

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON
MARCH 03, 2025 AT 6:00 PM IN THE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT
111 NORTH IRWIN AVENUE, OCILLA, GA

Those present for the meeting are as follow:

Melvin D. Harper II	Mayor
Chris Paulk	Mayor Pro Tem
Lemora Moses	Council Member
Lisa Cook	Council Member
Clae Wynn	Council Member
Donna R. Prather	Clerk

Council Member Patrice Manley was absent.

Mayor Melvin Harper II called the meeting to order.

Dr. Sandra Edwards gave the invocation.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to approve and relax the agenda to add agenda items utility truck and meeting time. Council Member Clae Wynn seconded the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes that were held on January 27, 2025 at 10:00 am. Council Member Lemora Moses second the motion; which passed with Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes that were held on January 27, 2025 at 4:00 pm. Council Member Lemora Moses second the motion; which passed with Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes that were held on January 31, 2025. Council Member Lemora Moses second the motion; which passed with Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes that were held on February 03, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk second the motion; which passed with Council Member Lisa Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that was held on February 03, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lemora Moses, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Georgia Municipal Association Representative/Emily Davenport

Emily Davenport, Member Service Consultant for GMA, for District 11. GMA serves all 537 cities in the state of Georgia. Ms. Davenport stated they are big on advocacy, service, and education. She mentioned all the services they provide and asked if anything is needed to please reach out to her.

Sista Girl Birth Initiative/Kristina Cheek

Kristina Cheek, Founder and Executive Director of Sista Girl Birth Initiative, stated that her organization is community base. Her focus is to improve maternal health disparities and low breastfeeding rates in rural South Georgia. Her mission is to guide birthing families towards reclaiming their birth experience by fostering safety, joy, and well-being for both parents and babies. She has served over 500 families.

The organization is on a mission to rally and uplift black dads, championing family well-being nurturing parental development, and being a rock solid source of strength.

Ms. Cheek asked the council to help spread the word about what she does and she would love to train women in this area.

Error & Release

The error and release for New Bethel Church and Cross Point Church agenda items were tabled.

TAN Resolution

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to approve Planter's First Tax Anticipation Note bid in the amount of \$500,000.00 at a 5.25% fixed interest rate. Council Member Lisa Cook seconded the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Regular Monthly Meeting Date

Council Member Clae Wynn asked to change the Regular Monthly meeting date do to conflict with the County Commission Meeting date.

Council Member Clae Wynn made a motion to change the Regular Monthly Meeting date to the third Monday effective April. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Clae Wynn, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lisa Cook, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

Utility Truck

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk stated the Water Department needs a utility truck. He stated the Director is driving his personal truck to conduct City business. Mr. Paulk presented quotes from Fitzgerald Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram dealership, Fitzgerald Ford dealership, and a utility truck that Irwin EMC is selling for \$15,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to purchase the utility truck from Irwin EMC at \$15,000. Council Member Clae Wynn seconded the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lisa Cook, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

Alleyway/Ocilla Baptist Church

Holly Conner, a representative for Ocilla Baptist Church, stated they are wanting to close the ally that runs behind the church to put up a fence to allow the children to play outside and be safe.

Water Director Bruce Wilder stated the City has utilities in the alley, Georgia Power has overhead power, and Click has fiber optic in the ground. These companies need access to the alley if issues arise.

Warren Mixon, City Attorney, stated Ocilla Baptist needs to send a letter to Georgia Power and Click to obtain a written agreement regarding the alleyway and they need to contact adjoining properties letting them know their intent.

This agenda item was tabled.

Alleyway/Rehoboth Fellowship Church

Rehoboth Fellowship is wanting to close the ally that runs behind the church.

Water Director Bruce Wilder stated the City has utilities in the alley, Georgia Power has overhead power, and Click has fiber optic in the ground. These companies need access to the alley if issues arise.

Warren Mixon, City Attorney, stated Rehoboth Fellowship needs to send a letter to Georgia Power and Click to obtain a written agreement regarding the alleyway and they need to contact adjoining properties letting them know their intent.

This agenda item was tabled.

Department Head Reports

Chief of Police Ashley Jones submitted the monthly report of all monthly activity for the Police Department and Criminal Investigation Division.

Director Corneilus Hall submitted the monthly report of all monthly activity for the Streets Department. Mr. Hall also requested to purchase an anti-bite dog jumpsuit for animal control officer Jimmy Cobb.

Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to approve the purchase of an anti-bite dog jumpsuit for animal control officer Jimmy Cobb. Council Member Clae Wynn seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

Director of Water & Gas Bruce Wilder stated he is still working on the inconsistencies in billing.

Fire Chief Will Towson submitted the monthly report on all activities for the Fire Department.

County Clerk Donna Prather gave a report on collections for delinquent and current utilities, taxes, and business licenses.

Executive Session

Council Report:

Council Member Lisa Cook ask for an update on Cargile Road.

City Attorney Warren Mixon stated he didn't have a chance to check. He stated he will get back with her at the next meeting.

Ms. Cook also asked about potholes on Lakewood Drive, the propane tanks on East 4th street, and yard sale permits.

Council Member Lemora Moses stated the speed bumps need to be put back down, Oak Street has a lack of police patrol, and potholes need to be filled on the Five Bridge Road near the detention center.

Mr. Moses asked how often the fire hydrants are flushed because he had some complaints of the water being brown. Fire Chief Will Townson answered twice a year.

Mr. Moses stated he is glad the City is purchasing protective clothing for the Animal Control Officer.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk stated he had a complaint about potholes on McNeil Road and dog catching on East 7th Street.

Council Member Clae Wynn asked if a video conference can be set up with Hyper Web software owner Marc Kallaoun regarding financial documentation that the City needs to complete the audit.

City Clerk Donna Prather stated she would contact Mr. Kallaoun regarding the information.

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lemora Moses, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Meeting adjourn.

_____ Melvin D. Harper II, Mayor

_____ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk