

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON  
JANUARY 06, 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
Patrice Manley	Council Member
Lemora Moses	Council Member
Chris Paulk	Council Member
Clae Wynn	Council Member
Donna R. Prather	Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook was absent.

Mayor Melvin Harper II called the meeting to order.

Reverend James Curtis gave the invocation.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Council Member Chris Paulk made a motion to approve and relax the agenda. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

**Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Council Member Clae Wynn made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that was held on December 16, 2024. Council Member Lemora Moses seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

**Old Business: NONE**

**New Business:**

*TAN Note*

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to authorize the Mayor to request bids for a \$500,000 line of credit from the local banks. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Chris Paulk, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

### *Drug Taskforce Governing Board Appointment*

Mayor Melvin Harper stated that Mayor Pro Tem asked to be removed from the Drug Taskforce Governing Board and swap with Council Member Chris Paulk.

Council Member Clae Wynn made a motion to appoint Council Member Chris Paulk to the Drug Taskforce Governing Board. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion. Council Member Chris Paulk abstained from the motion.

### *HB 281 Public Hearings Date*

Mayor Harper stated the City Council intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the City of Ocilla. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at the City Council Chambers on January 16, 2025, at 11:00 AM and at 4:00 PM. An additional public hearing on this matter will be held at the City Council Chambers on January 21, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

### *Resolution/Gussie Phillips*

Mayor Harper made it known that Ms. Gussie Phillips transitioned. She served on the Council and he feels that it is necessary for the Council to send a resolution to her family.

Council Patrice Manley made a motion to approve a Resolution for Ms. Gussie Phillips. Council Member Chris Paulk seconded the motion; which passed with Council Patrice Manley, Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

### *Georgia Energy Authority Resolution*

Council Patrice Manley made a motion to approve the Georgia Energy Authority Resolution and authorize the Mayor to execute the document. Council Member Lemora Moses seconded the motion; which passed with Council Patrice Manley, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Chris Paulk, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

### **Department Head Reports**

Chief of Police Ashley Jones submitted the monthly December report of all monthly activity for the Police Department and Criminal Investigation Division. He also submitted a comparison report for physical year 2023-2024. The GBI was contacted regarding the Council request at the December meeting. Mr. Ross will move his property from the side of the road on Cargile Road on to his property.

Director of Water & Gas Bruce Wilder stated he received the cut off list for utilities today. It is overwhelming. The delinquent water bills are almost \$1 million.

### **Executive Session**

**Council Report:**

Council Member Patrice Manley addressed her projects she submitted for the Neighborhood Center and the Community House. She would like to get an estimation for repairs of both buildings. Ms. Manley also asked, “did we finalize fees for the rash cans? Mayor Harper answered she would have answers in February.”

Council Member Lemora Moses asked questions regarding the water issue at 122 Pecan Road. Mr. Moses also stated the roads on Valdosta Avenue and Frank Road need repairs desperately. He stated if we get money to repair roads, he would like to repair those roads.

Council Chris Paulk reported the last date to have debris removed is January 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Paulk commended the Street Department for cleaning up the streets. He stated the City is in need of a small motor grader at some point. We need to equip our street Department with the equipment they need to operate. We need to start thinking about utility trucks with a side body.

Council Member Patrice asked can we rent the equipment? Mayor Harper answered yes.

Mr. Moses stated he has a blade the City can use free of charge anytime the Street Department need it.

Council Member Clae Wynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Lemora Moses seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

Meeting adjourn.

\_\_\_\_\_ Melvin D. Harper II, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk