



# MINUTES

## OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting

### January 02, 2024

#### MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, District I  
Mr. Matthew Durham, Chairman, District II  
Mr. Don Mize, Vice Chairman, District III  
Mr. Julian Davis III, District IV  
Mr. Glenn Hart, Chairman Pro Tem, District V

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & 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](http://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: Andrea Kelley / The Journal, Dick Mangrum / 101.7 WGOG

#### **Call to Order**

Mr. Root called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Moment of Silence**

Mr. Root 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**

Ms. Brock led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 - 0, to approve the December 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition. This agenda may not be inclusive of all issues which Council may bring up for discussion at this meeting. Items are listed on Council's agenda to give public notice of the subjects and issues to be discussed, acted upon, received as information and/or disposed of during the meeting. Items listed on Council's agenda may be taken up, tabled, postponed, reconsidered, removed or otherwise disposed of as provided for under Council's Rules, and Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition, if not specified under Council's rules.

**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.**

## **Election of Officers**

### **Council Chairperson**

Mr. Hart nominated Mr. Durham as Council Chairperson. Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Mize as Council Chairperson. Mr. Root called for the vote. Mr. Durham was elected Council Chairperson on a 3-2 [Mr. Elliott and Mr. Davis opposed] vote.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Durham to preside as Chair.

### **Council Vice Chairperson**

Mr. Durham nominated Mr. Mize as Council Vice Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, with no other nominations for Council Vice Chairperson being made.

### **Council Chairperson Pro Tem**

Mr. Durham nominated Mr. Hart as Council Chairperson Pro-Tem, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 3 – 2 [Mr. Elliott and Mr. Davis opposed], with no other nominations for Council Chairperson Pro-Tem being made.

## **Re-Appointment of the following Appointed Officials**

### **Clerk to Council**

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to re-appoint Jennifer C. Adams as Clerk to Council.

### **Appointment of Council Chaplain**

Mr. Durham noted that Mr. Root, County Attorney, has been serving as Council Chaplain but he is currently in the process of resigning from his position.

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to postpone nominations for Council Chaplain.

### **Appointment of Council Committees for 2024 by Chairman**

Mr. Durham made a nomination for the following County Council Committee appointments:

- **Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health and Welfare**  
Mr. Mize as Chair, with Mr. Hart and Mr. Durham as committee members.
- **Planning and Economic Development**  
Mr. Mize as Chair, with Mr. Hart and Mr. Durham as committee members.
- **Real Estate, Facilities, and Land Management**  
Mr. Davis as Chair, with Mr. Hart and Mr. Mize as committee members.
- **Transportation**  
Mr. Hart as Chair, with Mr. Mize and Mr. Davis as committee members.
- **Budget, Finance, and Administration**  
Mr. Elliott as Chair, with all of Council as committee members.

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition. This agenda may not be inclusive of all issues which Council may bring up for discussion at this meeting. Items are listed on Council's agenda to give public notice of the subjects and issues to be discussed, acted upon, received as information and/or disposed of during the meeting. Items listed on Council's agenda may be taken up, tabled, postponed, reconsidered, removed or otherwise disposed of as provided for under Council's Rules, and Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition, if not specified under Council's rules.

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

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott , to appoint Committee Chairs and members as nominated.

Mr. Davis requested that his name be removed from appointment consideration as Chair of the Real Estate, Facilities and Land Management Committee and as a member of the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Durham noted that, per the Code of Ordinances, each Council member must serve as Chair of at least Council Committee.

Council Committee Chairs and members approved 4 – 1 [Mr. Davis opposed] as nominated.

### **Appointment of 2024 Council Representatives by Chairman**

Mr. Durham made a nomination for the following Council Representatives:

- **SC Appalachian Council of Government Board of Directors**
  - Council Representative – Mr. Hart
  - Citizen Representative – Mr. Mickey Haney
  - Minority Representative – Mr. Raul Cruz

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 3 – 2 [Mr. Elliott and Mr. Davis opposed], to appoint Council Representatives for the SC Appalachian Council of Government Board of Directors as nominated.

Mr. Durham made a nomination for the following Council Representatives:

- **Oconee Business Partnership – Mr. Mize**

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Mize as Council Representative for Oconee Business Partnership.

