PROCUREMENT - AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

OCONEE COUNTY, SC

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: July 21, 2026

ITEM TITLE:

Title: 2026 Hyundai EX1200-7 Mining Shovel **Department: Rock Quarry** **Amount: $1,860,500.00**

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget process.

Budget: **$1,860,500.00** Project Cost: **$1,860,500.00** **Balance: $0.00** Finance Approval: ______________________________

(Funding from Rock Quarry Capital Equipment budget)

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION:

This purchase is for a new 2026 Hitachi EX1200-7 Mining Shovel equipped with an ESCO 7.7-cubic-yard bucket. The machine includes a 1-year/1,500-hour Hitachi manufacturer's warranty, providing warranty coverage during the initial operating period.

The primary function of the Hitachi EX1200-7 will be loading haul trucks with blasted material from the quarry pit. The 7.7-cubic-yard bucket provides approximately **35% greater capacity** than the current pit excavator, significantly improving loading efficiency. This increased bucket capacity is expected to reduce average haul truck loading time from approximately **3.8 minutes to 2.4 minutes per truck**, resulting in shorter cycle times, increased production, and improved equipment utilization.

In addition to increasing loading productivity, the mining shovel configuration will eliminate the need for a wheel loader to work alongside the excavator for pit floor cleanup and leveling. The shovel's design allows the operator to simultaneously load material, level the pit floor, and remove tire hazards during the loading process, reducing support equipment requirements, lowering operating costs, and improving overall site safety.

This acquisition also represents the first phase of the quarry's planned expansion strategy. The increased loading efficiency and larger operating capacity of the EX1200-7 will support future production growth by enabling the operation to efficiently load a greater number of haul trucks and accommodate larger-capacity trucks as the quarry expands.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS OR CONCERNS:

Pricing for the 2026 Hitachi EX1200-7 Mining Shovel is based on the North Carolina Sheriff's Association Purchasing Cooperative, Contract No. 27-11-0421, awarded to Hills Machinery Company, LLC. This cooperative purchasing contract provides a minimum 6% discount from the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) for the Hitachi EX1200-7 and allows eligible government agencies to purchase equipment directly from authorized dealers.

In addition to the cooperative contract pricing, Hills Machinery Company is providing further discounts because this machine is currently available from existing inventory and does not require a factory order, resulting in additional cost savings.

The cooperative contract was competitively solicited and awarded through a national procurement process, with equipment sales and support provided by authorized regional dealers.

Hills Machinery Company, LLC, located in Greenville, South Carolina, is an authorized Hitachi equipment dealer and will be responsible for equipment configuration, delivery, commissioning, and all warranty service required during the manufacturer's 1-year/1,500-hour warranty period.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Hills Machinery N.C. Sheriff's Association Quote
2. N. C. Sheriff's Association Contract Information

Council has directed that they receive their agenda packages a week prior to each Council meeting, therefore, Agenda Items Summaries must be submitted to the Administrator for his review/approval no later than 12 days prior to each Council meeting. It is the Department Head / Elected Officials responsibility to ensure that all approvals are obtained prior to submission to the Administrator for inclusion on an agenda.

A calendar with due dates marked may be obtained from the Clerk to Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of a 2026 Hitachi EX1200-7 Shovel from Hills Machinery of Greenville, SC, in the amount of $1,860,500.00, per N. C. Sheriff's Association Contract # 27-11-0421.

Submitted or Prepared by: ______________________________ **Approved for Submittal to Council:** ________________________________

Tronda C. Popham, Procurement Director **Stewart Jones, County Administrator**

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE

PROCLAMATION 2026-07

A PROCLAMATION OF OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR LINDSEY OLIN GRAHAM

WHEREAS, Lindsey Olin Graham was born July 9, 1955, in Central, South Carolina, the son of Millie and F.J. Graham, who owned and operated a restaurant, pool hall, and liquor store, where he learned early the value of hard work and plain dealing; and

WHEREAS, after the loss of both parents fifteen months apart, he assumed legal guardianship of his younger sister, Darline, while still a young man, placing family above all else; and

WHEREAS, he became the first member of his family to attend college, earned his law degree from the University of South Carolina, and gave thirty-three years of military service as a judge advocate in the United States Air Force, Air Force Reserve, South Carolina Air National Guard, retiring at the rank of Colonel; and

WHEREAS, Senator Graham made his home in Seneca, Oconee County, South Carolina, where he practiced law and lived among the people of this county for the rest of his life; and

WHEREAS, he served the people of Oconee County directly as Assistant County Attorney from 1988 to 1992, providing legal counsel in service of this very Council, and practiced law in Walhalla alongside attorneys who would later serve with distinction in local, state, and federal government; and

WHEREAS, in 1992 the voters of Oconee County elected him to the South Carolina House of Representatives from District 2, the first public office he ever held, and the place where a lifetime of elected service to South Carolina began; and

WHEREAS, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives from the Third Congressional District in 1994 and to the United States Senate in 2002, where the people of South Carolina returned him four times, and where he served until his death; and

