

**Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Administrative Building Commission Chambers
June 30, 2026 – 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
Jill Faulkner, Human Resources Manager
Sharon Gregg, Elections Director
Lisa Davol, Parks and Recreation Director
Crystal Berisko, Animal Services Director
Adam Layfield, Water Recourses Director
Whitney Sperlik, Civic Center Director
Clay Christian, IT Specialist

Call to Order: 6:01 p.m.

Chairman John Daniell called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance:

County Clerk Holly Stephenson led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the June 30, 2026 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:

Commissioner Horton asked all to remember those who stood up for freedom, wrote the Declaration of Independence, and founded our country over the 4th of July holiday.

Discuss Updates to the Oconee County Personnel Policy:

Presented by:	Jill Faulkner, Human Resources Director
Discussion:	Human Resources Director Jill Faulkner explained that the HR Department had reviewed the Policies and Procedure Handbook over the last year, holding focus group meetings for feedback. She presented a revised handbook to the Board of Commissioners for review and

approval. Major updates would include adding Veteran's Day as a holiday, a Leave-by-out Program, and a two-week paid parental leave for adoption or birth of a child.

Commissioner Harden asked if the parental leave was for either parent. Ms. Faulkner responded it would be for either parent.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss the Bid Award for the FY27 Bridge Repairs:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: County Administrator Justin Kirouac explained that an ITB was issued for two bridge repairs -Simonton Bridge Road over the Middle Oconee River and Barnett Shoals Road over Oconee River. The recommendation is to award the bid to SunCoast Restoration & Waterproofing, the lowest responsible bidder, for a not to exceed price of \$217,445.51 to include a 10% owner contingency. The funds will come from TSPLOST. The request includes authorizing the Chairman to sign the necessary documents and all 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 July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss the Bid Award for Solid Waste and Recycling Collection and Disposal:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: County Administrator Justin Kirouac explained that an ITB was issued to secure a vendor or vendors for the collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclable materials throughout the County. The recommendation is to award the bid to Waste Management/Advanced Disposal for solid waste collection and disposals at a not to exceed price of \$400,000; and to Roll Off Systems, Inc. for recycling collection and disposal at a not to exceed price of \$120,000. The request includes authorizing the Chairman to sign the necessary documents and all necessary budget amendments up to the contract amounts for the life of the projects.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss a Contract Amendment for Fire Hydrant Flow Testing and Inspections:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Water Resources Director Adam Layfield explained that Georgia Hydrant Services, Inc. has submitted a change order request for an additional \$76,520 to cover the county's request to paint all hydrants during the first year of the program rather than phasing the painting over multiple years and other inventory related items. This would bring the total contract count to \$276,520. The request includes a budget amendment in FY26 and all necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

Commissioner Harden asked how often the hydrants require painting. Mr. Layfield stated that painting would normally be completed every five years.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss a Budget Amendment for the Runoff Election Expenses:

Presented by: Sharon Gregg, Elections Director

Discussion: Elections Director Sharon Gregg explained the June 16, 2026 runoff election will require additional funding of \$26,710 for election worker expense. The Elections Department can cover \$2,710 with its existing budget along with the other expenses for the runoff, so a budget amendment in FY26 of \$24,000 is requested.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss and Consider a GEFA Loan Modification for Construction of Calls Creek WRF Upgrade to 3 MDG:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Water Resources Director Adam Layfield explained that a modification to the existing loan agreement with GEFA on the Calls Creek WRF Upgrade to 3 MDG is required to extend the completion date to February 28, 2027. The project or amount of funding will not change. The request is for approval of a Resolution making this modification.

Commissioner Harden asked if any interest rates would change.
Chairman Daniell stated interest rates would not change.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss and Consider Animal Services MOU with UGA for a Shelter Medicine Clinical Rotation Program:

Presented by: Crystal Berisko, Animal Services Director

Discussion: Animal Services Director Crystal Berisko requested approval of the MOU with UGA for a Shelter Medicine Clinical Rotation Program. The partnership will enhance a long-standing relationship, benefiting both parties by improving veterinary care, improving shelter outcomes, and expanding education resources. The students will receive practical experience under professional supervision. There is no ongoing financial impact beyond what is budgeted for normal shelter operations. However, the request does include a budget amendment for up to \$20,000, along with any necessary amendments for the life of the project, to fund the county portion of start-up costs.

