

FINAL MEETING MINUTES  
OCONEE COUNTY PRT COMMISSION  
February 22, 2024  
County Council Chambers  
12:00 pm

**Members present were:** Shawn Johnson, Riley Johnson, Alex Butterbaugh, Kevin Evans, & Kevin Cope

**Guests present were:** Tim Todd, Cindy Blair, Lisa Cowan, & Dari McBride

**Also present were:** Phil Shirley, PRT Director, Ken Sloan, Visit Oconee Director & Mandy Holbrooks, PRT Secretary

**Call to Order**

**Shawn Johnson** called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to accept minutes of **November 22, 2024**, by **Kevin Evans**, seconded by **Riley Johnson**. Vote was unanimously carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

**Phil Shirley** presented the treasurer's report. Balance as of **February 22, 2024**, Local ATAX is **\$518,064.82** and State ATAX is **\$438,111.25**.

**Presentation of Grants**

1. City of Seneca – advertising “Independence Day Celebration” – \$16,000.00
2. Discover Upcountry Carolina Association – advertising - \$15,000.00
3. Eagles Nest Arts Center – advertising/office equipment/electrical upgrade - \$9,525.00
4. Lake Hartwell Country – advertising - \$9,000.00
5. Main Street Walhalla – advertising “Folksfest” - \$10,000.00
6. Oconee Chamber of Commerce – employee funding for Visitor Information Center in Westminster - \$15,000.00
7. Rock the Ranch – advertising - \$9,000.00
8. South Carolina Apple Festival – advertising - \$10,000.00
9. The Foothills Agricultural Resource Marketing Center – parking/directional/identification signage - \$12,375.00
10. Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail – advertising - \$1,700.00
11. Walhalla Performing Arts Center – advertising the winter/spring 2024 season - \$12,000.00
12. Westminster Music Center – advertising “Music on Main” - \$10,000.00
13. Wild Hearts Equine Therapeutic Center – construction project - \$11,653.00

### Vote on Grants

- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to City of Seneca for \$5,000.00 for advertising .  
Vote was unanimously carried. Riley Johnson abstained from voting.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Evans and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Discover Upcountry Carolina Association for \$8,000.00 for advertising.  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Riley Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Eagles Nest Art Center for \$1,500.00 for advertising/office equipment/electrical upgrade.  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Evans and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Lake Hartwell Country for \$5,000.00 for advertising .  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Main Street Walhalla for \$2,000.00 for advertising "Folksfest" .  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Oconee Chamber of Commerce for \$6,000.00 for staffing for Visitor Information Center in Westminster .  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Evans and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Rock the Ranch for \$3,000.00 for advertising .  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Evans and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to SC Apple Festival for \$4,000.00 for advertising .  
Vote was unanimously carried.

- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Riley Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to The FARM Center for \$6,000.00 or parking/directional/identification signage.  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Evans and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail for \$1,500.00 for advertising.  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Riley Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Walhalla Performing Arts Center for \$9,000.00 for advertising the winter/spring 2024 season.  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Kevin Evans and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Westminster Music Centre for \$5,000.00 or advertising "Music on Main".  
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Wild Hearts Equine Therapeutic Center for \$4,000.00 for construction project.  
Vote was unanimously carried.

#### PRT Action Item

1. SCAG Windstorm Blower - \$12,292.00 - South Cove.

#### Vote on Action Item

- Upon a motion by Kevin Evans, seconded by Kevin Cope and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Oconee PRT (South Cove) for \$12,292.00 for SCAG Windstorm Blower.  
Vote was unanimously carried.

Next scheduled meeting of the PRT Commission is **May 2, 2024, at 12:00 pm** in **County Council Chambers**

**Meeting Dates:**

May 2, 2024	Business Meeting
August 22, 2024	Review Grants
August 29, 2024	Vote on Grants
November 14, 2024	Business Meeting

**Grants for the Fall cycle will be due August 15, 2024, by 3:00 pm.**

**Adjourn**

As there was no further business, **Shawn Johnson**, so moved to adjourn at **12:45 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted:

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Phil Shirley  
Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism