 SCHOOL HOUSE ROAD, WESTMINSTER, SOUTH CAROLINA, SUCH PROPERTY CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED BY TAX PARCEL NUMBER 300-00-02-031; 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 2025-23**.

ORDINANCE 2025-24 AN ORDINANCE FORMALLY REPEALING ARTICLE IV (SEE ORDINANCE 1995-07) AND ARTICLE V (SEE ORDINANCE 1989-06) OF CHAPTER 34 (“UTILITIES”) OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS RELATES TO SEWER REGULATIONS OF THE FORMER OCONEE COUNTY SEWER COMMISSION; 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 2025-24**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2025-22 (*see caption above*)

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to approve **Ordinance 2025-22** on third and final reading.

Mr. Durham extended his thanks to Horton for continuing to invest in Oconee County.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

ORDINANCE 2025-23 (*see caption above*)

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2025-23** on third and final reading.

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ORDINANCE 2025-24 *(see caption above)*

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2025-24** on third and final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2025-25 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE IV (“USE OF PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS”) OF CHAPTER 22 (“PARKS AND RECREATION”) OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, WITH RESPECT TO THE REGULATION OF GOLF CART OPERATION AT COUNTY PARKS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2025-25** on second reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2025-26 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 28-9 (“USED AND WASTE TIRES”) OF CHAPTER 28 (“SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT”) OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ALIGN THE SAME WITH THE 2025 AMENDMENTS TO S.C. CODE SECTIONS 44-96-170(E) AND (F) RELATING TO WASTE TIRE RECEIPT AND FEES; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve **Ordinance 2025-26** on first reading.

Mr. Hart inquired about the current method that the County uses for tire disposal.

Mr. Swain Still, Solid Waste Director, provided Council with details related to tire disposal and tire disposal fees, noting the above ordinance amendment would increase the disposal fee from \$150.00/ton to \$400.00/ton.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

Action on Matters Removed from Consent Agenda at Council Member Request

None at this meeting.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Local ATAX Recommendations- Oconee County PRT Commission - \$153,600

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 projects specifically address safety compliance items, tournament and event recruitment as well as marketing/advertising. See attached worksheet for project descriptions.

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Local ATAX available balance as of Nov. 11, 2025: \$968,839.89
If all grants/projects approved/new balance will be: \$815,239.89

				Dec-25	
Local/State ATAX Recommendations-December 2025				Amount	PRT
Applicant	ATAX	Funds Requested	Project Description	Eligible for ATAX	Commission Recommendation
Oconee PRT	Local	\$7,500	Additional safety mulch for two South Cove playgrounds as a result of annual inspection	\$7,500	\$7,500
Oconee PRT	Local	\$35,000	2025-2026 Events/Fishing Tournaments	\$35,000	\$35,000
Oconee PRT	Local	\$3,700	High Falls Park Electrical Evaluation/Upgrade plan-Campground	\$3,700	\$3,700
Oconee PRT	Local	\$12,400	South Cove Pavilion Structural Engineering-Shelter currently closed for safety	\$12,400	\$12,400
Oconee PRT	Local	\$30,000	South Cove Dump Station renovation-new septic and drainfield (current system 50+ yrs old)	\$30,000	\$30,000
Oconee PRT	Local	\$25,000	Hartwell site(s) Electrical compliance upgrades (Friendship, Fairplay, Mullins Ford, Lawrence Bridge)	\$25,000	\$25,000
Oconee PRT	Local	\$5,000	Disc Golf Tournament sponsorships (5)	\$5,000	\$5,000
Oconee PRT	Local	\$15,000	Placer Software	\$15,000	\$15,000
Oconee PRT	Local	\$15,000	SC250 Marketing	\$15,000	\$15,000
Oconee PRT	Local	\$5,000	Safety 911 signage-Lake Keowee/Lake Jocassee	\$5,000	\$5,000
Totals		\$153,600		\$153,600	\$153,600.00

Spreadsheet unanimously approved by PRT Commission on 11/13/25

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

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

Mr. Hart presented Mr. Shirley, PRT Director and Interim County Administrator, with questions related to several of the above recommendations.

Mr. Shirley provided details related to Mr. Hart's inquiries.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

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.

Fire Service Advisory Commission..... Districts III

District III: 0 questionnaires requesting initial appointment

Mr. Mize made a nomination, unanimously approved, to appoint Mr. Favion Skelton to serve as the District III representative on the Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission.

Executive Session

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, 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:

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1. *Discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Hawk.*
2. *Discuss a contractual matter regarding personnel recruitment.*
3. *Receive legal advice and discuss ad valorem tax collections / potential claim(s).*
4. *Discuss contractual matter regarding legal services – County Attorney.*

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:20 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 5 – 0.

As requested by County Attorney, Mr. David Root, the following motions were made by Council:

In relation to Project Hawk, Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to direct staff to proceed with negotiations as discussed.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to direct Interim County Administrator to work with ACOG regarding County Administrator posting and job search.

Adjourn:

Mr. Elliott made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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