



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

July 07, 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 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: 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. Hart gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Elliott 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. June 29, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

2. Procurement Item:

Computer Services, Printing and Mailing All Type Tax Notices

Department(s): Assessor, Auditor, Delinquent Tax & Treasurer

Amount: Not to Exceed Approved Ordinance 2026-01 Budget Amount(s)

Estimated \$432,305.38

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget process.

Budget: \$432,305.38 Project Cost: \$432,305.38 Balance: \$0.00

The total budget for this service comes from the Assessor, Auditor, Delinquent Tax and Treasurer's approved budget amounts.

It is staff's recommendations that Council:

- 1. Approve the Sole Source award of Computer Services, Printing and Mailing of Tax Notices services to Publiq based on its proprietary, fully integrated platform that supports County operations through a single system.*
- 2. Approve continuation of services with Publiq on an ongoing basis, contingent upon satisfactory performance and subject to the availability of funding in future approved budgets, and provided no other comparable source is identified that can deliver an equivalent fully integrated solution without disruption.*
- 3. Authorize the County Administrator to execute all necessary documents to implement and maintain this arrangement.*

3. Procurement Item:

Officer Uniforms

Department(s): Animal Control, Detention Center, Sheriff

Amount: Not to Exceed Approved Ordinance 2026-01 Budget Amount(s).

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget process.

Budget: \$82,000.00 Project Cost: \$82,000.00 Balance: \$

There is no dollar amount associated with this request. All purchases will be made on an as-needed basis and will not exceed the funding levels established in the individual departments' approved budgets.

The total budget for Officer Uniforms comes from Animal Control, Detention Center and the Sheriff's approved budget amounts for officer uniforms.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council:

- 1. Approve the purchase of Officer Uniforms for Animal Control, Detention Center and Sheriff, to Galls, LLC., of Lexington, KY.*
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to approve future officer uniform purchases through existing and any future Omnia Partners term contracts for the duration of those agreements, without requiring additional individual Council approvals, provided such purchases remain within the budgeted, Council-approved allocations for officer uniforms in future fiscal years.*

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4. Procurement Item:

ITB 25-07 Tires for Heavy Equipment

Department(s): Rock Quarry & Vehicle Maintenance

Amount: Estimated \$200,573.00

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget process.

Budget: \$ Project Cost: (Based on Estimated Quantities) Balance: \$0.00

This request will be funded by the Rock Quarry Maintenance on Equipment account (017-719-30024-00000) and the Vehicle Maintenance Inventory account (010-001-00040-71725).

It is the staff's recommendation that Council:

- 1. Approve the award of Bid #25-07 to Interstate Tire Service, LLC, located in Pelzer, in the estimated amount of \$200,573.20,*
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to renew the bid for up to four one-year periods, provided their work is satisfactory and the amounts do not exceed amounts budgeted for Heavy Equipment Tires.*

5. Procurement Item:

2026 BBA BA150E D285 and BA80H D290 Pumps

Department: Rock Quarry

Amount: \$134,737.99

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

Budget: \$219,538.60 Project Cost: \$134,737.99 Balance: \$84,800.61

Funding for this purchase will come from the Rock Quarry Capital Equipment account (017-719-50840-00000). These FY 2025–2026 funds will roll over into FY 2026–2027.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of the 2026 BA150E D285 Diesel Pump and BA80H D290 from BBA Pumps of North Charleston, SC in the amount of \$134,737.99.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve all items on the 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. David Gully with Evolve Recycle and Waste informed Council he would save his comments related to Solid Waste Tipping Fees until the next meeting.
2. Mr. Don Massey addressed Council in opposition to the re-opening of the former Westminster Speedway.
3. Mrs. Audra Baldwin addressed Council in opposition to the re-opening of the former Westminster Speedway.
4. Mr. Edward Baldwin addressed Council in opposition to the re-opening of the former Westminster Speedway.

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Council Members Comments

Mr. Elliott provided an update on his recent colon cancer diagnosis, noting after surgery he is now cancer free and urged everyone to get their yearly screenings.

Mr. Durham welcomed Mr. Elliot back, then went on to address all citizens who spoke in opposition to the re-opening of the former Westminster Speedway.

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 or 864-718-1023 so that your participation may be coordinated.*

ORDINANCE 2026-18 AN ORDINANCE OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, CONFIRMING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY; AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF SUCH CERTAIN OCONEE COUNTY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY TO CARRA H. ORR; 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 2026-18**.

ORDINANCE 2026-19 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 AND LOCATED AT MOORES ROAD, SENECA, SOUTH CAROLINA, SUCH PROPERTY CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED BY TAX PARCEL NUMBER 240-00-04-014; 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 2026-19**.

ORDINANCE 2026-20 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 AND LOCATED AT OWENS ROAD AND MOORES ROAD, SENECA, SOUTH CAROLINA, SUCH PROPERTY CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED BY TAX PARCEL NUMBER 520-36-10-017; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Durham opened the floor for Public Comment.

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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 2026-20**.

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. Durham opened the floor for Public Comment.

1. Mr. Ken Haynes addressed Council in support of **Ordinance 2026-21**.
2. Ms. Lynda Airey addressed Council in support of **Ordinance 2026-21**.

Mr. Durham closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2026-21**.

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. 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 2026-22**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2026-18 *(see caption above)*

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-18** on third and final reading.

ORDINANCE 2026-19 *(see caption above)*

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-19** on third and final reading.

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ORDINANCE 2026-20 *(see caption above)*

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-20** on third and final reading.

ORDINANCE 2026-21 *(see caption above)*

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, to approve **Ordinance 2026-21** on third and final reading.

Mr. Chumley provided clarification relating to the MOU for **Ordinance 2026-21**.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

ORDINANCE 2026-22 *(see caption above)*

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 5 - 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-22** on third and final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

None for this meeting.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2026-23 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-26 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CORINTH-SHILOH SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT FOR FIRE PROTECTION; ESTABLISHING THE CORINTH-SHILOH SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT COMMISSION; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.”

(in title only)

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, to approve **Ordinance 2026-23** on first reading in title only.

Mr. Elliott commented that although he is going to vote yes tonight, he wants to view the actual document before he decides what his vote will be on second reading.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

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.

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Council Committee Reports

Mr. Mize provided information outlining discussions held at the June 16, 2026 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.

Agricultural Advisory Board District 1

One questionnaire on file requesting consideration of appointment.

No nominations were made for the vacant District 1 seat on the Agricultural Advisory Board.

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 Hawk.*
- 2. Discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Paint.*
- 3. Discussion regarding an economic development matter, Project Grow.*
- 4. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangement and proposed sale or purchase of property.*
- 5. Receive legal advice related to a potential claim.*
- 6. Receive legal advice and discuss contractual matters relating to a potential claim.*

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 9:11 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0.

As requested by Mr. Mize, Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to allow County Administrator to move forward with Project Hawk.

As requested by Mr. James, Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to proceed with Project Grow as discussed in executive session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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