

**Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Courthouse Commission Chambers
July 12, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present:

Chairman John Daniell
Commissioner Mark Thomas
Commissioner Chuck Horton
Commissioner Amrey Harden
Commissioner Mark Saxon

Staff Present:

Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Alex Newell, Internal Services Director
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Guy Herring, Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Diane Baggett, Communications Manager
Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Chairman John Daniell called the meeting to order and stated that participants using Zoom may comment by using the raised-hand feature.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Commissioner Mark Thomas led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the July 12, 2022 Agenda.
Second:	Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion:	None
Final Action:	Motion Passed.

Statements and Remarks from Citizens:

None.

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

Chairman Daniell reminded citizens of the 5-year Update to the Comprehensive Plan with an online survey on the county website open through Thursday, September 1, 2022 for citizen input. There are new appointments coming up for Committees: Planning Commission has two appointments; Recreation Advisory Committee has four appointments; and KOCBC has one appointment. Chairman Daniell recognized Human Resource Director Jill Faulkner as achieving her Level 2 Certificate as Advanced Certified Human Resources Manager.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of June 7, 2022 Regular Meeting and the June 28, 2022 Agenda Meeting:

ACTION:

Motion:	Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the June 7, 2022 Regular Meeting and the June 28, 2022 Agenda Meeting minutes.
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Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of June 14 Town Hall Meeting:

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to approve the June 14, 2022 Town Hall Meeting as presented.
Second: Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Presentation by Architects Ponder and Ponder on the New Library Building:

Presented by: Rob and Carmen Ponder with Ponder and Ponder Architects presented a PowerPoint showing the outside and inside rendering of the new 25,000 square foot library building to include finishes and color schemes. Drawings are expected to be complete in August with bids completed by early December. Construction could begin in January with work on existing concrete slab so weather should not be as much of a factor.
Chairman Daniell questioned the estimated construction time which is anticipated to be around ten months.
Commissioner Thomas asked about larger beams and eliminating some columns. Rob Ponder responded there will only be five columns, all required in such a large space.

Variance No. P22-0123:

Applicants:	Joseph and Melissa Cannon
Owners:	Joseph and Melissa Cannon
Location:	1231 Oak Lake Terrace
Acreage:	±1.96
Zoning:	R-1 (Single-Family Residential District)
Request:	Allow an additional driveway less than 200 feet from existing driveway

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director
Discussion: Mr. Herring briefed the Board regarding the request for the property, which is currently zoned R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) in the Suburban Neighborhood Character Area. The applicants/owners request a Special Exception Variance from UDC Sec. 1012.02.d(2) to allow an additional driveway less than 200 feet from an existing driveway on the same property. Staff recommends approval of this request with two conditions.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Joseph Cannon, 1231 Oak Lake Terrace, added no comments.

*There were no further comments in favor of the request and no comments against the request.
Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.
The Public Hearing was closed.*

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve Special Exemption Variance No. P22-0123 for Joseph and Melissa Cannon; ±1.96 acres; 1231 Oak Lake Terrace with two conditions.

Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed to approve Variance #P22-0123 with two conditions.**
(See documentation in Ordinance and Resolutions Book No. 2022.)

Variance No. P22-0124:

Applicants:	Jennifer Clark
Owners:	Jennifer Clark
Location:	1490 Lane Creek Road
Acreage:	±4.00
Zoning:	AG (Agricultural District)
Request:	Reduce the side setback from 25 feet to 19 feet for an existing barn

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director
Discussion: Mr. Herring briefed the Board regarding the request for the property, which is currently zoned AG (Agricultural District) in the Country Estates Character Area. The applicants/owners request a Variance from UDC Sec. 410.01.c(2) and UDC Table 4.1 to reduce the side setback from 25 feet to 10 feet for an existing 1,536 square foot barn that is proposed to be converted to a guesthouse. An administrative variance has also been submitted to allow a guesthouse to be placed in the front yard. Staff recommends approval of this request with one condition.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Montgomery Cowan and Jennifer Clark, 1490 Lane Creek Road, request to remodel an existing barn and add a driveway.

*There were no further comments in favor of the request and no comments against the request.
Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.
The Public Hearing was closed.*

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve Special Exemption Variance Request P22-0124 for Jennifer Clark, ±4.00 acres, 1490 Lane Creek Road, with one condition.
Second: Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed to approve Variance #P22-0124 with one condition.**
(See documentation in Ordinance and Resolutions Book No. 2022.)

Approval of Awarding Bid for the Administrative Building Roundabout:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Discussion: Public Works Director Jody Woodall advised there were two bids received for construction of the roundabout at the new administrative building at Summit Grove Drive. Public Works recommends awarding the bid to E.R. Snell Contractor, for a not to exceed price of \$2,067,183.02 to include the bid amount of \$1,992,183.02 and \$75,000 for potential asphalt index adjustment. The request includes authorizing the Chairman to execute necessary documents and approval of necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

ACTION:

Motion to Confirm: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the bid from E.R. Snell not to exceed \$2,067,183.02 for the roundabout and the necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

Second: Chuck Horton

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss the Cole Springs Road Intersection:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman

Discussion: Chairman John Daniell summarized the history of this intersection to include safety concerns with the skew of the intersection, closing a small section of Cole Springs Road on September 19, 2019 because of safety concerns, and crash data from before and after the closure. Chairman Daniell believes the data shows a significant reason behind the closure: an 80% reduction in injury-dispatch crashes at Cole Springs/Clotfelter at Highway 53; 100% reduction in injury-dispatch crashes at Cole Springs and Snows Mill; and 40% reduction in injury-dispatch crashes at Snows Mill and State Route 53. There are currently three ongoing projects on State Route 53 that have been discussed for a very long time: Union Church Road, Rays Church Road and Snows Mill Road. Closure of the intersection eliminates the skew problem and has resulted in a reduction in injury-dispatch crashes at both ends of the roadway. The additional traffic re-routed through the Snows Mill/State Route 53 intersection has been included in the traffic study for that intersection. The process required by the Department of Transportation to award a contract for a design consultant would not be complete until November 1, 2022. Any design for improvement without their consultant would result in 100% county funding of any improvements at the intersection.

Commissioner Thomas questioned the liability of opening the intersection with no improvements.

County attorney Daniel Haygood responded there is a huge risk in opening up the intersection without making any improvements in over two years. The original design may have been appropriate, but closing the intersection for two and a half years then re-opening with no improvements may result in an inappropriate design argument.

Commissioner Harden questioned the hiring of a design engineer and what that engineer would be tasked to do.

Chairman Daniell responded they would design what the Board chooses to have designed for the intersection. The consensus with GDOT is a roundabout is the best solution. A design consultant is required either way, but a GDOT approved design engineer must be used to be able to receive any federal funding. The hiring a GDOT engineer does add time and can make the process more expensive.

Commissioner Saxon questioned what we could do now to re-open the road immediately during the process of improving the intersection. He discussed reducing the speed limit on State Route 53 or additional signage and lights to re-open the road sooner, while working towards a permanent solution.

Jody Woodall responded that GDOT believes the skew is an issue that needs to be addressed before re-opening. There can be requests to GDOT to reduce the speed limit or add signage. Commissioner Horton disagreed with lights and signage to re-open the intersection while the skew is still a problem. He reminded the Board that they closed the road due to a safety issue and nothing has been done to the skew to resolve the safety issue.

ACTION:

Motion to Confirm: Amrey Harden made a motion to retain a design consultant with local funding for skew correction at the intersection of Cole Springs/Clotfelter at State Route 53, with a long-term goal of adding a roundabout if still needed.

Second: None
Voted in Favor of Motion:
Voted Against Motion:
Action/Motion: **Motion Died for Lack of a Second.**

ACTION:

Motion to Confirm: Mark Thomas made a motion to move forward with a roundabout at the Cole Springs/Clotfelter intersection at State Route 53 while obtaining as much funding from Department of Transportation as possible.

Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, John Daniell
Voted Against Motion: Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss and Consider the Multi-intersection Design Project:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Discussion: Public Works Direct Jody Woodall

The lowest bidder for design of all five intersection is Clear Course. The recommendation is to award the bid to Clear Course with a contract not to exceed \$350,000, authorize the Chairman to execute all necessary documents, and authorize all necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

Chairman Daniell listed the five intersections as: Lane Creek Road at Moore's Ford Road; Lane Creek Road at Snows Mill Road; Snows Mill Road at Cole Springs Road; Union Church Road at New High Shoals Road; and Astondale Road at Colham Ferry Road.

Commissioner Harden questioned what a design firm would propose and why we would not just consider at 4-way stop to save money.

Chairman Daniell responded that this Board is listening to citizen concerns and making efforts to improve safety both now and in the future as the population increases. Studies are required for multi-way stops in addition to roundabouts.

The Public Comment Period was opened.

Dan Dawson, 2680 Lane Creek Road, expressed concerns over several intersections in his area, safety with school buses, and increase in taxes.

*Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.
The Public Comment Period was closed.*

ACTION:

Motion to Confirm: Mark Thomas made a motion to approve the bid with Clear Course for the design of the five intersections and the necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Consent Agenda:

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

ACTION

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to approve all items as presented on the Consent Agenda.

Second: Mark Saxon
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

- 1) Approval of Awarding Bid for Fire Hydrant Flow Testing and Inspection Program – RFQ/P 22-04-014.
- 2) Approval of FY23 ACCG-IRMA Property and Liability Insurance Renewal.
- 3) Approval of Acceptance of the Sanitary Sewer Easements, Assignment of Easements, and Right-of-Way deeds to Oconee County.
- 4) Approval of Local Option Sales Tax Distribution.

Executive Session:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition.
Second: Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Adjourn into Executive Session: 7:07 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

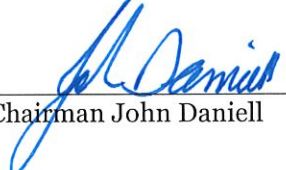
Executive Session Adjourned: 7:14 p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to adjourn back into Regular Session.
Second: Mark Saxon
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Adjourned into Regular Session: 7:15 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Meeting Adjourned: 7:15 p.m.


Chairman John Daniell


Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

8-2-2022
Date