WHEREAS, across five decades of combined military and public service, Senator Graham rose to national and international prominence, yet Oconee County always remained his home, and he remained deeply connected to the citizens who first entrusted him with public office; and

WHEREAS, Senator Graham passed away suddenly on July 11, 2026, at the age of seventy-one, and is mourned by his sister, family, and staff, as well as the people of South Carolina and the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by Oconee County Council, in meeting duly assembled, that the Council does hereby honor the life, memory, and service of United States Senator Lindsey Olin Graham, expresses its deepest condolences to his family, and gives thanks for a life of service that began here in Oconee County and reached the highest councils of the nation; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that a copy of this Proclamation be presented to the family of Senator Graham and entered permanently into the minutes of Oconee County Council, the same public record in which his name first appeared a generation ago.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of July, 2026.
OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

____
Matthew Durham, Chairman of County Council
Oconee County, South Carolina

Attest: ______________________________
Jennifer Adams, Clerk to County Council
Oconee County, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE
ORDINANCE 2026-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-26 ENTITLED "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.*"*

ARTICLE I: FINDINGS OF FACT.

A. Pursuant to S.C. Code Section 4-9-30, over fifteen percent (15%) of the electors within the proposed Corinth-Shiloh Special Purpose Tax District, the boundaries of which are described below, petitioned the Oconee County Council to hold a special referendum election to approve the establishment of a special tax district designated the "**Corinth-Shiloh Special Purpose Tax District for Fire Protection**" (the "**Tax District**"), which shall fund and be served by the Corinth-Shilo Fire Department (the "Fire Department"), and to establish the governing commission of the Tax District, designated the **Corinth-Shiloh Special Purpose Tax District Commission** (the "**Commission**") to represent the citizens in the Tax District and to operate the Tax District.

B. On November 5, 2024, a special referendum election was held in which a majority of the qualified electors within the proposed Tax District area voted in favor of establishing the Tax District and the Commission.

C. The Tax District shall have such boundaries as are described on Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. The Commission will have the authority to a) set an annual budget for the Tax District to be funded in whole or in part by a special property tax at a rate not to exceed twenty-five (25) mills and b) appoint a fire chief to manage the Fire Department.

ARTICLE II: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CORINTH-SHILOH SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT FOR FIRE PROTECTION.

A. **Establishment and Purpose.** The Corinth-Shiloh Special Purpose Tax District for Fire Protection, located within Oconee County ("County"), is hereby established. Its purpose is to ensure all property owners within its boundaries share in the cost of maintaining a paid, professional firefighting staff and the cost of necessary equipment and facilities to meet the fire protection and related objectives established by the Commission and the Fire Department on behalf of the residents of the Tax District. The special tax levied within the Tax District shall not operate to replace or reduce the amount of equipment, maintenance, or funds that are supplied by the County to all County fire districts from its general budget for fire protection.

B. **Boundaries of the Tax District.** The boundaries of the Tax District shall be as reflected on Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

ARTICLE III: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION.

A. **Establishment and Purpose.** The Corinth-Shiloh Special Purpose Tax District Commission is hereby established. Its purpose is to represent the citizens of the Tax District in setting and maintaining fire protection and related objectives, in setting the annual Tax District budget, and in employing a Fire Chief to manage the day-to-day Fire Department operations and personnel.

B. **Appointment and Election of Commissioners.** The Commission shall consist of five (5) members. Candidates for Commissioner shall be qualified electors of the Tax District and shall meet the candidate filing and reporting requirements of the County and otherwise be legally qualified to hold office. The Commission shall be appointed by the Oconee County Council, unless and until such method of selection is altered by Council. Commissioners shall be appointed to two (2) year terms, with current commissioners' terms to end December 31, 2026. Current commissioners are eligible for reappointment.

C. **Filling of Vacancies**. Any vacant seat on the Commission shall be filled by Council appointment.

D. **Organization, meetings, officers**. During its first meeting of the calendar year the Commission shall establish a meeting schedule and elect one of its members as chairman and one as vice chairman, whose terms shall each be for the remainder of the calendar year or until their successors are duly appointed. The chairman and vice chairman shall have the right to vote. The Commission may appoint a secretary who may or may not be a member of the Commission. If the secretary is a member of the Commission, he or she shall also have the right to vote. Vacancies in such offices by reason of death, resignation, or otherwise shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The Commission shall establish a meeting schedule during its first meeting of the calendar year. The Commission shall meet at least once per month. The Commission shall duly adopt such bylaws and parliamentary rules as may be necessary for the orderly performance of its duties and functions.

ARTICLE IV: AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION.

A. **Budgetary Authority.** The Commission shall have the authority and responsibility to adopt an annual fiscal year budget for the Tax District and to identify the net amount to be funded by the County as a special property tax subject to a "not to exceed" tax rate of twenty-five (25) mills or an amended "not to exceed" tax rate as provided in Article VI herein, and to borrow for temporary cash needs or capital expenses which are budgeted for funding over more than a single fiscal year. The budget adopted by the Commission must be submitted to County Council for approval, as further addressed below.

