

**Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Administrative Building Commission Chambers
July 29, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Donna Norton, Budget Officer
Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director
Lisa Davol, Parks and Recreation Director
Sharon Gregg, Elections Director
Sarah Cumuze, Tourism Director
Justin Milligan, IT Director

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Chairman John Daniell called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the July 28, 2025 Agenda.
Second:	Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion:	None
Final Action:	Motion Passed.

Statements and Remarks from Citizens:

None.

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

None.

Discuss Updates to the Speed Detection Device Permit:

Presented by:	Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Discussion:	This is the First Reading of the Ordinance to amend the List of Roads for our Speed Detection Device Permit. At Administration's request, the existing List of Roads was evaluated using speed data and accident data, and the proposed changes presented by Jody Woodall, Public Works Director. The recommendation is to adopt the Ordinance to establish the updated List of Roads. A Second Reading and public hearing will be held on August 5, 2025.

Commissioner Thomas asked about the ability to run radar on these roads. Mr. Woodall explained the process. Once approved by the Commissioners, the item would go through the GDOT permit process, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Public Safety. Radar can be used 30 days after new speeds are posted.

Commissioner Thomas also asked about the impact of the addition of a roundabout at Colham Ferry Road. Mr. Woodall responded that an advisory plate would be used in addition to possible speed reductions.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss The Bid Award for the Annual Construction for Water Mains and Sewer Collection Systems Improvement:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: The County issued ITB 25-06-2019 for an on-call/on demand contractor to perform miscellaneous tasks on the water and sewer systems. This serves as a prequalification list and expedites the bid process on projects. Five bids were received, and the recommendation is to award this to the best three contractors: Po Boys Plumbing, Ohmshiv Construction, and Civil Construction Utilities. The contract is for one year with annual renewal options. Funding is available through the adopted budget.

County Administrator Justin Kirouac explained this is a pre-qualifier for a list of contractors to be used for contracts.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss a Budget Amendment to Accommodate the July 2025 Run-off Election:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell requests an FY26 budget amendment in the amount of \$14,500 to fund the unanticipated July 2025 run-off election that was unknown when the FY26 budget was in process. The costs are to cover poll worker wages, equipment delivery and setup, ballots, legal advertising, and other expenses.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss and Consider the Abandonment of Roadways and Right-of-ways in Bishop Pointe Preserve Subdivision:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney

Discussion: County Attorney Daniel Haygood explained the County has already deemed these roads no longer a benefit to the public and properly advertised the abandonment. The developer has requested the roads be private roads in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Horton asked that all home buyers be informed these are private roads. Mr. Haygood responded that a condition could be added for disclosure.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened.

Ned Butler, representing the owner, will ensure the plat and the covenants state that the streets are private streets to be maintained by the Homeowners Association. The purpose is for a private well system and utilizing the right-of-way for the private utilities.

*There was no other Public Comment.
The Public Hearing was closed.*

Discuss Renewal of MOU with Tourism and Visitors Bureau:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: The MOU with the Tourism and Visitors Bureau to provide tourism-related activities funded by the Hotel-Motel Tax is due for renewal. The revisions from the original MOU include designating other facilities as Welcome Centers to allow operations and upkeep to be funded from Hotel-Motel Tax and updating code sections in OCGA under which Hotel-Motel Tax is collected in Oconee County. The recommendation is for approval for an additional year with four automatic renewals.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss Oconee County Extension Office Support:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman

Discussion: Chairman John Daniell presented a request for the Oconee County Extension Office for additional funding to support a contracted individual for 4-H programming since grant funding was unexpectedly terminated. The request is for a budget amendment for an additional \$6,400 for a total of \$10,000 to provide approximately 20 hours of contracted support per week.

Commissioner Horton asked about the phase out of the AmeriCorps grants.
Chairman Daniell explained it occurred with no notice after the budget was approved.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss Access Control and Security Camera Project:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: As part of the overall facilities plan, the county wishes to install an integrated door access system utilizing card reader access and additional security cameras. The recommendation is to use Convergent who is already used for building automation with HVAC systems and allows a unified approach to building security. The request includes approving a budget amendment for the life of the project up to the approved amount, utilizing SPLOST 21 for the initial phase of \$160,000.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss OVP Gym/Fitness Ceiling Repairs:

Presented by: Lisa Davol, Parks and Recreation Director

Discussion: Due to ceiling damage in the OVP Gym/Fitness area, three bids were received. The request is to award the contract to Berry Coating, Inc, the lowest bidder, at a cost of \$83,720 with the funds coming from SPLOST. The request included any necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss Additional Funds for GDOT P10015656 Clotfelter Road @ Barber Creek:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: During the utility relocation phase of the Clotfelter Bridge project, rock was encountered, and additional excavation was required. The request is to approve an additional \$8,235.70 to bring total relocation costs to \$338,200.70 which will be reallocated from FY25 funds.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss an MOU with GDOT for Utility Relocation at SR316 and Dials Mill Road:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Water Resources would like approval of an MOU with GDOT for the SR 316 at Dials Mill Road project for infrastructure relocation. The County will be responsible for paying the relocation costs with an estimated amount of \$184,550.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Adjourned:

Motion:

Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second:

Mark Thomas

Voted in Favor of Motion:

Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion:

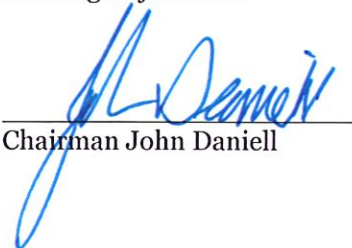
None

Action/Motion:

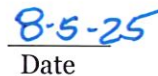
Motion Passed.

Meeting Adjourned:

6:20 p.m.


Chairman John Daniell


Holly Stephenson, County Clerk


Date