Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Administrative Building Commission Chambers
September 30, 2025 – 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
Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Donna Norton, Budget Officer
Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director
Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Lisa Davol, Parks and Recreation Director
Guy Herring, Planning and Code Enforcement 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 Thomas led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:
ACTION:

Motion:	Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the September 30, 2025 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 recognized the KOCBC for receiving the 2025 President's Circle Award.

Discuss Resolution in Support of Oconee County Application for Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program Grant:

Presented by:	Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Discussion:	County Administrator Justin Kirouac explained the intent to apply for a $3 million grant through the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program to assist in purchasing additional property of 110 acres adjacent to Heritage Park and develop it into a 474-acre passive park with a trail network for equestrian, pedestrian and bicycle usage, along with improved environmental

protection. The request is to approve the resolution and allow moving forward with the pre-application process.

ACTION:

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

Discuss Contract to Purchase Property:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: As just discussed, County Administrator Justin Kirouac requests approval to enter into a contract with the intent to purchase a 110-acre tract adjoining Heritage Park to increase the park to 474 acres. The agreed sale price is $1,940,000 with closing in January of 2026. The grant will be applied for and awarded in summer of 2026 if received. The request includes all necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

Commissioner Harden confirmed the 579 feet of river frontage and the property bordering Heritage Park. Mr. Kirouac and the Commissioners discussed some additional trails.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened.

Dorset Trapnell, owner of the property, spoke to the Board about the property and its meaning to her. She requested a portion be named for the Trapnell family.

There was no other public comment, and the Public Comment Period was closed.

Discuss the Bid Award for Calls Creek Water Reclamation Facility Effluent Force Main:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Water Resources issued a request for bids for the construction of a 24-inch effluent force main, extending approximately 3.3 miles from the Calls Creek Water Reclamation Facility to the Middle Oconee River. This will allow the County to discharge up to 3 million gallons per day of treated wastewater. The recommendation is to award the bid to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Strickland and Sons Pipeline, at a price to not exceed $7,444,405. The request includes all necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

Commissioner Horton requested a picture of this line location be placed on the website for citizen information.
Commissioner Thomas asked if the 24-inch line would handle more than 3 MDG.
Mr. Layfield answered that it was sized for more.
Commissioner Harden asked if we had worked with Strickland and Sons in the past.
Mr. Layfield answered that the county had worked with Strickland and Sons previously on another sewer project.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss the PPI Professional Services Proposal Associated with the On-site Decommission of the LAS Facility:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: In relation to the decommissioning of LAS and construction of Dawson Park, Water Resources requests approval of a budget amendment to cover the PPI Professional Services Proposal of $54,970 for design and construction support. The request includes all necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the projects.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss Contract and Scope Modifications to Carter Engineering and Hill, Foley, Ross for Dawson Park:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: County Administrator Justin Kirouac explained that Dawson Park is currently under civil design with Carter Engineering and architectural design with Hill Foley Rossi for the Field Services Building and the gymnasium. The request is to approve contract amendments to add several roundabouts to the Carter Engineering design project for an additional $85,000, bringing the total contract to $774,900. Then, moving the ancillary buildings to Hill Foley Rossi's project to ensure continuity of design for an additional $64,000, bringing their total contract to $646,000. The request includes a 10% owner design contingency for a total budget amendment of $291,090, along with all budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

Commissioner Harden asked if Carter's price would decrease when the ancillary buildings are removed from their scope of work.
Mr. Kirouac responded that the additional $85,000 is the difference after the decrease.
Commissioner Horton added the importance of SPLOST funding for the parks and asked for more education on its importance prior to the referendum.
Chairman Daniell responded that the existing SPLOST and Capital Fund pay for fields. There are plans in place to complete the budgets and meet with the cities on December 15, 2025. Then voter education will begin after the new year.
Commissioner Harden asked when the SPLOST vote would be on the ballot.
Mr. Kirouac stated SPLOST education would become a high priority starting at beginning of the year up until the May 19, 2026 primary when it will be voted on.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss a Budget Amendment for Utility Relocation for SR 316 at Dials Mill Road:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Water Resources requests approval of a budget amendment and resolution approval for utility relocation for GDOT Project 0013763 which is SR 316 at Dials Mill Road. The County will bear the full financial responsibility of the relocation using GDOT's contractor at an amount of $184,550. The request included all necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

Commissioner Thomas asked if the county would provide any materials.
Mr. Layfield stated GDOT contractors would cover all materials.
Commissioner Thomas asked if any upgrades should be made in the process.
Mr. Layfield responded that none are expected at this time.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss the GDOT Local Administered Project Certification and Title VI Non-discrimination Agreement:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Discussion: Public Works requests approval of the GDOT LAP Certification application, adopting the GDOT Title VI Non-discrimination Agreement and Assurances, and authorizing the Chairman to sign the necessary documents. LAP certification allows the local jurisdiction to manage aspects of the GDOT Plan Development Process.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss the Sale of Right-of-Way for Bishop Pointe Preserve Subdivision:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney

Discussion: County Attorney Daniel Haygood stated an offer of $2500 was made to cover administrative costs for this right-of-way as requested by the county. The recommendation is for acceptance.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss the Quarterly Acceptance of Deeds, Easements, Etc.:

Presented by: Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

Discussion: County Clerk Holly Stephenson requests approval for acceptance of the following easement:

- Sanitary Sewer Easement from Claudia Conn Hammett, as Trustee of the Donald Dean Hammett Trust, dated June 10, 2025 and recorded August 15, 2025.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

Executive Session:

Motion:	Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition and litigation.
Second:	Mark Thomas
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:	6:27 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.
Executive Session Adjourned: 7:24 p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion:	Amrey Harden 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:	7:25 p.m.

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:	7:25 p.m.

JL Daniell
Chairman John Daniell

Holly Stephenson
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

10-7-25
Date