Mr. Durham made a nomination for the following Council Representatives:

- **Ten At the Top [TATT] Board of Directors – Mr. Jamie Gilbert**

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Jamie Gilbert as Council Representative for TATT Board of Directors.

### **2024 Meeting Schedule Establishment for Council / Committees**

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott , approved 5 – 0, to approve the 2024 County Council and Council Committee schedules as submitted. [Copy filed with these minutes.]

### **Attorney's Comments**

None at this meeting.

### **Administrator's Comments**

Ms. Brock requested a motion from Council to amend the agenda.

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition. This agenda may not be inclusive of all issues which Council may bring up for discussion at this meeting. Items are listed on Council's agenda to give public notice of the subjects and issues to be discussed, acted upon, received as information and/or disposed of during the meeting. Items listed on Council's agenda may be taken up, tabled, postponed, reconsidered, removed or otherwise disposed of as provided for under Council's Rules, and Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition, if not specified under Council's rules.

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

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to amend the agenda, as requested by Ms. Brock, to add an Executive Session item entitled, “Discuss personnel matter regarding the County Attorney.”

### **Public Comment Session**

*If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting our Clerk to Council, Jennifer C. Adams at [jennifercadams@oconeesc.com](mailto:jennifercadams@oconeesc.com) or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record.*

1. Mr. Tom Wood addressed Council utilizing a hand out entitled, “South Carolina Department of Transportation Traffic Engineering Guidelines” [copy filed in backup] and spoke about his concern that there are no posted signs to identify to the public that they are in the vicinity of the shooting range located at 453 East Stamp Creek Road in Salem.
2. Mr. Doug Elliott addressed Council with his concerns related to the excessive noise from the shooting range in near his home in Salem.

### **Council Members Comments**

None at this meeting.

### **Third Reading of the Following Ordinances**

None at this meeting.

### **Second Reading of the Following Ordinances**

None at this meeting.

### **First Reading of the Following Ordinances**

None at this meeting.

### **First and Final Reading for the Following Resolutions**

None at this meeting.

### **Discussion Regarding Action Items**

None at this meeting.

### **Board & Commission Appointments**

#### **Aeronautics Commission**

*District II / At-Large (Note – Former District II representative, Mr. Dan Suddeth has established residence outside of District II, and is thus deemed to have resigned. Current at-large representative, Mr. David Bryant, is willing to relinquish his position as an at-large member of the commission and be appointed as the District II representative. If Council approves the appointment of Mr. Bryant to District II, Mr. Suddeth would like to be considered for appointment as an at-large member, taking over the remaining term of Mr. Bryant for that position.)*

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition. This agenda may not be inclusive of all issues which Council may bring up for discussion at this meeting. Items are listed on Council's agenda to give public notice of the subjects and issues to be discussed, acted upon, received as information and/or disposed of during the meeting. Items listed on Council's agenda may be taken up, tabled, postponed, reconsidered, removed or otherwise disposed of as provided for under Council's Rules, and Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition, if not specified under Council's rules.

**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.**

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. David Bryant as the District II representative on the Aeronautics Commission and to appoint Mr. Dan Suddeth as the At-Large representative on the Aeronautics Commission.

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to enter into Executive Sessions for the following purposes, as allowed for § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

1. *Receive legal advice and discuss personnel matter related to boards and commissions.*
2. *Discuss personnel matter regarding the County Attorney.*

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 6:48 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0.

Ms. Brock requested a motion from Council related to Executive Session item number two.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate terms for Mr. Root to serve in an interim county attorney capacity during the search for his replacement. Negotiations must occur no earlier than January 6, 2024, and the fee structure shall provide for compensation that does not exceed the current legal department budget (pro rata), and the services provided shall be materially the same as is currently furnished by the County Attorney.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

---

Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council

Council's meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Council's Rules and the Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition. This agenda may not be inclusive of all issues which Council may bring up for discussion at this meeting. Items are listed on Council's agenda to give public notice of the subjects and issues to be discussed, acted upon, received as information and/or disposed of during the meeting. Items listed on Council's agenda may be taken up, tabled, postponed, reconsidered, removed or otherwise disposed of as provided for under Council's Rules, and Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties, latest edition, if not specified under Council's rules.

**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.**