



# MINUTES

## OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting

### February 03, 2026

#### 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, Chairman Pro Tem, District IV  
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [Mr. Elliott and Mr. Mize via phone], County Administrator Stewart Jones, Mr. Phil Shirley, County Attorney David [via phone], & Jennifer C. Adams, Clerk to Council present.

**Press:** Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [[www.oconeesc.com/council](http://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. James gave the Invocation.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Staff Sargent Mulwee led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

#### **Attorney's Comments**

None for this meeting.

#### **Administrator's Comments**

Mr. Jones extended his thanks to all departments that provided assistance during the recent ice and snow events that affected the County.

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## **Consent Agenda**

*[Consent agendas are used to more quickly dispose of routine business by allowing Council to approve more than one item at the same time, without debate, amendment, or individual motions. If a Council member requests discussion about one or more of these items, that item(s) will be removed from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda to be discussed later in the meeting.]*

- 1. January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- 2. January 23, 2026 Emergency Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Procurement Item:  
2018 Bell B30E Articulated Water Truck  
Department: Rock Quarry  
Amount: \$227,000.00**

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget process.  
Budget: \$227,000.00    Project Cost: \$227,000.00    Balance: \$0.00  
*(Funding from Rock Quarry Capital Equipment budget)*

*It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of the used 2018 Bell B30E articulating water truck from National Equipment Dealers in Columbia, SC, in the amount of \$227,000.00.*

- 4. Procurement Item:  
2025 Volvo EC500 Excavator  
Department: Rock Quarry  
Amount: \$503,670.00**

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget process.  
Budget: \$503,670.00    Project Cost: \$503,670.00    Balance: \$0.00  
*(Funding from Rock Quarry Capital Equipment budget)*

*It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of a 2025 Volvo EC500 Excavator from Ascendum Machinery, Inc. of Piedmont, SC, in the amount of \$503,670.00, per Sourcewell Contract # 011723-VCE.*

- 5. Procurement Item:  
2018 John Deere 1050K Crawler Dozer Repair  
Department: Solid Waste  
Amount: \$185,074.00  
Contingency 15%: \$27,761.10  
**Total: \$212,835.10****

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget process.  
Budget: \$212,835.10    Project Cost: \$212,835.10    Balance: \$0.00  
*(Funding from One Time Capital / (340))*

*It is the staff's recommendation that Council:*

- 1. Approve the 2018 John Deere 1050K Crawler Dozer repairs to Dobbs Equipment Southeast, LLC in the amount of \$185,074.00.*
- 2. Approve a 15% contingency in the amount of \$27,761.10.*
- 3. Authorize the County Administrator to execute documents for this project and sign any change orders within the contingency amount.*
- 4. Authorize the County Administrator to transfer funds to the appropriate line items.*

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**6. Procurement Item:**  
**2007 Morbark 4600LX Wood Hog Horizontal Grinder Repair**  
**Department: Solid Waste**  
**Amount: \$ 52,387.02**  
**Contingency 15%: \$7,858.05**  
**Total: \$ 60,245.07**

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

Budget: \$60,245.07 Project Cost: \$60,245.07 Balance: \$0.00

*(Funding from Capital Equipment / (325) Vehicle Fund)*

*It is the staff's recommendation that Council:*

- 1. Approve the 2007 Morbark Horizontal Grinder repairs to James River Equipment, LLC in the amount of \$52,387.02.*
- 2. Approve a 15% contingency in the amount of \$7,858.05.*
- 3. Authorize the County Administrator to transfer funds to the appropriate line item.*
- 4. Authorize the County Administrator to execute documents for this project and sign any change orders within the contingency amount.*

Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve all items on 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.*

1. Lee Shehan encouraged Council to provide more transparency to the public related to the recently revealed budget shortfall, along with the 2023 general obligation bond.
2. Mr. Josh Barber addressed Council with comments and concerns related to the management of stray dogs within the County.

### **Council Members Comments**

Mr. Durham addressed Mr. Barber and Mr. Shehan related to their public comments.

### **Third Reading of the Following Ordinances**

None for this meeting.

### **Second Reading of the Following Ordinances**

None for this meeting.

### **First Reading of the Following Ordinances**

None for this meeting.

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## **First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions**

**RESOLUTION 2026-02** A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND COMMISSIONING THE FOLLOWING PERSONS: LANDYN CHAPMAN, DAVID LINDER, MATTHEW HEATH, ETHAN HOLLAND, AHRIN MCCOY, AND PATRICK MCDUGAL AS CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (PARK RANGERS) FOR THE PROPER SECURITY, GENERAL WELFARE, AND CONVENIENCE OF OCONEE COUNTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2026-02** on first and final reading.

**RESOLUTION 2026-03** *(Numbered for administrative purposes)* OPTIONAL EMPLOYER PARTICIPATION RESOLUTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE INSURANCE BENEFITS PROGRAM.

Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve **Resolution 2026-03** on first and final reading.

Mr. Durham stated that the County’s decision to transition to PEBA for health insurance would save the County taxpayers a little over three million dollars per year and coverage would be comparable to the current insurance offered to employees.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

## **Action on Matters Removed from Consent Agenda at Council Member Request**

None for this meeting.

## **Discussion Regarding Action Items**

None for this meeting.

## **Council Committee Reports**

None for this meeting.

## **Board & Commission Appointments**

### **Building Codes Appeal Board..... 1 At-Large Seat**

No questionnaires on file requesting consideration of appointment.

### **Fire Service Advisory Commission ..... *District I***

No questionnaires on file requesting consideration of appointment.

One questionnaire was received before the meeting for the Fire Service Advisory Commission and will be considered at the February 17, 2026 Council meeting.

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## **Executive Session**

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, 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. *Receive legal advice and discuss code enforcement matter related to Lake Overlay.*
2. *Discuss personnel and recruitment issues related to the Finance, Planning and Legal departments.*
3. *Receive legal advice and discuss ongoing litigation issues related to a former county employee.*
4. *Receive legal advice and discuss code enforcement litigation – cleanup and contempt proceedings.*
5. *Receive legal advice and discuss potential contractual matter regarding utilities / infrastructure project(s).*

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 – 0.

As requested by Mr. Root in regards to code enforcement matter related to Lake Overlay, Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 – 0, to direct County Attorney and County staff to proceed as discussed.

As requested by Mr. Root regarding ongoing litigation issues related to a former county employee, Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to proceed as discussed.

As requested by Mr. Root regarding code enforcement litigation, Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 – 0, to proceed with enforcement as discussed.

As requested by Mr. Root related to potential contractual matter regarding utilities / infrastructure project(s), Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 – 0, to pursue grant opportunities as discussed.

## **Adjourn:**

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council

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