



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

February 17, 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, County Administrator Stewart Jones, Mr. Phil Shirley, County Attorney David, & 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: Caleb Gilbert / The Journal, Dick Mangrum / 101.7 WGOG

Call to Order

Mr. Durham called the meeting to order at 6:05 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. Tony Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Attorney's Comments

None for this meeting.

Administrator's Comments

None for this meeting.

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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. February 03, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

2. Procurement Item:

Amend PO #56781 – South Cove Park Court Improvements

(Re-appropriate project funds to include local and State accommodations funds totaling \$881,775.86)

Department: PRT

Amount: \$1,556,020.79

Contingency (20%): \$311,204.16

Total: \$1,867,224.95

Procurement was approved by Council at the July 15, 2025 Council Meeting.

Budget: \$1,867,224.95 Project Cost: \$1,867,224.95 Balance: \$0.00

Funding from Parks Recreation and Tourism Capital Fund (330) - \$985,449.09

Funding from Local Accommodations Tax Fund Balance- \$700,000.00

Funding from State Accommodations Tax Fund Balance - \$181,775.86

It is the staff's recommendation that Council:

- 1. Approve the re-appropriation of funding for PO# 56781.*
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to transfer funds to the appropriate line items.*

Mr. Elliott 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. Mr. Devoe Blackston addressed Council regarding current Planning and Zoning ordinances related to sub-divisions.
2. Mr. Larry Richards addressed Council in opposition to changes being proposed by the Fire Service Advisory Commission to current daily staffing at fire stations within the County.
3. Mr. Weston Richards echoed Mr. Larry Richards' above comments.
4. Ms. Wanda Shehan requested Council issue a proclamation to honor the late Reverend Jesse Jackson.

Council Members Comments

Mr. Durham addressed Mr. Blackston and Mr. Richards regarding their public comments.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

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First Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

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

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

One questionnaire on file requesting consideration of appointment.

M. Durham noted that Board and Commission Appointments would take place after Executive Session.

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. Receive legal advice and discuss potential contractual matter regarding utilities / infrastructure project(s).*
- 2. Receive legal advice and discuss application of statutory real property development incentives with respect to historic properties.*
- 3. Discuss personnel matter regarding board and commission application and operational requirements.*
- 4. Receive legal advice and discuss contractual issues – health care / employee benefits.*

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:21 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:38 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0.

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Mr. Elliott made a nomination, approved unanimously, to appoint Mr. Tony McAlister as the District I representative on the Oconee County Fire Service Advisory Commission.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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