

**Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Administrative Building Commission Chambers
February 6, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Diane Baggett, Communications Manager
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Kari Giddens, Assistant Finance Director
Donna Norton, Budget Officer
Guy Herring, Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Kyle Stephens, Planner
Ethan Perry, Planner

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Chairman John Daniell called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance:

County Commissioner Amrey Harden led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the February 6, 2024 Agenda.
Second:	Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion:	None
Final Action:	Motion Passed.

Statements and Remarks from Citizens:

Suzannah Heimel, spoke in regards to the library process for re-classifying books and suggested the county stop funding the local library until the issue is resolved.

Victoria Cruz, spoke in regards to the national problem of exposing young children to age-inappropriate materials.

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of January 2, 2024 Regular Meeting, January 17, 2024 Town Hall Meeting, January 30, 2024 Called Meeting, and January 30, 2024 Agenda Meeting:

ACTION:

Motion:	Mark Thomas made a motion to approve the January 2, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes, January 17, 2024 Town Hall Meeting minutes, January 30, 2024 Called Meeting, and January 30, 2024 Agenda Meeting minutes.
Second:	Amrey Harden

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

Rezone No. P23-0275:

Applicants:	Carter Engineering Consultants
Owners:	Mulberry Property Investments, LLC and Leon W. Miller III
Location:	2781 Monroe Highway and Ruth Jackson Road
Acreage:	±2.84
Zoning:	AG (Agricultural District) and B-2 (Highway Business District)
Request:	B-2 (Highway Business District)

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) and B-2 (Highway Business District) in the Community Village Center Character Area. The applicants/owners request a rezone to all B-2 (Highway Business District) in order to develop a general retail facility. The Planning Commission and staff recommend approval of the request with five conditions.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Jeff Carter, Carter Engineering, 1010 Commerce Drive, representing the owner, requested approval of the proposed rezone.

*There were no further comments in favor of the request and no comments against the request.
 The Public Hearing was closed.*

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve Rezone No. P23-0275 for Mulberry Property Investments, LLC and Leon W. Miller III, AG (Agricultural District) and B-2 (Highway Business District) to B-2 (Highway Business District), ±2.84 acres, 2781 Monroe Highway and Ruth Jackson Road, with five conditions.
 Second: Amrey Harden
 Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
 Voted Against Motion: None
 Final Action: **Motion Passed to approve Rezone #P23-0275 with five conditions.**
(See documentation in Ordinance and Resolutions Book No. 24.)

Oconee County Board of Assessors Appointment:

ACTION:

Motion: Amrey Harden made a motion to appoint Charles Lee to a six-year term on the Oconee County Board of Assessors beginning April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2030.
 Second: Mark Saxon
 Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
 Voted Against Motion: None
 Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases Community Service Board Appointment:

ACTION:

Motion: Amrey Harden made a motion to appoint Kelly Mendiola to a three-year term on the Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases Board beginning March 1, 2024 and expiring February 28, 2027.

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

2nd Quarter FY24 Financial Update:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell presented the financial update for the 2nd quarter of FY24 which is through December 31, 2023, stating the financial position of the county remains strong.

- General Fund revenues and expenditures as compared to budget
- LOST, SPLOST and TSPLOST distributions as compared to prior fiscal year
- Capital and SPLOST budgeted expenditures update
- Water Resource Department revenues and expenses as compared to budget

Discuss and Consider an Amendment to MOU with St. Mary's related to EMS:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman
Discussion: Chairman John Daniell explained that Oconee County and St. Mary's have an MOU in regards to EMS services. Part of the agreement allowed for an Oversight Committee to meet quarterly for quality assurance. Due to HIPPA concerns, the MOU is being updated to take out the Oversight Committee and reports will come directly from National EMS with a staff member from St. Mary's assigned for questions. St. Mary's has completed their review with no changes to the amendment.

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the amendment to the MOU with St. Mary's for EMS services.
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Consent Agenda:

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

ACTION

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Second: Mark Saxon
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

- 1) Approval to Amend the Resolution for Issuance of Citations for County Ordinance Violations.
- 2) Approval of the FY23 ARPA Contract Update with NEGRC.
- 3) Approval of the SFY 2024 Aging Services Contract Update with NEGRC.
- 4) Approval of the FY24 Mid-Year Budget Amendment Request.
- 5) Approval of the Renewal of the Georgia Mutual Aid Agreement.
- 6) Approval of the FY2024 VOCA Grant Award Allocation.

- 7) Approval of the GDOT Lighting Agreement for the Roundabout at SR15 at the Administrative Building.
- 8) Approval for Awarding the Project Management Consultant Services Contract.
- 9) Approval of Engineering for Heritage Park Master Plan.

Executive Session:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss litigation.
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Adjourn into Executive Session: 6:26 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

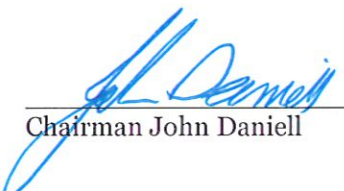
Executive Session Adjourned: 6:38 p.m.

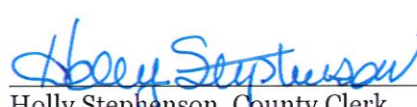
Regular Session:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to adjourn back into Regular Session.
Second: Mark Saxon
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Adjourned into Regular Session: 6:38 p.m.

Adjourned:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Meeting Adjourned: 6:38 p.m.


Chairman John Daniell


Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

3-5-24
Date