



# **MINUTES**

## **OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **Regular Meeting**

### **August 04, 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 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: Dick Mangrum / 101.7 WGOG, Andrea Kelley / The Journal

#### **Call to Order**

Mr. Durham called the meeting to order at 6:02 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. Flint Baldwin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

After the pledge, Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to amend the agenda by removing executive session item number one entitled, “Discussion regarding a economic development matter, Project Homecoming” and to place Executive Session after Public Hearing.

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## **Attorney's Comments**

None for this meeting.

## **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. July 21, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Mize made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 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. Christopher Huss spoke in opposition to **Ordinance 2026-23** and noted that he has filed to run for a seat on the Commission should this be on the ballot in November.
2. Mr. Redd Gardner expressed his frustration with the condition of several State roads in the County and with the operation of the Strawberry Farm Road County Convenience Center.
3. Mr. David Crockett spoke in opposition to **Ordinance 2026-23**.

## **Council Members Comments**

Mr. Durham addressed Mr. Gardner's comments related to the County Convenience Center on Strawberry Farm Road and went on to note he would notify the State Road Department about the conditions of the roads Mr. Gardner indicated.

Mr. Hart provided comments related to fiscal transparency of the Corinth-Shiloh Volunteer Department, Inc. non-profit organization.

**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](mailto:jennifercadams@oconeesc.com) or 864-718-1023 so that your participation may be coordinated.*

**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."**

Mr. Durham opened the floor for Public Comment.

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1. Mr. William Miller expressed that he actually voted “no” for the creation of this special tax district but if this special tax district continues to exist, he does want to be able to vote for the Commissioners.
2. Mr. David Scheuerer, the current Corinth-Shiloh Fire Chief, gave an update on the operations of the Corinth-Shiloh Fire Department and spoke in support of **Ordinance 2026-23**.
3. Mrs. Misty Morris, current Corinth-Shiloh Special Tax District Commissioner, provided further updates on the current operations of the fire department and informed Council of the programs that are in the process of being implemented. [Documents related to programs being implemented can be found in the backup materials].
4. Mr. Christopher Huss addressed Council once again in opposition to **Ordinance 2026-23**.
5. Mr. Jim Miller informed Council that heard a rumor that the 501C3 account currently contained \$209,000.00 and went on to express his opposition to **Ordinance 2026-23**.
6. Mr. Monty Marcengill, current Corinth-Shiloh Special Tax District Commissioner, shared comments related the former Corinth-Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. non-profit organization. [statement filed in backup]
7. Mr. David Crockett spoke in opposition to **Ordinance 2026-23**.
8. Ms. Christine Levesque spoke in support of the Corinth-Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. non-profit organization and in opposition to **Ordinance 2026-23**.

Mr. Durham closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2026-23**.

### **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. Discussion regarding a economic development matter, Project Homecoming.~~
2. Receive legal advice relating to a potential claim.
3. Discuss a personnel matter in regards to the County Auditor’s office.

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:49 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:10 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.

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

**ORDINANCE 2026-23** (see caption above)

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to approve **Ordinance 2026-23** on third and final reading.

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Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to amend **Ordinance 2026-23** as discussed at the last meeting to include the redline items in the backup materials that state, “The “not to exceed” tax rate must be approved by majority of voters in the referendum in order to be adopted”.

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 0, that upon passage of **Ordinance 2026-23** the current Commission members are to be reappointed.

Mr. Durham noted his disappointment that the former Corinth-Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. is still representing themselves as the current fire district in that community and that they are still actively taking donations, going on to encourage everyone to come together for fire safety in the Corinth-Shiloh community.

Motion to approve amended **Ordinance 2026-23** on third and final reading, approved 4 – 0.

### **Second Reading of the Following Ordinances**

**ORDINANCE 2026-24** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF EASEMENT RIGHTS TO UPCOUNTRY FIBER FOR THE PURPOSE OF UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE AT PROPERTY OWNED BY OCONEE COUNTY, LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF NEBO CHURCH ROAD AND HARBIN ACRES ROAD, SENECA, SOUTH CAROLINA, SUCH PROPERTY CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED BY TAX PARCEL NUMBER 256-00-04-031; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-24** on second reading.

**ORDINANCE 2026-25** AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PRESERVATION, REDEVELOPMENT, AND SALE OF THE HISTORIC OCONEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 211 W. MAIN ST. WALHALLA, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Mize made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2026-25** on second reading.

### **First Reading of the Following Ordinances**

None for this meeting.

### **First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions**

**RESOLUTION 2026-09** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A REVISED OPERATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN AND AMONG THE OCONEE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY, INC., THE OCONEE COUNTY SHERIFF, AND OCONEE COUNTY, PERTAINING TO OPERATIONS AT THE OCONEE COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER; AND OTHER MATERS RELATED THERETO.

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Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2026-09** on first and final reading.

### **Action on Matters Removed from Consent Agenda at Council Member Request**

None for this meeting.

### **Discussion Regarding Action Items**

None for this meeting.

### **Council Committee Reports**

Mr. Hart provided information outlining discussions held at the July 21, 2026 Transportation Committee meeting.

Mr. Mize provided information outlining discussion held at the July 21, 2026 Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Committee meeting.

Mr. Durham backtracked to discussions related to the Corinth-Shiloh Special Tax District for Fire Protection and continued to make a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, that Council direct staff and County Attorney to contact the South Carolina State Department concerning the non-profit status and the soliciting of donations on behalf of the Corinth-Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department Inc. non-profit organization.

### **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 positions on the Building Codes Appeal Board or the Agricultural Advisory Board.

### **Adjourn:**

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council

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