B. **Legal Authority.** The Commission shall have the authority to enter into contracts and agreements, purchase or lease land, facilities, and equipment, obtain outside services, establish bank accounts, and otherwise legally commit the Tax District as needed to provide its adopted and budgeted level of firefighting and related capabilities and fire prevention programs, and the responsibility of meeting the resulting obligations it has incurred on behalf of the Tax District. The Commission shall also have, in coordination with the Fire Department, the authority and responsibility to develop or adopt rules and regulations deemed necessary to ensure fire and life safety in Fire Department and related operations.

C. **Operating Authority.** The Commission shall have the authority to appoint or replace a Fire Chief, to establish the Fire Chief's compensation, to set overall management, operating, and financial objectives for the Fire Department and to adopt bylaws for the Commission and its administration of the Tax District. The Fire Chief shall be responsible for meeting the management, operating, and financial objectives, and shall have day-to-day operating authority over the Fire Department and its paid and volunteer staff.

D. **Reporting Responsibilities.** Each year, the Commission shall prepare an annual report on operating and financial results, shall provide copies to citizens on request, and shall hold a public hearing to present the report and hear citizen comments within three months of the Fiscal year-end. The Commission must also conduct an independent annual audit and submit its results to the County Administrator.

E. **Legal Compliance.** The Commission shall comply with the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, along with all other applicable provisions of local, state, and federal law.

ARTICLE V: COUNTY BUDGET REQUIREMENTS.

A. **Budget Submission Requirements.** The Commission shall meet the following requirements for submitting its annual budget request for special property tax funding of the Fire Department and related needs of the Tax District.

1. The submitted budget shall identify the total amount of Fire Department and related expenses for the next full fiscal year, and shall show a breakdown of the total by general categories of expense. The budget shall also show a breakdown of expected sources of fee revenue and the net amount to be billed and collected by the County as a special property tax levy.

2. The budget shall include a written certification by the Commission that at least one public hearing on the budget has been held for the citizens prior to finalizing it for submission to the County for consideration, and shall list the results of a Commission vote adopting the submitted budget.

3. The budget shall be submitted to the County Administrator of Oconee County within the County's budget submission schedule.

B. **Failure to comply with County Submission Requirements.** In the event the Commission fails to meet the budget submission requirements in Section 5.A., the County Administrator shall provide written notification to the Commission and County Council of the failure. Upon such notification, County Council shall act to fund the Tax District at the previous year's actual millage rate.

C. **Failure of Submitted Budget to Fall Within "Not to Exceed" Tax Rate.** If the submitted budget amount fails to result in a tax rate within the initial twenty-five (25) mills "not to exceed" tax rate, or a subsequently adopted amendment of the "not to exceed" tax rate, the County Administrator shall notify the Commission and County Council, and County Council shall act to fund the Tax District at no more than the "not to exceed" tax rate then in effect.

ARTICLE VI: REVISION OF THE "NOT TO EXCEED" TAX RATE.

A. The Commission shall have the authority to initiate adoption of an increase in the "not to exceed" tax rate, subject to the taxpayer notification and public hearing requirements stated herein.

B. **Taxpayer Notification and Public Hearing**. The Commission shall notify citizens, via the Commission's chosen public advertising methods, of its intention to raise the "not to exceed" tax rate, and how citizens can obtain copies of an official Commission statement, which shall include the following information:

1. The current and the intended "not to exceed" tax rates, and the tax amounts that would be levied at both "not to exceed" tax rates for representative examples defined by the Commission of residential and personal property.

2. An explanation of why the current "not to exceed" tax rate is insufficient, and a projection of years the intended "not to exceed" tax rate is likely to last.

3. The scheduled date, time, and place of a formal public hearing to be conducted by the Commission on revision of the "not to exceed" tax rate, and an explanation of how taxpayers can ensure their comments will be heard at the public hearing. The Commission shall publish an additional notice of this public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Tax District at least fifteen (15) days prior to the public hearing.

C. **Commission Final Decision and Submission to County Council**. The Commission shall make its final decision on the intended change of the "not to exceed" tax rate by a majority vote of its Commissioners immediately following the formal public hearing thereon. If the Commission decides to proceed, its final decision on the tax rate and supporting details shall be submitted in writing as a request to County Council for its action to adopt the specified new "not to exceed" tax rate as an amendment to this ordinance.

D. **County Council Action.** County Council shall determine whether the Commission request is in compliance with the requirements stated in this Article, and upon such determination shall vote on the requested amendment to this ordinance. The requested "not to exceed" tax rate will take effect upon County Council adoption of the requested amendment.

ARTICLE VII: MISCELLANEOUS.

A. Should any part or provision of this ordinance be deemed unconstitutional or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the remainder of this ordinance, all of which is hereby deemed separable.

B. Any property or equipment used to serve the citizens of the Corinth-Shiloh Special Purpose District shall remain with the Special Purpose District.

