

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 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
Lisa Cook	Mayor Pro Tem
Patrice Manley	Council Member
Lemora Moses	Council Member
Clae Wynn	Council Member
Donna R. Prather	City Clerk

Council Member Chris Paulk was absent.

Mayor Melvin Harper II called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Approval of the Agenda

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Lisa Cook seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Lemora Moses, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to approve the September 15, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting minutes. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

GTS Contract/Back Taxes

Council Member Lisa Cook Council made a motion to approve the contract with Government Tax Services, LLC to collect back taxes for the City. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Lemora Moses, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Fee Schedules/Golf Cart Tags/Sanitation/Water

Mayor Harper explained to everyone that the City is paying \$23.25 to purchase tags for golf carts and the citizens are paying \$25.00 for a tag. Mayor Harper proposed a fee increase. Council Member Patrice Manley suggested increasing the fee to \$50.00.

Council Member Lisa Cook Council made a motion to increase the golf cart tags to \$50. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion. Council Member Clae Wynn opposed the motion.

Mayor Harper presented a spreadsheet that included collections for Sanitation and Water for the months of July, August, and partial for September. After further discussion, it was decided to table the agenda item Fee Schedule for Sanitation and Water until a full report could be generated for the month of September.

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to table the fee schedule for Water and Sanitation until October meeting. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Utility Bills/Cut Offs

Mayor Harper stated it is time to start notifying the citizens of Ocilla that all bills are due by December 31, 2024 and cut offs will be reinstated on January 1, 2025. Mayor Harper stated it is time for the citizens to be responsible for what they owe.

After further discussion, Council Member Lisa Cook Council made a motion to approve that all bills are due by December 31, 2024 and cut offs will be reinstated on January 1, 2025. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Lemora Moses, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Department Head Reports

Ashley Jones, Chief of Police, gave an update on a golf cart incident and a motorcycle chase from the prior month. He also reported all monthly activity for the Police Department and Criminal Investigation Division.

Chief Jones also presented three quotes for much needed floor repairs at the Police Department.

Council Member Lisa Cook Council made a motion to approve the quote received from Daron Dunlap in the amount of \$21,381.26 and authorize payment from SPLOST. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Lemora Moses, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Cornelius Hall, Public Works Director, didn't have anything to report.

Fire Chief Will Townson gave a report on all monthly activities for the Fire Department.

Bruce Wilder, Water Department Supervisor, stated every vendor is calling him regarding unpaid invoices.

Council Report

Council Member Patrice Manley reported she had received a concern from _____ regarding the elderly having to cross the main highway to the Elections Office. Council Member Patrice Manley thanked Chief Jones for reporting back to her on the motorcycle incident. She also asked the Chief can someone receive a citation if the offer can positively identify someone that have out run the police? Chief Jones answered if they could positively identify the individual.

Council Member Lisa Cook reported water is backing up in a ditch on Lakewood Drive. Someone with an excavator stated the work to correct the issue will cost \$6,000. Ray Paulk volunteered to pay \$2,000 of the cost if the City would pay the other \$4,000. Council Member Cook thanked Public Works Director Cornelius Hall for the work public works did.

Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to approve the work on Lakewood Drive for \$4,000 and approve payment from SPLOST. Council Member Clae Wynn seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Chris Paulk, and Council Member Patrice Manley.

Council Member Lemora Moses stated he agrees with Council Member Lisa Cook regarding the piles of dirt throughout the City. He also stated to Public Works Director Cornelius Hall to keep up the good work.

Council Member Clae Wynn didn't have anything to report.

Mayor Melvin Harper thanked the Council and Department Heads in their sincere efforts in our City. Sometimes we have to make tough decisions. He encouraged everyone to be content as long as they are the correct decisions.

Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting Council Member Lemora Moses second the motion, which passed with Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Council Member Patrice Manley all voting for the motion.

_____ Melvin D. Harper II, Mayor

_____ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk