

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

Members present: Shawn Johnson, Kevin Cope, Riley Johnson, Kevin Evans,
Alex Butterbaugh, Trey Barnett, & Shane Smith

Guests present: Dari McBride, Mark Thompson, Judi Ricco, Janine Hartley,
Stanley Gibson, Nancy Warmath, Martha File, Tim Todd, Cindy Blair,
Reagan Osbon, & Kaylee Osbon

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

Call to Order

Shawn Johnson called the meeting to order at **12:05 pm**.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept minutes of **May 2, 2024**, by **Kevin Evans**,
seconded by **Shane Smith**. Vote was unanimously carried.

Treasurer's Report

Phil Shirley presented the treasurer's report. Balance as of **August 22, 2024**,
Local ATAX is **\$522,373.00** and State ATAX is **\$254,972.00**.

Presentation of Grants

1. City of Seneca – advertising 5K & Half Marathon - \$10,000.00
2. City of Walhalla – updating Main Street banners - \$17,000.00
3. City of Westminster – sesquicentennial celebration - \$6,968.00
4. Discover Upcountry Carolina Association – advertising - \$20,000.00
5. Downtown Seneca Merchants Association – advertising - \$1,900.00
6. Lake Hartwell Country – advertising - \$10,000.00
7. Lake and Mountain Quilters Guild – advertising – \$1959.00
8. Oconee County Chamber of Commerce – finish remodel & staffing for Visitor Information Center - \$15,000.00
9. Oconee Military Museum – advertising - \$6,090.00
10. Seneca Woman's Club – printing brochures - \$3,000.00
11. South Carolina Bigfoot Festival – advertising - \$7,500.00
12. The Foothills Agricultural Resource Marketing Center – installation of security cameras, safety lighting, sound system, & arena seating - \$35,195.00
13. Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail – promotion & marketing of UHQT - \$594.00
14. Walhalla Performing Arts Center – advertising fall & winter '24/'25 season - \$12,000.00
15. Westminster Music Centre – advertising Music on Main - \$10,000.00
16. Wild Hearts Equine Therapeutic Center – construction project - \$9,010.00

Vote on Grants

- Upon a motion by **Trey Barnett**, seconded by **Shawn Johnson** and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to **City of Seneca** for **\$6,000.00** for **advertising**.
Vote was unanimously carried. **Riley Johnson recused from voting.**

- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Shane Smith and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to City of Walhalla for \$4,400.00 for updating Main Street banners.
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 City of Westminster for \$4,500.00 for sesquicentennial celebration.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Trey Barnett, seconded by Shawn Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Discover Upcountry Carolina Association for \$7,997.00 for advertising.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shane Smith, seconded by Kevin Evans and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Downtown Seneca Merchants for \$950.00 for advertising.
Vote was unanimously carried. Alex Butterbaugh, Riley Johnson, & Kevin Cope recused themselves from voting.
- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Trey Barnett 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 Shane Smith and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Lake and Mountain Quilters Guild for \$1,959.00 for advertising.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Trey Barnett, seconded by Shawn Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Oconee County Chamber of Commerce for \$7,500.00 for staffing & finish remodeling of Visitor Information Center.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Kevin Evans, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Oconee Military Museum for \$2,500 for advertising.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Shane Smith, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Seneca's Woman's Club for \$600.00 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 South Carolina Bigfoot Festival for \$2,300.00 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 Foothills Agricultural Resource Marketing Center for \$8,000.00 for security cameras, safety lighting, sound system, & arena seating.
Vote was unanimously carried.

Upon a motion by Trey Barnett, seconded by Shawn Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail for \$594.00 for marketing & promotion of UHQT. Vote was unanimously carried.

- Upon a motion by Shawn Johnson, seconded by Shane Smith and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Walhalla Performing Arts Center for \$7,000.00 for advertising the '24/'25 fall & winter 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 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 Wild Hearts Equine Therapeutic Center for \$5,700.00 for construction project. Vote was unanimously carried.

PRT Action Item

- Upon a motion by Trey Barnett, seconded by Kevin Cope and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Oconee County PRT for \$22,500.00 for deck repairs at South Cove office & Chau Ram residence. Vote was unanimously carried.

Next meeting is November 14, 2024, in Council Chambers beginning at 12:00.

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Shawn Johnson made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 12:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Phil Shirley
Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism