



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Special Meeting

August 26, 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 2:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Stewart Jones, Deputy Administrator Phil Shirley [absent], 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: Fox Carolina News, Andrea Kelley / The Journal, Dick Mangrum / 101.7 WGOG

Call to Order

Mr. Durham called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Moment of Silence

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

Invocation

Mr. Chumley gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. David McMahan 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

None for this meeting.

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. Mr. Jim Harangody spoke in opposition to the annexation of property that the Town of West Union approved at their August 11, 2026 meeting.
2. Mr. Freddie Hurley spoke in opposition to the annexation of property that the Town of West Union approved at their August 11, 2026 meeting and in opposition to the proposed 400-home development on the annexed property.
3. Ms. Wanda Murry shared her worries about how the property annexation that the Town of West Union approved at their August 11, 2026 meeting would affect her and her property in West Union and expressed her thanks to Council for their deeper look into this matter.

Council Member Comments

Discussion Regarding Action Items

Discussion and possible action regarding the annexation and proposed annexation into the Town of West Union, South Carolina, of the following parcels: Oconee County Tax Map Numbers 192-00-02-030, 192-00-02-049, and 192-00-02-039.

Mr. Durham provided details as to why the Town of West Union annexed a portion of the railroad back in 2024, siting vagrant actions and that the annexation gave the West Union Police Department jurisdiction to patrol within the annexed property.

Mr. Durham then went on to provide background information related to the recent property annexation that the Town of West Union approved at their August 11, 2026 meeting, noting he believes this annexation needs legal scrutiny.

Mr. Elliott agreed with Mr. Durham's concerns, noting he would like to get the Attorney General's opinion on this matter.

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the following motions:

1. Authorize and direct the County Attorney to prepare and file a Notice of Intention to Contest the annexation with the Clerk of the Town of West Union and the Oconee County Clerk of Court pursuant to Section 5-3-270, no later than September 18, 2026.
2. Direct the County Attorney, with the Chairman co-signing on behalf of Council, to request in writing that the South Carolina Attorney General issue an expedited opinion on the validity of the annexation under Sections 5-3-150 and 5-3-305, and to request that the Attorney General consider bringing an action in quo warranto within the time allowed by Section 5-3-270, with the letter transmitted no later than Friday, August 28, 2026.

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3. Direct the Clerk to Council to submit, on behalf of Council, a Freedom of Information Act request to the Town of West Union for the complete file on the 2024 railroad corridor annexation, including the petition, ordinance, plat, legal description, minutes, and all correspondence with the railroad; the complete file on the August 11 annexation and any remaining parcels; and all communications between town officials or staff and the developer or its agents from January 1, 2023 to the present; and to send a letter to the Town requesting that it identify the legal basis on which it found the parcel contiguous.

Discussion and possible action regarding the County's license plate reader camera contract with Flock Group, Inc. and related records.

Mr. Durham provided background information regarding Flock camera usage in Oconee County.

Mr. Elliott noted that Council just received a letter from the Sheriff's office stating that the contract with Flock, Inc. has been requested to be cancelled.

Mr. James noted that this request has caused him a lot of concern regarding the potential of misuse of the Flock Camera system.

Sheriff Crenshaw provided Council with the reasoning for his request to cancel the contract with Flock, Inc., citing the contract was due to renew in July and he wanted to try to save the tax-payers money and that he was simply trying to honor Council's wishes.

Sheriff Crenshaw went on to explain exactly what information from the Flock database that he could and could not share with Council, citing certain information gathered on open investigations could not be shared.

Mr. James clarified exactly what information Council is requesting to view from the Flock database, noting Council understands that information related to open investigations could not be shared.

Mr. Durham shared information that he was sent from Greenville County's camera audit logs that is readily available to be shared with the public [copy filed in backup] and wanted to know how other counties were able to share this data and Oconee County was not.

Mr. Jones noted, that during his conversation with other Sheriff's, he found out that there is a feature within the Flock database that generates a link that allows public access to their audit logs and informed Council that the Sheriff's office has no authority to cancel the contract with Flock, Inc., this action can only be executed by Oconee County Procurement, who is currently holding the request until all information requested by Council has been received.

Short discussion followed between Council and Sheriff Crenshaw related to Flock, Inc. audit logs.