Commissioner Horton asked that this item be written up in the UGA Vet School Newsletter.

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

ACTION:

Motion:

Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the MOU with UGA to establish a Shelter Medicine Clinical Rotation Program along with the budget amendment for up to \$20,000.

Second:

Mark Thomas

Voted in Favor of Motion:

Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion:

None

Final Action:

Motion Passed.

Discuss and Consider the FY27 Indigent Defense Services Agreement:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell explained that the contract for Indigent Defense Services under Public Defender John Donnelly is an annual contract that is up for renewal effective July 1, 2026. The recommendation is for the approval of the contract for the July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 term for \$296,376 and authorizing the Chairman to sign the contract.

Commissioner Thomas asked if any portion covered costs for outside of Oconee County. Chairman Daniell responded it only covers items inside the county.

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

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the FY27 Indigent Defense Services Agreement.
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 and Consider the FY27 Family Connection Contract:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell requests approval of the FY27 Family Connection Contract to continue support for families and children of Oconee County through the Oconee Area Resource Council (OARC) for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. The request is for approval of the contract and to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract.

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

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the FY27 Family Connection Contract.
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss an MOU with Brightside Company, LLC for Holiday Lighting at OVP:

Presented by: Lisa Davol, Parks and Recreation Director
Discussion: Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Davol presented a proposed MOU with Brightside Company, LLC for a holiday light display event to be placed at OVP at no cost to the county. A portion of the revenues from the event will be paid to the Oconee County Parks Foundation for other park or program enhancements.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss an IGA with the City of Bogart for Code, Engineer, Fire, and Animal Services:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Discussion: County Attorney Daniel Haygood explained this proposed IGA will allow the county to enforce ordinances inside the city limits of Bogart, issue citations, and bring offenders to court. It continues the formal arrangement for fire protection for the city also. Contracted fees will be charged by the County for these services.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss an IGA with the City of Bogart for Law Enforcement Services:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Discussion: County Attorney Daniel Haygood explained that the proposed IGA is an updated version allowing the Sheriff to provide law enforcement services inside the city of Bogart. Bogart also provides the building for SANE free of charge with this agreement.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the July 7, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss an IGA with Oconee County School District regarding the Civic Center:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman
Discussion: Chairman John Daniell explained a proposed IGA to transfer the Civic Center to the school system in exchange for 42.7 acres on Highway 441 near Bishop. The school system currently uses the Civic Center over 50% of the time. The Board of Commissioners will have the next option to reserve the building and only pay direct costs. The item will be considered at a joint meeting with the Board of Education on Monday, July 6, 2026 beginning at 4pm at the Oconee County Schools Instructional Support Center.

Commissioner Horton requested the county plaques be given to the county if removed. Commissioner Harden asked if an environmental inspection had been done of the 42 acres. County Administrator advised a visual inspection had been done, but a full inspection will be completed.

Commissioner Harden asked what happens if something comes up that has not been addressed in the IGA.

County Attorney Haygood responded that any contract can be amended, but the school system will ultimately be the owner once the transfer takes place.

Commissioner Harden confirmed that a painting donated by the Wilkes family was returned to them.

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, personnel, 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: 6:31 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Executive Session Adjourned: 7:10 p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to adjourn back into Regular Session.
Second: Chuck Horton

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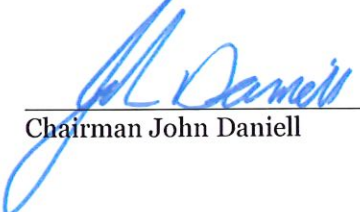
Voted in Favor of Motion:
Voted Against Motion:
Action/Motion:
Adjourned into Regular Session:

Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
None
Motion Passed.
7:12 p.m.

Adjourned:

Motion:
Second:
Voted in Favor of Motion:
Voted Against Motion:
Action/Motion:
Meeting Adjourned:

Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Mark Thomas
Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
None
Motion Passed.
7:12 p.m.


Chairman John Daniell


Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

7-7-26
Date