



**MINUTES**  
**BUDGET, FINANCE, & ADMINISTRATION**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**March 7, 2023**

**MEMBERS, ALL OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr. John Elliott, District I, Chairman

District II

Mr. Don Mize, District III

Mr. Julian Davis, District IV

Mr. Glenn Hart, District V

The Oconee County Budget, Finance & Administration Committee met Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 4:30 PM in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee members present, as well as County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, and Clerk to Council Jennifer C. Adams 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: Riley Morningstar / The Journal, Dick Mangrum / 101.7 WGOG

**Call to Order:**

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

**Moment of Silence**

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

**Invocation by County Chaplain**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Davis 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 4 – 0, to approve the May 09, 2022 Special Meeting 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.  
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## **Discussion Items**

### **FY 2022-2023 Budget Update - Ms. Brock, County Administrator / Ms. Ladale Price, Finance Director / Ms. Amber Turner, Accounting Analyst**

Ms. Brock presented a short power point presentation to the Committee entitled, “Oconee County Annual Budget Update for the fiscal year ending June 20, 2023”, [copy filed in backup] and provided the Committee with budget updates related to the following:

- Revenue and History Projections
- Expenditure History
- Millage Rate Trends
- Debt Margin
- Fund Balance Policy
- Capital Projects Funds
- Special Revenue Funds
- Rock Quarry

Short discussion followed between the Committee and Ms. Brock.

### **Council consideration and approval of FY2023-2024 Strategic Plan Initiatives with preliminary budget estimates and possible funding**

Ms. Brock addressed the Committee utilizing a handout entitled “2023 Oconee County Council Priorities” [copy filed with backup] and reviewed with the Committee the priorities Council brought forth during the Strategic Planning Retreat with current recommendations as follows:

#### **Tier One Priorities**

- Golden Corner Commerce Park Site Improvements
  - *Recommendation: Continue momentum established this year in the development of Golden Corner Commerce Park towards the goal of whole-site development, thus creating a desirable park for economic investment.*
- Roadway Infrastructure / Safety
  - *Recommendation: Maintain current funding for roadway, bridge and culvert maintenance. Develop a prioritized list of state-maintained roadways through the Oconee County Transportation Committee for submission to the SC Department of Transportation. Continue to work with the C-Fund Committee to maximize state-allocated funding for road infrastructure improvement measures.*

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to approve the Tier One Priorities and recommendations as stated above for FY 2023-2024.

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## **Tier Two Priorities**

- Wages / Employee Salaries / Increasing starting salary OCSO
  - *Recommendation: Council consideration and approval of 1. Increase OCSO entry salaries to \$44,000; and 2. Approve the step and scale plan document for implementation in the upcoming budget year. This plan provides staff, present and future, as well as Council, a roadmap both for quality employee recruitment and retention as well as a guiding budget document for Council and Administration every year, for years to come.*
  
- County Annex Facility / Secure Early Voting
  - *Recommendation: Council direction for staff to procure the development of an annex facility at the Pine Street complex to accommodate voting security standards, and expand county efficiencies. Council direction and approval for an increased funding amount in professional services for necessary staff during election season.*
  
- Oconee Regional Airport Hangar Construction
  - *Recommendation: Council consideration and approval of capital funding for matching funds on SC Aeronautics and FAA grants processes in the upcoming budget year to continue strides in completion of the capital improvement plan.*

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to approve the Tier Two Priorities and recommendations as stated above for FY 2023-2024.

## **Tier Three Priorities**

- [D1] Sewer Infrastructure Expansion to Exits 1, 2 and 4
  - *Recommendation: Council direction for staff to continue efforts in identification of plans for sewer infrastructure expansion along the I-85 corridor to include Exist 1, 2 and 4.*
  
- [D1] Urban Planning Consultant / Sprawl Prevention
  - *Recommendation: Council approval for staff to engage a City Planning / Land Planning Consultant.*
  
- [D3] Fire Protection Priority / Municipal Contracts Updated
  - *Recommendation: Council approval for increased staff and capital funding to expand County Fire protection while simultaneously working with the Municipalities to re-define the contracted fire service boundaries and annual funding.*
  
- [D3] Continuation of Momentum in Utica Community
  - *Recommendation: Council direction for staff to continue efforts in identifying and addressing needed resources for further community improvements, including grant funding opportunities, for the betterment of Utica.*

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- [D3] Litter Control and Enforcement Improvements
  - *Recommendation: County staff to work along with the Sheriff's Office on furthering the efforts of the "Our Oconee" program; updating website information on litter programs; increase fines / community service time for litterbugs; and increase awareness through education.*
- [D3] Regulation of Junk Yards / Recycling Facilities / Increasing Buffers & Setbacks
  - *Recommendation: Council continue its work with Planning Commission on current and future Chapter 32 amendments.*
- [D4] Allocation of \$1,000,000 grant to the City of Westminster
  - *Recommendation: Council consideration and direction for funding allocation in the FY2023-2024 budget.*
- [D4] Allocation of \$150,000 grant to the FARM Center
  - *Recommendation: Council consideration and direction for funding allocation in the FY2023-2024 budget.*
- [D5] Assist the City of Westminster in its City Hall / Oconee Chamber of Commerce location
  - *Recommendation: Council direction for staff to work with the City in their renovation. (The County has already waived tipping fees for the demolition).*
- [D5] Assist Prisma EMS Programming throughout Oconee County / Corinth-Shiloh
  - *Recommendation: Council direction and approval of increased allocation of funding to Prisma in the FY2023-2024 budget for the expansion of emergency medical service.*
- [D5] Support the Fair Oak Youth Center / Demolition of the former Fair Play School
  - *Recommendation: Council direction and approval for the Grants Administrator to assist the Fair Oak Youth Center in obtaining grants for this priority.*

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to approve the Tier Three Priorities and recommendations as stated above for FY 2023-2024.

Short discussions between the Committee and Ms. Brock concerning several of the above stated Council Priorities occurred during the presentation.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council

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