



# MINUTES

## LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 21, 2023

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Julian Davis, Chairman, District IV

Mr. Don Mize, District III

Mr. John Elliott, District I

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee met at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee Members present [Mr. Cain via FaceTime], County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & Jennifer C. Adams, Clerk to Council, present.

Staff Present: Sheriff Mike Crenshaw / Oconee County Sheriff's Office

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 to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Riley Morningstar / The Journal

### Call to Order

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

### Moment of Silence

Mr. Davis asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by County Council Chaplain.

### Invocation by County Council Chaplain

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

### Pledge of Allegiance

Sheriff Mike Crenshaw led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 3 – 0, to approve the October 18, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented.

### Discussion Items

#### Law Enforcement Salary Updates - Sheriff Mike Crenshaw

Sheriff Mike Crenshaw presented the Committee with a handout entitled "Oconee County Sheriff's Office Annual Report" [copy filed in backup] and provided updates related to current Oconee County Law Enforcement salaries, noting that to stay competitive with other law enforcement agencies these salaries would need to continue to increase.

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

Sheriff Crenshaw also noted several different strategies Oconee County Law Enforcement could possibly implement to stay competitive including educational incentives, raises based on years of employment, stipends for employee referrals, shift differential pay, and health and wellness standards.

Mr. Davis stated that he is in support of raising starting pay for law enforcement officers and encourages Council to continue to push salary increases for law enforcement as well.

Mr. Mize noted that he also supports increases in pay for law enforcement.

Ms. Brock addressed the Committee with a handout [copy filed in backup] displaying a conceptual stepping scale of paygrade increases based on years of service for County employees, noting that this could be an option to help retain employees.

Short discussion followed between Ms. Brock, Sheriff Crenshaw, and the Committee.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 3 – 0, to make the recommendation to full Council of an increase in law enforcement starting pay to \$44,000.00, along with pay increases for years of service.

**Discussion regarding the development of an ordinance to foster the identification and safe repair or removal of structures that have become unsafe for occupation as a result of fire damage.**

Mr. Davis provided background information related to dilapidated structures, noting that this is word could be broadly interpreted and that he would like to specifically address burned out structures that are uninhabitable and harbor criminal activity in the County.

Mr. Root informed the Committee of the current, Oconee County adopted, International Property Maintenance Code [IPMC] standards and how this manual refers to these types of structures, remarking that other counties in South Carolina have opted to have a separate ordinance that specifically targets these types of unsafe structures.

Lengthy discussion followed between the Committee, Mr. Root, and Ms. Brock related to burned out and unsafe structures within the County.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 3 – 0, to instruct staff to draft an ordinance for consideration that would require the elimination of unsafe structures due to fire damage or natural disasters within the County and bring back before the Committee.

Ms. Brock recommended that if the County intends to charge the property/home owner for the removal of these types of structures, she recommends that it is done entirely with a third party that can complete the steps required to demolish these types of buildings.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Elliott made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted:

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Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council

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