



# MINUTES

## OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting

### April 21, 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 absent], County Administrator Stewart Jones, Deputy Administrator Mr. Phil Shirley, County Attorney Rob Chumley, & 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**

Mr. James gave the Invocation.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Kyle Reid 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. April 07, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**2. April 13, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes**

**3. Procurement Item:**

**Road Striping 2025-2026**

**Department: Roads and Bridges**

**Amount: \$241,834.00**

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

Budget: \$241,834.00 Project Cost: \$241,834.00 Balance:\$0.00

*Funding from Road Maintenance Fund*

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

- 1. Approve to proceed with Road Striping 2025-2026 with Peek Pavement Marking, LLC., of Columbus, GA, in the amount of \$241,834.00, per SC State Contract Number 440036409.*
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to transfer funds to the appropriate line item.*

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 0, to approve all items on the consent agenda as presented.

## Proclamations

**PROCLAMATION 2026-02** A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE WEST-OAK HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM ON THEIR CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2026-02** on first and final reading.

**PROCLAMATION 2026-03** A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR. THOMAS MOXLEY, OCONEE COUNTY ROCK QUARRY DIRECTOR, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2026-03** 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. John Powell addressed Council with his renovation ideas related to the former Oconee County Courthouse.
2. Mr. Tom Brown addressed Council with his opinion concerning new housing developments and proposed that the County starting imposing impact fees.

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## **Council Members Comments**

Mr. Durham addressed Mr. Powell and Mr. Brown concerning their public comments related to the former Oconee County Courthouse and impact fees.

**Public Hearing for the Following Ordinances** *If you would like to be heard during either of the public hearings, please contact Clerk to Council Jennifer C. Adams at [jennifercadams@oconeesc.com](mailto:jennifercadams@oconeesc.com) or 864-718-1023 so that your participation may be coordinated.*

**ORDINANCE 2026-07** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10-275 (“EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION”) OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS ONLY, WITH RESPECT TO THE MEANS OF ISSUING AN EMERGENCY DECLARATION; 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 2026-07**.

**ORDINANCE 2026-08** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A REAL PROPERTY LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AS LESSOR, AND THE HOLLY SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC., AS LESSEE, FOR CERTAIN IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 11095 LONG CREEK HWY, WESTMINSTER, SOUTH CAROLINA, 29693, CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED BY TAX MAP NUMBER 201-00-01-048; 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 2026-08**.

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

**ORDINANCE 2026-07** *(see caption above)*

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-07** on third and final reading.

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**ORDINANCE 2026-08** (see caption above)

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-08** on third and final reading.

**Second Reading of the Following Ordinances**

**ORDINANCE 2026-09** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2025-01, THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES, FOR THE TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE VICTIM SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, FOR THE STATE ACCOMMODATIONS TAX SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAX SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE BRIDGE AND CULVERT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE CAPITAL VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT FUND, FOR THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, FOR THE FIRE / EMERGENCY SERVICES CAPITAL VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT FUND, FOR THE GENERAL ONE TIME CAPITAL FUND, AND FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND, ALL IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE **FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026.**

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to approve **Ordinance 2026-09** on second reading.

Mr. Durham noted that Budget Amendment **Ordinance 2026-09** helps to balance out the FY 2025-2026 budget before the close of the fiscal year.

Motion approved 4 – 0.

**ORDINANCE 2026-10** 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 OWNED BY OCONEE COUNTY IN SENECA, SOUTH CAROLINA, CURRENTLY DESIGNATED BY OCONEE COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBERS 268-00-03-104 AND 268-00-03-089; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-10** on second reading.

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**ORDINANCE 2026-11** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING, PURSUANT TO TITLE 4, CHAPTERS 1 AND 29, 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 A COMPANY CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED BY THE COUNTY AS PROJECT DEER, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE CURRENT OR FUTURE AFFILIATES AND OTHER PROJECT COMPANIES; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS; DESIGNATING CERTAIN PROPERTY TO BE INCLUDED IN A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-11** on second reading.

### **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**

#### *Discussion regarding the former Oconee County Courthouse*

Mr. Durham offered information related to the current condition of the former Oconee County Courthouse, noting Council had previously approved demolishing the building.

Mr. Luther Lyle, local historian, addressed Council about the declining condition of the building, noting he receives negative feedback from visitors in the area related to the current state of the abandoned courthouse.

Mr. Durham proposed 2 parallel paths, the first being to start the process of removing the former courthouse from the historical registry.

Mr. Durham asked for motion to direct staff to bring forward removing the former courthouse from the historic registry for a final vote from Council.

Mr. Mize inquired if there were any grants available for either restoration or demolition of the building.

Mr. Stewart noted that after talking with Mrs. Martin, Grants Administrator, there is not a substantial amount of grant-provided funding that would help to cover the cost of renovating or demolishing the former courthouse.

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Mr. Lyle offered further comments related to removing the former courthouse from the historic registry.

Mr. Mize made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to direct staff to bring forward removing the former courthouse from the historic registry for a final vote from Council.

Mr. Durham added further background information related to the prior approval by Council to demolish the former courthouse, noting he would like Mr. Elliott to meet with Mr. Powell to discuss his proposed renovation ideas.

*Approval for the Transfer of Funds to Cover Expenditures Related to the Administrator Department in the Amount of \$20,500.00*

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.

The maximum sum of such transfers has occurred during the current fiscal year, requiring Council authorization for all salary appropriation transfers going forward.

The Administrator's Department will be in the negative through the remainder of the fiscal year due to changes in Administration and other factors.

Based on projections from the Finance Department, the following amounts are required to meet the needs of the Department.

The Delegation Salary line item is not currently used as administrative staff assists in this office.

*Staff recommends Council approve the transfer of funds from Salary (706-Delegation) to various line items in the Administrator's Department to cover costs for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025-2026.*

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to approve the transfer of funds from Salary (706-Delegation) to various line items in the Administrator's Department to cover costs for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Mr. Stewart confirmed Mr. Durham's statement that salary appropriations for the position at the Delegation office were already coming from the Administrator's budget.

Motion approved 4 – 0.

### **Council Committee Reports**

Mr. Durham provided information outlining discussions held at the April 7, 2026 special Budget, Finance and Administration Committee meeting.

### **Board & Commission Appointments**

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

No questionnaires on file requesting consideration of appointment.

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## **Executive Session**

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 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 fiscal / accounting review processes.*
3. *Receive legal advice and discuss security of vital / historical records.*
4. *Discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Olive.*

As requested by Mr. Durham, Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 0, to remove discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Olive, from executive session.

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:41p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:29 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 0.

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

## **Adjourn:**

Mr. James made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council

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