



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Special Meeting

June 22, 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 4:30 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members [Mr. Elliott absent], County Administrator Stewart Jones, Deputy Administrator Phil Shirley, County Attorney Rob Chumley [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]. In addition, it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Andrea Kelley / The Journal

Call to Order

Mr. Durham called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Durham asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation.

Invocation

Mr. Jones gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Attorney's Comments

None for this meeting.

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition. This agenda may not be inclusive of all issues which Council may bring up for discussion at this meeting. Items are listed on Council's agenda to give public notice of the subjects and issues to be discussed, acted upon, received as information and/or disposed of during the meeting. Items listed on Council's agenda may be taken up, tabled, postponed, reconsidered, removed or otherwise disposed of as provided for under Council's Rules, and Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition, if not specified under Council's rules.

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.oconeesc.com. Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

Administrator's Comments

Mr. Jones provided information on the requested budget transfers that are up for Council consideration of approval, noting all transfer requests are budget neutral.

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. June 16, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Public Comment Session *[Limited to a total of fifty (50) minutes, five (5) minutes per person]*

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.

None for this meeting.

Council Member Comments

None for this meeting.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2026-21 **ORDINANCE 2026-21** AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AN AGREEMENT WHEREBY OCONEE COUNTY WILL ACT AS PROJECT SPONSOR AND SUBRECIPIENT FOR CHATTOOGA LAKE CLUB, A PRIVATE ENTITY, IN ITS UTILIZATION OF FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL DAMS REHABILITATION GRANT SUBAWARD, DISPERSED THROUGH THE PASS-THROUGH ENTITY, SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, TO CHATTOOGA LAKE CLUB, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DAM REPAIRS AND REHABILITATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OCONEE COUNTY ORDINANCES, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS THERETO.

Mr. Mize made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-21** on second reading.

ORDINANCE 2026-22 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 6 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL THE ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-22** on second reading.

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition. This agenda may not be inclusive of all issues which Council may bring up for discussion at this meeting. Items are listed on Council's agenda to give public notice of the subjects and issues to be discussed, acted upon, received as information and/or disposed of during the meeting. Items listed on Council's agenda may be taken up, tabled, postponed, reconsidered, removed or otherwise disposed of as provided for under Council's Rules, and Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition, if not specified under Council's rules.

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.oconeesc.com. Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Approval for the Transfer of Funds for the Rock Quarry in the Amount of \$130,000.00

This action is budget neutral.

The Quarry has line items that are depleted and need to be replenished to finish out the remainder of the fiscal year. The Operational line item 017-719-40032 is currently almost \$12,000.00 negative. We are requesting \$18,000.00 to bring it into the positive and have remaining funds for the rest of the fiscal year. The Blasting line item 017-719-30039 is \$6,572.83 negative. We are requesting \$95,000.00 to bring it into the positive and have funds to blast for the remainder of the fiscal year. The IT Equipment line item 017-719-40045 is currently \$115.70 negative. We are requesting the transfer of \$17,000.00 into this line item. We would like to install a camera system at the crushing plant. The cameras will allow Quarry staff to better monitor crushing plant conditions so that we can respond to failures in a timelier manner.

The Capital Equipment line item 017-719-50840 has excess funds because we did not purchase a Stacker this fiscal year that was budgeted for.

The total budget expenditures for the Quarry will be 5% under the requested amount for the current budget year, and the total revenues will be 3% more than expectations for the current budget year.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the transfer of funds approved in the 25-26 budget from the Capital Equipment line item to the Operational, Blasting, and IT Equipment line items.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 - 0, to approve the transfer of funds approved in the 25-26 budget from the Capital Equipment line item to the Operational, Blasting and IT Equipment line items.

Approval for Salary Account Budget Transfer for the Detention Center in the Amount of \$144,000.00

This action is budget neutral.

The Oconee County Administrator is authorized to transfer between salary appropriations and non-salary appropriations within a department, or between departments within a fund, provided that no such transfer exceeds \$10,000.00 not to exceed the fiscal year maximum of \$100,000. The Administrator has reached the maximum approval limit for such transfers and now must obtain Council approval.

The Detention Center requests budget transfers totaling \$144,000.00 from the available salary appropriations from unfilled positions in the Solicitor and Planning Departments to cover operational needs resulting from unforeseen events during this fiscal year. There is no net increase to the overall budget.

- Food \$72,000.00 –Expenditures in the Food account increased due to unusually high inmate occupancy during the winter months of this fiscal year.
- Maintenance of Buildings/Grounds \$72,000.00 – During FY2025-2026, the Detention Center building required several unanticipated repairs and updates.
 - o Major leaks in the Detention Center roof required emergency repairs.
 - o Two HVAC units had to be replaced and filled with freon.
 - o Rollup fire doors had to be repaired to meet inspections.
 - o Replacement of lights in jail had to be upgraded.
 - o Repair walk-in cooler due to leaks underneath and repairs to the dishwasher.
 - o Replace sinks with special units due to inmate damage.