Mr. James provided a lengthy statement expressing his concerns with Flock cameras and made the following motions, seconded by Mr. Hart, to:

1. Direct the County Attorney, on behalf of Oconee County and no later than August 27, 2026, to deliver to Flock Group, Inc., in the manner required by the notice provisions of the executed agreement and to Flock's legal department, a written demand that Flock preserve all data associated

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with the Oconee County account, including the complete Organization Audit and Network Audit logs, sharing and network configuration history, user and permission records, and hotlist and alert records, for the life of the account; that no such data be deleted pending export of those records and resolution of Council's pending records requests and the Sheriff's pending request for an Attorney General opinion; that Flock state in writing its retention timeline following the August 24, 2026 termination request and whether the account remains active and exportable; and, if the County is the customer under the executed agreement, asserting the County's ownership of the account data, or, if it is not, identifying what Flock requires from the customer of record to suspend deletion. A copy of the letter shall be provided to the Sheriff's Office.

2. Council respectfully requests that the Sheriff export and preserve the records described in item 1 in full before any termination or non-renewal takes effect, and provide a written response to Council, through the Clerk to Council, within three business days of receipt of this motion, confirming that the export has been completed and that no deletion will occur.

3. Direct the Clerk to Council to transmit a certified copy of this motion to the Sheriff and to the County Attorney upon adjournment.

4. Direct the Clerk to Council to submit, on behalf of Oconee County Council and no later than August 27, 2026, a request under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, S.C. Code § 30-4-10 et seq., to the Oconee County Sheriff's Office for the following records, in each case covering the period from January 1, 2021 through the date of the response:

(a) the complete Organization Audit and Network Audit logs for the Oconee County Flock account for the life of the account, in the native electronic export format available from the Flock platform, with all fields intact, including license plate numbers;

(b) all monthly audit reports or reviews of license plate reader searches conducted by the Sheriff's Office;

(c) the Sheriff's Office's request to the South Carolina Attorney General for an opinion concerning Council's audit log request, together with any response; and

(d) invoices, payment records, and records identifying the fund or funding source used to pay for the Flock account.

5. Direct the Clerk to Council to submit, on behalf of Oconee County Council and no later than August 27, 2026, requests of the same scope and on the same terms to the City of Seneca, the City of Walhalla, the City of Westminster, the Town of West Union, and the Town of Salem for records of any automated license plate reader system maintained by or on behalf of the municipality or its police department, including Organization Audit and Network Audit logs with all fields intact, agreements with Flock Group, Inc. or any other license plate reader vendor, monthly audit reports or reviews, invoices and payment records, and correspondence concerning data sharing with the Oconee County Sheriff's Office or any other agency, and, where a municipality maintains no such system, to request written confirmation of that fact.

6. Each request under items 4 and 5 shall request the records in complete and unredacted form. If the responding body contends that any portion of a record is exempt from disclosure, the request shall ask that the non-exempt portions be produced as required by S.C. Code § 30-4-40(b), that the specific

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exemption claimed be identified for each redaction, and that, for each redacted audit log entry, the responding body state whether the entry is associated with an open case number. Each request shall request electronic transmission of the records and shall state that it is made without waiver of any right of the County as a party to any agreement with Flock Group, Inc. The Clerk to Council may submit each request as two requests of identical scope, one for records less than twenty-four months old and one for older records, so as to preserve the statutory response times for each. The County Administrator is authorized to pay reasonable fees under S.C. Code § 30-4-30.

7. Request that the Oconee County Legislative Delegation seek an opinion of the Attorney General on whether license plate reader search audit records, consisting of the user, agency, date and time, stated reason, case number, and license plate number of a search, are exempt from disclosure under S.C. Code § 30-4-40(a)(3), and on whether the South Carolina Public Records Act requires a public body to preserve such records before terminating a vendor contract under which they are held.

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to amend the above motion by stating that any records produced that are redacted be distinguished by a unique identifier so that the audit log associated with these cases can be requested at a later date once the investigation or case has been closed.

Main motion, with the amendment above, was approved 5 – 0.

Executive Session

Mr. Mize 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 relating to a potential claim.*

Council entered into Executive Session at 2:46 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 3:02 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0.

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

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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