C. All ordinances, orders, resolutions, and actions of County Council inconsistent herewith are, to the extent of such inconsistency only, hereby repealed, revoked, and rescinded.

D. This ordinance is effective at its approval following a public hearing and third reading.

ORDAINED in meeting, duly assembled, this ______ day of _________________, 2026.

ATTEST:

________________________________	________________________________
Jennifer C. Adams	Matthew Durham
Clerk to Oconee County Council	Chair, Oconee County Council

First Reading:	July 07, 2026
Second Reading:	July 21, 2026
Third Reading:	August 04, 2026
Public Hearing:	August 04, 2026

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE
ORDINANCE 2024-26

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During the initial election, the five (5) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected as Commissioners. The three (3) Commissioners with the highest vote count shall serve terms of four (4) years, and the remaining two (2) Commissioners shall serve terms of two (2) years. Every two (2) years after the initial election, elections shall be held for each Commissioner whose term is expiring. After the initial appointment and initial election, all Commissioners shall serve terms of four (4) years. All terms shall begin on the first day of January following the date of the election.

C. **Filling of Vacancies**. Any vacant seat on the Commission shall be filled in the next general election after the vacancy occurs or by special election if the vacancy occurs one hundred eighty (180) days or more prior to the next general election.

D. **Organization, meetings, officers**. During its first meeting of the calendar year the Commission shall establish a meeting schedule and elect one of its members as chairman and one as vice chairman, whose terms shall each be for the remainder of the calendar year or until their successors are duly elected. The chairman and vice chairman shall have the right to vote. The Commission may appoint a secretary who may or may not be a member of the Commission. If the secretary is a member of the Commission, he or she shall also have the right to vote. Vacancies in such offices by reason of death, resignation, or otherwise shall be filled in the same manner as the original election or appointment. The Commission shall establish a meeting schedule during its first meeting of the calendar year. The Commission shall meet at least once per month. The Commission shall duly adopt such bylaws and parliamentary rules as may be necessary for the orderly performance of its duties and functions.

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ARTICLE VII: MISCELLANEOUS.

A. Should any part or provision of this ordinance be deemed unconstitutional or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the remainder of this ordinance, all of which is hereby deemed separable.

B. All ordinances, orders, resolutions, and actions of County Council inconsistent herewith are, to the extent of such inconsistency only, hereby repealed, revoked, and rescinded.

C. This ordinance is effective at its approval following a public hearing and third reading.

ORDAINED in meeting, duly assembled, this 7th day of January, 2025.

ATTEST:

Jennifer C. Adams

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Oconee County Council

Matthew Durham
Chair, Oconee County Council

First Reading:	December 03, 2024
Second Reading:	December 06, 2024
Third Reading:	January 07, 2025
Public Hearing:	January 07, 2025

Exhibit A

The Northern Boundary starts at the end of the second dike on Highway 130 (0.6 miles South of Katelyn Road), goes due East to the county line (Seneca River).
The Eastern Boundary follows the county line into Lake Hartwell.
The Southern Boundary follows Lake Hartwell before going up the creek between Shiloh Road and West Cherry Road before turning to the intersection of West Cherry Road and JP Stevens Road. The boundary then follows the railroad track for a half mile, then turns Southwest to the intersection of East Spring Valley Road and Richmar Lane and then into Lake Hartwell.
The Western Boundary runs North from Martin Creek then turns Northeast past the airstrip on Blue Sky Boulevard to the intersection of Shiloh Road and White Road. The boundary continues West on Shiloh Road until the intersection of Wells Highway. At Wells Highway, the boundary turns Northeast for a block to the power line right of way. The boundary then turns left and follows the power line right of way to Davis Mill Road. At Davis Mill Road, the boundary turns Northeast for 500 feet (past Davis Mill Park) then the boundary turns North to Highway 123 (Clemson Boulevard) just west of Brookwood Drive. The boundary continues across Highway 123 (Clemson Boulevard) to the intersection of East Sizemore Road and Watson Drive. From that intersection, the boundary runs Northeast to the railroad. The boundary follows the railroad West to the intersection of Highway 130 (Rochester Highway) and Old Clemson Highway. The boundary follows Highway 130 and turns toward Lake Keowee just past Sugar Valley Road. The boundary follows Lake Keowee until the end of the second dike on Highway 130 (0.6 miles South of Katelyn Road).

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE
ORDINANCE 2026~~4~~-23~~6~~

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-26 ENTITLED "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."

~~**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.**~~

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C. The Tax District shall have such boundaries as are described on Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. The Commission will have the authority to a) set an annual budget for the Tax District to be funded in whole or in part by a special property tax at a rate not to exceed twenty-five (25) mills and b) appoint a fire chief to manage the Fire Department.

ARTICLE II: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CORINTH-SHILOH SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT FOR FIRE PROTECTION.