Staff recommends Council approve the transfer of funds from the Solicitor and Planning Department Salary accounts to the Food and Maintenance of Buildings/Grounds accounts in the amounts as outlined above.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 4 - 0, to approve the transfer of funds from the

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition. This agenda may not be inclusive of all issues which Council may bring up for discussion at this meeting. Items are listed on Council's agenda to give public notice of the subjects and issues to be discussed, acted upon, received as information and/or disposed of during the meeting. Items listed on Council's agenda may be taken up, tabled, postponed, reconsidered, removed or otherwise disposed of as provided for under Council's Rules, and Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition, if not specified under Council's rules.

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.oconeesc.com. Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

Solicitor and Planning Department Salary accounts to the Food and Maintenance of Buildings/Grounds accounts in the amounts as outlined above.

Approval for Salary Account Budget Transfer for the Roads & Bridges Department in the amount of \$145,847.00

This action is budget neutral.

The Oconee County Administrator is authorized to transfer between salary appropriations and non-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. The Administrator has reached the maximum approval limit for such transfers and now must obtain Council approval.

The Roads and Bridges Department requests a budget transfer totaling \$145,847.00 from their salary appropriations to cover operational needs resulting from unforeseen events during this fiscal year. There is no net increase to the overall departmental budget.

- Overtime \$13,000.00 – The January ice and February snow storms required additional hours to clear roadways.
- Special Departmental \$1,209.00 – Additional funding was to have been provided by the prior Administrator that did not happen.
- Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds \$10,500.00 – Replace parking lot asphalt that was removed to repair a leaking waterline.
- Safety Equipment \$2,895.00 – Replenish safety equipment required for employee protection and safety.
- Gas and Fuel Oil \$2,700.00 – Higher than normal natural gas costs coupled with increased amounts used to heat the Roads & Bridges Building during the winter storms contributed to this budget shortfall
- Vehicle Maintenance \$109,943.00 – Unexpectedly, two vehicles needed transmissions and a dump truck that caught fire due to a faulty alternator had to be repaired
- Diesel \$5,600.00 – Fuel prices increased significantly during the fiscal year.

The Roads & Bridges Salary account has available budget to transfer as a result of budgeted positions not having been filled.

Staff recommends Council approve the transfer of funds from the Roads & Bridges Salary account to various Roads & Bridges accounts in the amounts as outlined above.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 - 0, to approve the transfer of funds from the Roads & Bridges Salary account to various Roads and Bridges accounts in the amounts as outlined above.

Approval for Salary Account Budget Transfers for Delinquent Tax Department in the amount of \$44,670.00

This action is budget neutral.

The Oconee County Administrator is authorized to transfer between salary appropriations and non-salary appropriations within a department, or between departments within a fund, provided that no such transfer exceeds \$10,000.00 not to exceed the fiscal year maximum of \$100,000. The Administrator has reached the maximum approval limit for such transfers and now must obtain Council approval.

The Delinquent Tax Department requests budget transfers totaling \$44,670.00 from the available salary appropriations from unfilled positions in the Economic Development and Assessor Departments to cover operational needs resulting from unforeseen increases in preparing, processing and posting tax sale notices during this fiscal year.

- **Postage-Tax Sale \$22,350.00** – The Postage account budget for the printing/mailing of the tax sale notices is currently projected to exceed budget due to increased quantity of year-end notices and the associated mailing expenditures involved with delinquent tax collection and tax sale processing.
- **Professional-Tax Sale \$22,320.00** – The budget balance in the Professional-Tax Sale account code is

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition. This agenda may not be inclusive of all issues which Council may bring up for discussion at this meeting. Items are listed on Council's agenda to give public notice of the subjects and issues to be discussed, acted upon, received as information and/or disposed of during the meeting. Items listed on Council's agenda may be taken up, tabled, postponed, reconsidered, removed or otherwise disposed of as provided for under Council's Rules, and Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition, if not specified under Council's rules.

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.oconeesc.com. Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

negative due to increased posting costs associated with the current tax year. Additional title search expenses are anticipated for June in connection with tax sale preparation and SC statutory compliance requirements.

There is no net increase to the overall budget.

Staff recommends Council approve the transfer of funds from the Economic Development and Assessor Department Salary accounts to the Delinquent Tax Department's Postage-Tax Sale and Professional-Tax Sale accounts in the amounts as outlined above.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to approve the transfer of funds from the Economic Development and Assessor Department Salary accounts to the Delinquent Tax Department's Postage-Tax Sale and Professional-Tax Sale accounts in the amounts as outlined above.

Mr. Mize inquired if the cost of the above services could be off-set by including them within the sale of delinquent tax properties.

Mr. Jones explained that during the formation of the budget these costs are not linked to a revenue source and noted that remaining budgets in certain line items are simply being transferred to cover the needed items requested above.

Motion approved 4 – 0.

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 concerning special purpose tax districts' governance structure and fiscal policy.*

Council entered into Executive Session at 4:37 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 5:14 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 0.

Mr. Durham noted that no action was taken during executive session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition. This agenda may not be inclusive of all issues which Council may bring up for discussion at this meeting. Items are listed on Council's agenda to give public notice of the subjects and issues to be discussed, acted upon, received as information and/or disposed of during the meeting. Items listed on Council's agenda may be taken up, tabled, postponed, reconsidered, removed or otherwise disposed of as provided for under Council's Rules, and Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition, if not specified under Council's rules.

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.oconeesc.com. Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.