

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON  
NOVEMBER 21, 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 |
| Chris Paulk         | Council Member |
| Clae Wynn           | Council Member |
| Donna R. Prather    | Clerk          |

Mayor Melvin Harper II called the meeting to order.

City Clerk Donna R. Prather gave the invocation.

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Meeting minutes that was held on October 07, 2024. Council Member Chris Paulk seconded the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook, Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that was held on October 17, 2024. Council Member Lemora Moses seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lemora Moses, Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook, and Council Member Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

**Old Business: NONE**

**New Business:**

*Planning & Advisory Commission Reappointments/Arlinda Murrell & Tara Smith*

Council Member Chris Paulk made a motion to reappoint Arlinda Murrell and Tara Smith to the Planning and Advisory Commission. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

*Zoning Board of Appeals Planning & Advisory Commission Reappointments/Vernon Wells, Frank White, & Rusty Hickey*

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to reappoint Vernon Wells, Frank White, and Rusty Hickey to the Zoning Board of Appeals Planning and Advisory Commission. Council Member Chris Paulk seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

*Motorized Golf Cart Update*

Chief Ashley Jones presented Chapter 50, Article II Motorized Golf Carts ordinance that needs updating. The changes were made to section 50-39 hours of operation, section 50-40 assessment and proration of fees, section 50-41 Equipment, and section 50-44 Penalty. The Council discussed the changes presented and other changes they would like to make. Chief Jones asked the Council to send him their recommended changes.

Council Member Chris Paulk made a motion to approve the changes to Chapter 50, Article II Motorized Carts ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Chris Paulk, Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

*Open Records Request Copies Cost*

Council Member Chris Paulk made a motion to approve the Open Records Request copies at .25 cents per page. Council Member Patrice seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

**Department Head Reports**

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

Chief Jones also submitted a current pay scale and a pay scale that included an increase for his Department. He asked the Council to consider the increase so that he could be competitive with surrounding agencies so that he could hire certified officers.

Council Member Clae Wynn entered the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook made a motion to approve the pay increase submitted by Chief Ashley Jones for the first pay period in January 2025. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

Director of Street Director Cornelius Hall submitted a monthly Street Department report. He also created a form for complaints to be filled out by Council and citizens to insure issues are resolved quickly.

Director of Water & Gas Bruce Wilder stated he is still cleaning up issues regarding water. He stated he found 25 accounts that was listed as vacant with consumption. The water was cut off because he discovered the residence were occupied but they did not have the water in their name. He also explained the issues he has with the billing system and bills. Mr. Wilder also suggest raising the deposit for the application for utility service and adding an instruction sheet that explains the process before moving from a residence.

Fire Chief Will Townson reported the Fire Department had 13 calls. They also helped the Street Department during the Sweet Potato parade and the Water & Gas Department with gas and sewer. The Fire Department also help celebrate Mrs. Josephine Davis 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

**Executive Session/Litigation**

Council Member Chris Paulk made a motion to suspend the Regular Monthly Meeting to enter into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Chris Paulk, Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Executive Session took 15 minutes. No action was taken.

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to close Executive Session to re-enter the Regular Monthly Meeting. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Chris Paulk, and Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

**Council Report: NONE**

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

Meeting adjourn.

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

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