

**Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Administrative Building Commission Chambers
June 2, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present:

Commissioner Mark Thomas
Commissioner Chuck Horton
Commissioner Amrey Harden
Commissioner Mark Saxon

Staff Present:

Mike Pruett, Attorney
Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Donna Norton, Budget Officer
Lisa Davol, Parks and Recreation Director
Jaron Queen, EMS Director
Guy Herring, Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Ethan Perry, Planner

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Commissioner Amrey Harden called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the June 2, 2026 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:

Commissioner Harden announced that early voting will be held June 8 through June 12 from 8am to 5pm at the Oconee County Administration Building. Election Day is June 16 at the polling locations.

The next Town Hall Meeting will be held June 16 at 6pm at the Oconee County Administrative Building.

Oconee 101 registration begins on June 8 for the next session which will begin August 13, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of May 5, 2026 Regular Meeting and May 19, 2026 Agenda Meeting:

ACTION:

Motion:	Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the May 5, 2026 Regular Meeting and May 19, 2026 Agenda Meeting minutes.
Second:	Chuck Horton

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

Variance P26-0078:

Applicants:	Pittman and Greer Engineering
Owners:	Rockingwood SRH, LLC
Location:	Rockingwood Drive
Acreage:	±1.98
Zoning:	OIP (Office Institutional Professional District)
Request:	Special exception variance to reduce the buffer from 25 feet to 0 feet.

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director

Discussion: Mr. Herring briefed the Board regarding the request for the property, which is currently zoned OIP (Office Institutional Professional District) in the Neighborhood Village Character Area. The applicants and owners are requesting a Special Exception from UDC Article 8, Section 806, Table 8.1 to reduce the required buffer width from 25 feet to 0 feet. Staff recommends approval of the request to reduce the buffer to 10 feet wide with five recommended conditions.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Justin Greer, Pittman and Greer Engineering, spoke in favor of the request. He stated the requirements is due to underlying AR zoning as opposed to the OIP use of the adjoining property by Athens Academy. Also, the new force main line of Oconee County Water Resources requires an easement which uses up a large portion of the buffer area and has already been cleared by the contractor.

Brad Stephens, 2034 Spartan Estates Drive, owner, spoke in favor of the request. He also mentioned the requirement is due to underlying zoning as opposed to the OIP use of the adjoining property. He stated that when the sewer line easement was granted, there was no mention of a buffer requirement as well.

There were no further comments in favor of the request and no comments against the request.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner Horton asked if anything could be planted with the infrastructure.

Mr. Greer responded that nothing could be planted in the easements for access purposes for utility maintenance. Discussions continued about the width of the easement.

Commissioner Thomas clarified that the buffer requested is only required in AR zoning. The less intense use would not require a buffer.

Mr. Greer explained that the sewer line lies on both sides of the required buffer, so planting would be very limited. The owner stated some plantings would be added to the edge of the parking lot for beautification.

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to approve Variance P26-0078 for Rockingwood SRH, LLC; Reduce the required buffer from 25 feet to 0 feet in the OIP zoning district; ±1.98 acres; Rockingwood Drive with five conditions. He requested that condition #5 be modified to 0 feet for the buffer, which would negate that condition.

Second: Chuck Horton

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed to Approve Variance P26-0078 with four conditions.**

(See documentation in Ordinance and Resolutions Book No. 26.)

Oconee County Library Board Appointments:

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to appoint Scarlett Mitchell and Karin Myhre to five-year terms beginning July 1, 2026 and expiring June 30, 2031.

Second: Mark Thomas

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Oconee County Animal Services Advisory Board Appointments:

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to appoint Vivian Ezech, Simon Owino, and Fran Leathers to two-year terms beginning July 1, 2026 and expiring June 30, 2028.

Second: Mark Saxon

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Oconee County Family and Children's Services Board Appointment:

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to appoint Dr. Jospeh Nunnally to a five-year term to begin July 1, 2026 and expire June 30, 2031.

Second: Chuck Horton

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission Appointments:

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to appoint Rodney Mauricio, Kelly Dolvin, Shweta Doshi, Robert Legg, and Tommy Malcom to two-year terms beginning July 1, 2026 and expiring June 30, 2028.

Second: Mark Thomas

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Oconee County Tourism and Visitors Bureau Appointments:

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to appoint Greg Wilson, TJ Stephens, and Dean Bright to two-year terms beginning July 1, 2026 and expiring June 30, 2028.

Second: Chuck Horton

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss and Consider the Purchase of Station 8 Fire Engine:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell explained that Oconee County Fire Rescue would like to purchase a new engine for Station 8 out of the Fire Rescue 2027 SPLOST line item to replace a 2009 Sutphen engine which will become a reserve engine. The request is for approval of the purchase cost of \$1,098,208.50 and includes all budget amendments for the life of the contract as needed.

ACTION:

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

Discuss and Consider Adoption of the Proposed FY27 Budget:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell stated the proposed FY27 General Fund Budget is \$49,004,700, with a proposed total budget of \$85,493,242. The request is for adoption of the presented budget for the General Fund, the total budget, and the FY27 fee schedule. The required public hearings have already been held.

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the FY27 Budget as presented for the General Fund, total budget, and the FY27 fee schedule.
Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss and Consider a Medical Director Agreement for Oconee EMS:

Presented by: Jaron Queen, EMS Director
Discussion: Jaron Queen, EMS Director, explained that the Georgia Department of EMS requires that a licensed ambulance service maintain a Medical Director Agreement. The recommendation is to use local Dr. Brendan Hawthorn, who would meet all requirements of the Department of Public Health and EMS Division, at a cost of \$1,000 per month.

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

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the Medical Director Agreement for Oconee EMS.
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss and Consider a Pharmacy Provider for Oconee EMS:

Presented by: Jaron Queen, EMS Director
Discussion: Jaron Queen, EMS Director, explained that the Department of Public Health requires a pharmacy agreement on file for an ambulance service. The recommendation is to use local pharmacy ADD Rx as the Oconee EMS pharmacy with cost based on usage.

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

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve ADD Rx as the Pharmacy Provider for Oconee EMS.
Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Consent Agenda:

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

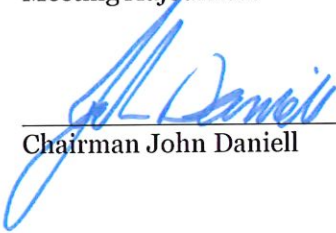
ACTION

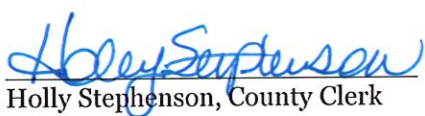
Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted.
Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

- 1) Approval of the Purchase of a 2000 Gallon Tanker Truck.
- 2) Approval of the RBLAS Decommissioning Task Order.
- 3) Approval of the FY27 ACCG-IRMA Property and Liability Insurance Renewal.
- 4) Approval of the Donation to Toombs County.
- 5) Approval of the Agreement with Georgia Transmission Corporation for Pole Replacement.

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: 6:32 p.m.


Chairman John Daniell


Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

7-7-26
Date