



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

March 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, County Administrator Stewart Jones, Deputy Administrator 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: Dick Mangrum / 101.7 WGOG, Caleb Gilbert / The Journal

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. Byron Oswald led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Attorney's Comments

As requested by Mr. Root, Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to amend the agenda by removing executive session item one, "Discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Deer".

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Administrator's Comments

None for this meeting.

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 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- 2. February 20, 2026 Strategic Planning Retreat Minutes**
- 3. February 27, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes**

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

Proclamation

Proclamations

PROCLAMATION 2026-01 A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR. SCOTT KREIN, OCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approve 5 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2026-01** 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. Mr. Lee Hill addressed Council regarding ongoing fraternity parties in Oconee County.
2. Mr. Byron Oswald provided Council with an overview of services the Oconee Humane Society provided to the community in 2025.
3. Ms. Janet Barwick, Vice President of the Oconee Humane Society, addressed Council regarding the Spay/Neuter Assistance program and provided updates related to current renovations happening at the facility.

Council Members Comments

Mr. Elliott provided this statement, “In 1984 I lost a classmate from the Citadel who was one of the 225 Marines killed in the Beirut bombing. May God bless our troops today, keep them safe and may God bless America.”

Mr. Durham responded to all citizens who spoke during public comment.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

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Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2026-04 A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR, THE EVALUATION AND POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AD HOC REGIONAL FEASIBILITY STUDY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2026-04** on first and final reading.

Action on Matters Removed from Consent Agenda at Council Member Request

None for this meeting.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Approval for the transfer of funds, within the Administrator Department, in the amount of \$125,000.00

The Oconee County Administrator is authorized to transfer salary appropriations within a department provided that the sum of such transfers for the entire fiscal year does not exceed One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$100,000.00) Dollars.

Any other transfers by the County Administrator require Council authorization.

On November 21, 2025, former Administrator Amanda Brock executed a General Release Agreement with Oconee County.

Pursuant to the terms of the Master Employment Agreement, the County paid Ms. Amanda Brock an amount equal to nine (9) months of current annual wages, totaling One Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Nine and 99/100 (\$131,249.99) Dollars.

The funds were paid out of Administrator Salaries, resulting in an overage in the Account.

Oconee County Administrator requires a transfer from Contingency to cover the remaining amount needed for staff, including current Administrator Stewart Jones, the Grants Administrator and Risk Manager.

Contingency funds are utilized throughout the Fiscal Year to assist departments with unforeseen expenditures.

This transfer will utilize a large portion of these funds, reducing the amount available for certain situations.

Staff recommends Council approve the transfer of funds from Administrator Contingency to Administrator Salaries to cover personnel costs for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 5 – 0, to approve the transfer of funds from Administrator Contingency to Administrator Salaries to cover personnel costs for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

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Approval for the Transfer of Funds, from the Oconee County Administrator Department to the Sheriff's Department, in the Amount of \$40,500.00

The Oconee County Administrator is authorized to transfer between salary appropriations within a department or between departments within a fund, provided that no such transfer exceeds Ten Thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00) Dollars.

Any other transfers by the County Administrator require Council authorization.

The Safety Specialist position in the Administrator's Department must be transferred to the Sheriff's Department as this employee now reports to the Oconee County Sheriff.

The requested amount of the salary and fringe will cover the remaining FY25-26 payrolls (Payroll #18-Payroll #26).

Staff recommends Council approve the transfer of funds from Administrator to the Sheriff's Department to cover the Safety Specialist salary and fringe for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 – 0, to approve the transfer of funds from Administrator to the Sheriff's Department to cover the Safety Specialist salary and fringe for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Council Committee Reports

Mr. Mize provided information outlining discussion held at the February 17, 2026 Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Committee meeting.

Mr. Durham provided information outlining discussions held at the February 27, 2026 Budget, Finance and Administration workshop meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

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

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 Deer.~~
2. Receive legal advice and discuss contractual matter related to real property lease.

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:28 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 6:42 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0.

Mr. Durham noted that no action was needed following executive session.

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Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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