



**MINUTES**  
**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**COMMITTEE**

***SPECIAL MEETING***

**September 02, 2025**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr. James, Chair, District IV

Mr. Mize, District III

Mr. Hart, District V

The Planning and Economic Development Committee met at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Oconee Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present, as well as County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, and Jennifer C. Adams, Clerk to Council, present.

Staff Present: Ed Halbig / Interium Planning Director

**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.

Press Present: None

**Call to Order**

Mr. James called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Moment of Silence**

Mr. James asked for a moment of silence prior to the invocation.

**Invocation**

Mr. Root, County Attorney, gave the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 3 - 0, to approve the August 19, 2025 minutes as presented.

**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.**

## **Discussion & Action Regarding the Following Items**

Discussion regarding potential modifications to the I-85 Overlay District, including subdistricts.

Mr. James provided background information related to potential modifications to the I-85 overlay district and subdistricts, noting there is the possibility for discussions regarding the legalization of gambling in South Carolina in the 2026 Legislative Session.

Mr. James noted he has heard a lot of rumors or “here say” regarding possible casino locations in South Carolina, noting he would like to get ahead of any potential gambling establishments in the I-85 overlay district and subdistricts.

Mr. James stated he would like for the Committee to consider extending the boundaries of the current I-85 overlay district and subdistricts all the way to the lake shore and look at adding some type of restriction to the current ordinance to prohibit gambling or gaming establishments and machines in this area.

Mr. Root noted the landscape of gaming is changing rapidly with advances in technology and wording will be key for this potential modification until this issue is actually passed by the State.

Mr. Root stated that the smoothest way to establish these potential changes in the I-85 overlay district and subdistricts is to bring the revised ordinance back to the Planning and Economic Development Committee for consideration of approval, then on to Council for first reading, where it will then be sent to the Planning Commission for review.

Mr. Mize and Mr. James discussed the boundaries on the I-85 overlay district and subdistrict map that was provided for reference (copy in backup).

Short discussion followed between the Committee and Mr. Root related to gambling and gaming establishments.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, approved 3 - 0, to amend the agenda to add discussions regarding plat approvals.

Mr. Hart provided his concerns related to the process of plat approvals and exemptions, noting in his opinion, the County is doing things backward.

## **Adjourn:**

Mr. Hart made a motion to adjourn, approved unanimously, at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council

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