A. **Establishment and Purpose.** The Corinth-Shiloh Special Purpose Tax District for Fire Protection, located within Oconee County ("County"), is hereby established. Its purpose is to ensure all property owners within its boundaries share in the cost of maintaining a paid, professional firefighting staff and the cost of necessary equipment and facilities to meet the fire protection and related objectives established by the Commission and the Fire Department on behalf of the residents of the Tax District. The special tax levied within the Tax District shall not operate to replace or reduce the amount of equipment, maintenance, or funds that are supplied by the County to all County fire districts from its general budget for fire protection.

B. **Boundaries of the Tax District.** The boundaries of the Tax District shall be as reflected on Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

ARTICLE III: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION.

A. **Establishment and Purpose.** The Corinth-Shiloh Special Purpose Tax District Commission is hereby established. Its purpose is to represent the citizens of the Tax District in setting and maintaining fire protection and related objectives, in setting the annual Tax District budget, and in employing a Fire Chief to manage the day-to-day Fire Department operations and personnel.

B. **Appointment and Election of Commissioners.** The Commission shall consist of five (5) members. Candidates for Commissioner shall be qualified electors of the Tax District and shall meet the candidate filing and reporting requirements of the County and otherwise be legally qualified to hold office. ~~The Commission shall initially be appointed by the Oconee County Council, which appointments shall occur as soon after enactment of this ordinance as reasonably possible. Thereafter the Commission shall be elected by the qualified electors of the Tax District during the general elections held in November of even numbered years, beginning November 2026. The terms of the initial appointed Commissioners shall end on December 31, 2026 or when their successors are duly elected and qualified.~~ The Commission shall be appointed by the Oconee County Council, unless and until such method of selection is altered by Council. Commissioners shall be appointed to two (2) year terms, with current commissioners' terms to end December 31, 2026. Current commissioners are eligible for reappointment.

~~During the initial election, the five (5) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected as Commissioners. The three (3) Commissioners with the highest vote count shall serve terms of four (4) years, and the remaining two (2) Commissioners shall serve terms of two (2) years. Every two (2) years after the initial election, elections shall be held for each Commissioner whose term is expiring. After the initial appointment and initial election, all Commissioners shall serve terms of four (4) years. All terms shall begin on the first day of January following the date of the election.~~

C. **Filling of Vacancies**. ~~Any vacant seat on the Commission shall be filled in the next general election after the vacancy occurs or by special election if the vacancy occurs one hundred eighty (180) days or more prior to the next general election.~~Any vacant seat on the Commission shall be filled by Council appointment.

D. **Organization, meetings, officers**. During its first meeting of the calendar year the Commission shall establish a meeting schedule and elect one of its members as chairman and one as vice chairman, whose terms shall each be for the remainder of the calendar year or until their successors are duly ~~elected~~ appointed. The chairman and vice chairman shall have the right to vote. The Commission may appoint a secretary who may or may not be a member of the Commission. If the secretary is a member of the Commission, he or she shall also have the right to vote. Vacancies in such offices by reason of death, resignation, or otherwise shall be filled in the same manner as the original ~~election or~~ appointment. The Commission shall establish a meeting schedule during its first meeting of the calendar year. The Commission shall meet at least once per month. The Commission shall duly adopt such bylaws and parliamentary rules as may be necessary for the orderly performance of its duties and functions.

ARTICLE IV: AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION.

A. **Budgetary Authority.** The Commission shall have the authority and responsibility to adopt an annual fiscal year budget for the Tax District and to identify the net amount to be funded by the County as a special property tax subject to a “not to exceed” tax rate of twenty-five (25) mills or an amended “not to exceed” tax rate as provided in Article VI herein, and to borrow for temporary cash needs or capital expenses which are budgeted for funding over more than a single fiscal year. The budget adopted by the Commission must be submitted to County Council for approval, as further addressed below.

B. **Legal Authority.** The Commission shall have the authority to enter into contracts and agreements, purchase or lease land, facilities, and equipment, obtain outside services, establish bank accounts, and otherwise legally commit the Tax District as needed to provide its adopted and budgeted level of firefighting and related capabilities and fire prevention programs, and the responsibility of meeting the resulting obligations it has incurred on behalf of the Tax District. The Commission shall also have, in coordination with the Fire Department, the authority and responsibility to develop or adopt rules and regulations deemed necessary to ensure fire and life safety in Fire Department and related operations.

C. **Operating Authority.** The Commission shall have the authority to appoint or replace a Fire Chief, to establish the Fire Chief’s compensation, to set overall management, operating, and financial objectives for the Fire Department and to adopt bylaws for the Commission and its administration of the Tax District. The Fire Chief shall be responsible for meeting the management, operating, and financial objectives, and shall have day-to-day operating authority over the Fire Department and its paid and volunteer staff.

D. **Reporting Responsibilities.** Each year, the Commission shall prepare an annual report on operating and financial results, shall provide copies to citizens on request, and shall hold a public hearing to present the report and hear citizen comments within three months of the Fiscal year-end. The Commission must also conduct an independent annual audit and submit its results to the County Administrator.

E. **Legal Compliance.** The Commission shall comply with the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, along with all other applicable provisions of local, state, and federal law.

ARTICLE V: COUNTY BUDGET REQUIREMENTS.

A. **Budget Submission Requirements.** The Commission shall meet the following requirements for submitting its annual budget request for special property tax funding of the Fire Department and related needs of the Tax District.

1. The submitted budget shall identify the total amount of Fire Department and related expenses for the next full fiscal year, and shall show a breakdown of the total by general categories of expense. The budget shall also show a breakdown of expected sources of fee revenue and the net amount to be billed and collected by the County as a special property tax levy.

2. The budget shall include a written certification by the Commission that at least one public hearing on the budget has been held for the citizens prior to finalizing it for submission to the County for consideration, and shall list the results of a Commission vote adopting the submitted budget.

3. The budget shall be submitted to the County Administrator of Oconee County within the County's budget submission schedule.

B. **Failure to comply with County Submission Requirements.** In the event the Commission fails to meet the budget submission requirements in Section 5.A., the County Administrator shall provide written notification to the Commission and County Council of the failure. Upon such notification, County Council shall act to fund the Tax District at the previous year's actual millage rate.

C. **Failure of Submitted Budget to Fall Within "Not to Exceed" Tax Rate.** If the submitted budget amount fails to result in a tax rate within the initial twenty-five (25) mills "not to exceed" tax rate, or a subsequently adopted amendment of the "not to exceed" tax rate, the County Administrator shall notify the Commission and County Council, and County Council shall act to fund the Tax District at no more than the "not to exceed" tax rate then in effect.

ARTICLE VI: REVISION OF THE "NOT TO EXCEED" TAX RATE.

A. The Commission shall have the authority to initiate adoption of an increase in the "not to exceed" tax rate, subject to the taxpayer notification and public hearing requirements stated herein.

B. **Taxpayer Notification and Public Hearing**. The Commission shall notify citizens, via the Commission's chosen public advertising methods, of its intention to raise the "not to exceed" tax rate, and how citizens can obtain copies of an official Commission statement, which shall include the following information:

1. The current and the intended "not to exceed" tax rates, and the tax amounts that would be levied at both "not to exceed" tax rates for representative examples defined by the Commission of residential and personal property.

2. An explanation of why the current "not to exceed" tax rate is insufficient, and a projection of years the intended "not to exceed" tax rate is likely to last.

3. The scheduled date, time, and place of a formal public hearing to be conducted by the Commission on revision of the "not to exceed" tax rate, and an explanation of how taxpayers can ensure their comments will be heard at the public hearing. The Commission shall publish an additional notice of this public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Tax District at least fifteen (15) days prior to the public hearing.

C. **Commission Final Decision and Submission to County Council**. The Commission shall make its final decision on the intended change of the "not to exceed" tax rate by a majority vote of its Commissioners immediately following the formal public hearing thereon. If the Commission decides to proceed, its final decision on the tax rate and supporting details shall be submitted in writing as a request to County Council for its action to adopt the specified new "not to exceed" tax rate as an amendment to this ordinance.

D. **County Council Action.** County Council shall determine whether the Commission request is in compliance with the requirements stated in this Article, and upon such determination shall vote on the requested amendment to this ordinance. The requested "not to exceed" tax rate will take effect upon County Council adoption of the requested amendment.

ARTICLE VII: MISCELLANEOUS.

A. Should any part or provision of this ordinance be deemed unconstitutional or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the remainder of this ordinance, all of which is hereby deemed separable.

~~A.~~B. Any property or equipment used to serve the citizens of the Corinth-Shiloh Special Purpose District shall remain with the Special Purpose District.

~~B.~~C. All ordinances, orders, resolutions, and actions of County Council inconsistent herewith are, to the extent of such inconsistency only, hereby repealed, revoked, and rescinded.

~~C.~~D. This ordinance is effective at its approval following a public hearing and third reading.

ORDAINED in meeting, duly assembled, this ______ day of _________________, 2026~~5~~.

ATTEST:

______________________________	______________________________
Jennifer C. Adams	Matthew Durham
Clerk to Oconee County Council	Chair, Oconee County Council

First Reading:	~~December 03, 2024~~July 07, 2026
Second Reading:	~~December 06, 2024~~July 21, 2026
Third Reading:	~~January 07, 2025~~August 04, 2026
Public Hearing:	~~January 07, 2025~~August 04, 2026

THE JOURNAL

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF OCONEE

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

IN RE:

BEFORE ME *the undersigned, a Notary Public for the State and County above named, This day personally came before me, Larry Davidson, who being first duly sworn according to law, says that he is the General Manager of* ***THE JOURNAL****, a newspaper published Tuesday through Saturday in Seneca, SC and distributed in* ***Oconee County, Pickens County*** *and the Pendleton area of* ***Anderson County*** *and the notice (of which the annexed is a true copy) was inserted in said papers on*

January 10, 2026

the rate charged therefore is not in excess of the regular rates charged private individuals for similar insertions.

Larry Davidson
General Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1/10/2026

VELMA J. NELSON NOTARY PUBLIC SOUTH CAROLINA

Velma J. Nelson
Notary Public
State of South Carolina

HOUSES FOR SALE

PUBLISHERS NOTICE
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination" based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

LEGALS

Public Notice

Linda A. Tray[illegible]e South Carolina Departme[illegible]ealth and Environmental Contro[illegible]Construction in Navigablé Wat[illegible]Per[illegible] to remove 177 cubic yards of[illegible]t by using an excavator on a barge [illegible]the edge of the shoreline and transported by barge to the off-load staging area. The silt will be removed from under and around the privately owned dock located at 122 Fair Haven Ct in Seneca, SC on Lake Keowee. Comments will be received by South Carolina Department of health and Environmental Control at 2600 Bull St, Columbla SC 29201, ATTN: Charles Hightower, Division of Water Quality, until January 23, 2025.

Public Notice

Sharon Swindale has applied to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for a Construction in Navigable Waters Permit to remove 256 cubic yards of silt by using an excavator on a barge at the edge of the shoreline and transported by barge to the off-load staging area. The silt will be removed from under and around the privately owned dock located at 13058 Janda Road in Seneca, SC on Lake Keowee. Comments will be received by South Carolina Department of health and Environmental Control at 2600 Bull St, Columbia SC 29201, ATTN: Charles Hightower, Division of Water Quality, until January 23, 2025.

The Oconee County Aeronautics Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday January 29, 2026 has been canceled.

The meeting will instead be held on Tuesday January 27, 2026 at 3:30 pm in the Oconee County Chambers located at 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC.

MEETING NOTICE OF THE PIONEER RURAL WATER DISTRICT

5500 West-Oak Hwy., Westminster, SC
Tuesday January 13, 2026 @ 3:00 pm

Agenda:
Call To Order
Concerns of the District
Limited: 2 citizens per meeting. for 5 minutes,
prior scheduling required.
Agenda & Non Agenda Items: Combined both
are limited to a total of forty (40) minutes, four
(4) minutes per person.
Approval of Minutes
Financial Report / System Report
Treatment Plant PER Discussion
Old Business
New Business
Adjourn

The Oconee County Council will meet in 2026 on the first and third Tuesday of
each month with the following exceptions:

June and November meetings, which will be
only on the third Tuesday of each of these
months; October and December meetings, which will be only on the first Tuesday of each of these months.

All Council meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, South Carolina.
Oconee County Council will also hold a Planning Retreat beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026 to establish short- and long-term goals. This meeting will be held off-site at Tri-County Technical College, Oconee Campus,
conference room located at 552 Education Way, Westminster, South Carolina.
Oconee County Council will also meet on Tuesday, January 5, 2027 in Council Chambers at which point they will establish their 2027 Council and Committee meeting schedules.
Additional Council meetings, workshops, and/or committee meetings may be added throughout the year as needed.
Oconee County Council Committees will meet in 2026 prior to County Council meetings on the following dates/times in Council Chambers located at 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, South Carolina unless otherwise advertised.
The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health, & Welfare Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: February 17, May 19, July 21, & September 15, 2026.
The Transportation Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: February 17, May 19, July 21, & September 15, 2026.
The Real Estate, Facilities, & Land Management Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: April 7, June 16, August 18, & October 06, 2026.
The Planning & Economic Development Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: April 7, June 16, August 18, & October 06, 2026.
The Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates: Friday, February 20th [Strategic Planning Retreat], Friday, February 27th [Budget Workshop] and 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 3, April 21, & May 5, 2026.

The Corinth-Shiloh Fire Commission will meet during 2026 on the third Thursday of each month. All Commission meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Corinth-Shiloh Fire Department, 940 Old Clemson Highway, Seneca, SC 29672, at 6:00 p.m. in the training room.

The Commission will hold two budget workshops on Tuesday, February 12, and Tuesday, March 6, at 6:00 p.m. at the fire department. The annual budget meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Additional Commission meetings and/or workshops may be scheduled throughout the year as needed. A monthly schedule is available at the fire department.

Members of the Commission are invited to attend Corinth-Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department meetings, trainings, and community activities. These events will have no Commission agenda items and no Commission action will be taken. The monthly department meeting is held on the first Monday of each month. Training is held on the third Monday of each month, as well as the Saturday following the third Monday. A monthly schedule of activities, including dates and times,
is available at the fire department.

Several fire department ceremonies are planned for 2026, to which the Fire Commission is invited. These events will have no Commission agenda items and no Commission action will be taken. Scheduled events include Meet the Chief on January 15 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and
the Transfer of Command on Friday, February 27, at 6:00 p.m. Summer and fall family events, Station Open Houses and other community fire department events, and the annual Christmas dinner has not yet been scheduled. Once
finalized, dates, times, and locations will be available at the fire department. These events will have no Commission agenda items and no Commission action will be taken.

Commission agendas will be available and publicized no later than the day prior to the scheduled meeting and/or workshop at
www.corinthshilohfd.com. All meetings and workshops, with the exception of executive sessions, are open to the public.

Oconee County Council

Oconee County
Administrative Offices
415 South Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691

Phone: 864-718-1023
Fax: 864 718-1024

E-mail:
jennifercadams@oconeesc.com

John Elliott
District I

Matthew Durham
Chairman
District II

Don Mize
Vice Chairman
District III

Thomas James
Chairman Pro Tem
District IV

J. Glenn Hart
District V

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Sec. 2-61. - Access to and conduct at county meetings, facilities and property.

(a) *Purpose.* The county council has determined that it is necessary to regulate access to county facilities, grounds and property in order to ensure the safety and security of the public who visit these areas or the county employees who serve them. The conduct of persons who visit county facilities and/or who have contact with county employees must also be regulated to preserve public order, peace and safety. The regulation of access and conduct must be balanced with the right of the public to have reasonable access to public facilities and to receive friendly, professional service from county employees. These regulations apply to all county facilities and meetings, as defined below, for and over which county council exercises control and regulation, and to the extent, only, not pre-empted by state or federal law.

(b) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Facility means any building, structure, or real property owned, leased, rented, operated or occupied by the county or one of its departments, offices or agencies.

Meeting means any assemblage of persons for the purpose of conducting county governmental business, operations or functions or any assemblage of persons within a county governmental facility. The term "meeting" includes, but is not limited to, county council meetings, county board and committee and staff meetings, trials, hearings and other proceedings conducted in the courts of general sessions and common pleas, family court, master-in-equity, probate court and magistrate's court; and other meetings by entities duly authorized by the county council.

(c) *Prohibited acts.* It shall be unlawful for any person to:

(1) Utter loud, obscene, profane, threatening, disruptive or abusive language or to engage in any disorderly or disruptive conduct that impedes, disrupts or disturbs the orderly proceedings of any meeting, or operations of any department or function of the county government, including, without limitation, speaking when not explicitly recognized and authorized to do so by the presiding official in such meeting.

(2) Bring, carry, or otherwise introduce any firearm, knife with blade longer than two inches or other dangerous weapon, concealed or not concealed, into any facility or meeting. This prohibition does not apply to law enforcement personnel or any other person whose official, governmental duties require them to carry such firearm, knife, or other weapon.

(3) Engage in partisan political activity, including speech, in any meeting not authorized and called for the purpose of partisan political activity and explicitly authorized for such purpose in the facility in which such activity is to be conducted, or refusing to cease such activity when

the presiding official of the meeting in question has ruled that the activity in question is partisan political activity and has directed that such activity stop.

(4) Interfere with, impede, hinder or obstruct any county governmental official or employee in the performance of his duties, whether or not on county government property.

(5) Enter any area of a county government facility, grounds or property when such entry is prohibited by signs, or obstructed or enclosed by gates, fencing or other physical barriers. Such areas include rooms if clearly marked with signs to prohibit unauthorized entry.

(6) Enter by vehicle any area of a county governmental facility, grounds or property when such area is prohibited by signs or markings or are obstructed by physical barriers; or park a vehicle in such restricted areas; or park in a manner to block, partially block or impede the passage of traffic in driveways; or park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant or in a fire zone; or park in any area not designated as a parking space; or park in a handicapped parking space without proper placarding or license plate; or park in a reserved parking space without authorization.

(7) Use any county governmental facility, grounds or other property for any purpose not authorized by law or expressly permitted by officials responsible for the premises.

(8) Enter without authorization or permission or refuse to leave any county governmental facility, grounds or other property after hours of operation.

(9) Obstruct or impede passage within a building, grounds or other property of any county governmental facility.

(10) Enter, without legal cause or good excuse, a county governmental facility, grounds or property after having been warned not to do so; or, having entered such property, fail and refuse without legal cause or good excuse to leave immediately upon being ordered or requested to do so by an official, employee, agent or representative responsible for premises.

(11) Damage, deface, injure or attempt to damage, deface or injure a county governmental property, whether real property or otherwise.

(12) Enter or attempt to enter any restricted or nonpublic ingress point or any restricted access area, or bypass or attempt to bypass the designated public entrance or security checkpoint of a facility without authorization or permission.

(13) Perform any act which circumvents, disables or interferes with or attempts to circumvent, disable or interfere with a facility's security system, alarm system, camera system, door lock or other intrusion prevention or detection device. This includes, without limitation, opening, blocking open, or otherwise disabling an alarmed or locked door or other opening that would allow the entry of an unauthorized person into a facility or restricted access area of the facility.

(14) Exit or attempt to exit a facility through an unauthorized egress point or alarmed door.

(d) *Penalty for violation of section.* Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with section 1-7. In addition, vehicles that are improperly parked on any county property, facility, or other premises may be towed at the owner's expense.

(Ord. No. 2003-04, §§ 1—4, 4-15-2003; Ord. No. 2012-06, § 1, 4-3-2012)