



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Special Meeting

June 29, 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 via phone], County Administrator Stewart Jones, Deputy Administrator 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]. 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 6:03 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

Chief Caudill led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Attorney's Comments

None for this meeting.

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Administrator's Comments

Mr. Jones extended his thanks to all the Emergency Services and Sheriff's office staff that participated in the rehearsal for the Duke Energy Emergency Preparedness practice drill.

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 22, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

ORDINANCE 2026-01 AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY AND PROVIDE 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, 2026 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.**

Mr. Durham opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mrs. Adams, Council Clerk, informed Mr. Durham that the "Public Comments" section was accidentally left off the agenda and offered apologies for her mistake.

Mr. Durham noted that the "Council Member Comments" section was also missing from the agenda.

Mr. Mize made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0 to amend the agenda to include "Public Comments" section and "Council Member Comments" section.

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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.

1. Ms. Audra Baldwin expressed her concerns regarding the possible negative impacts on the citizens living near the former Westminster Speedway should be allowed to re-open.

Council Member Comments

Mr. Durham addressed Ms. Baldwin regarding her concerns and informed her that County staff is currently researching the history of the current proposed project at the site of the former Westminster Speedway.

Mr. Durham also noted that this topic would be added to the July 7, 2026 agenda so that Council can receive legal advice regarding this matter.

(Return to public hearing for Ordinance 2026-01)

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 2026-01**.

ORDINANCE 2026-02 AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE **FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.**

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 2026-02**.

ORDINANCE 2026-03 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE TAX DISTRICT AND TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE TAX DISTRICT FOR THE **FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.**

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.

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Mr. Durham closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2026-03**.

ORDINANCE 2026-12 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE CORINTH-SHILOH SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT FOR FIRE PROTECTION AND TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE CORINTH-SHILOH SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT FOR FIRE PROTECTION FOR THE **FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027**.

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 2026-12**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2026-01 (*see caption above*)

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to approve **Ordinance 2026-01** on third and final reading.

Mr. Jones addressed Council utilizing a handout entitled, “Budget Updates as of 6/29/2026” [copy in backup], along with a power point presentation entitled, “FY27 Budget Presentation” [copy in backup], and provided Council with a list of proposed FY27 budget revisions to be considered for approval and inclusion on third reading.

Mr. Jones provided Council with explanations for the proposed revisions.

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to accept the proposed revisions to the FY27 budget as presented by Mr. Jones on third and final reading.

Mr. Jones then proceeded to review the packet of information that he provided to Council related to the formation of the FY27 budget and gave a brief summary of what the FY27 budget represents and current budget projections.

Mr. Durham offered comments related to the growth in the FY27 budget over the previous year’s budget, noting most of the growth is within the general fund budget for salaries that were previously being paid out of incorrect funds.

Mr. Durham then extended his thanks to Mr. Jones and all staff members that were apart of forming the FY27 budget.

Motion to approve **Ordinance 2026-01** as amended on third and final reading, approved 5 – 0.

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ORDINANCE 2026-02 *(see caption above)*

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

ORDINANCE 2026-03 *(see caption above)*

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-03** on third and final reading.

ORDINANCE 2026-12 *(see caption above)*

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-12** on third and final reading.

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

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:27 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:52 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 – 0.

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

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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