

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON
MAY 19, 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:

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|---------------------|----------------|
| Melvin D. Harper II | Mayor |
| Chris Paulk | Mayor Pro Tem |
| Lemora Moses | Council Member |
| Patrice Manley | Council Member |
| Lisa Cook | Council Member |
| Donna R. Prather | Clerk |

Council Member Clae Wynn was absent.

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

Everyone gave the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes that were held on April 17, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk second the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes that were held on April 21, 2025. Council Member Lemora Moses second the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lemora Moses, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Council Member Lemora made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that were held on April 21, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lemora Moses, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lisa Cook, and Council Member Patrice Manley all voted for the motion.

Old Business:*Recreation Department*

Mayor Melvin Harper stated the Recreation Department football program has children ready to participate; but the equipment is outdated. The Department needs to purchase new helmets and equipment.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to approve the Recreation Department purchase of helmets and equipment up to but not to exceed \$10,000. Council Member Lemora Moses second the motion; which passed with Council Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

New Business:*Alcohol License/Victor Esparza Limon*

Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to approve the alcohol license for Victor Esparza Limon. Council Member Lemora Moses seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk voted for the motion. Council Member Patrice Manley opposed the motion.

Georgia Municipal Association's District 11 Officers

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to authorize City Clerk Donna Prather to vote on behalf of the City in favor of the of nominating committee nominees for position of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Third Vice president. Council Member Lemora Moses second the motion; which passed with Council Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion. Council Member Patrice Manley opposed the motion.

Code of Ordinance Modifications & Additions

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to approve the modifications in the code of ordinance Sec. 28- (Oath of Police), Sec. 28-4 (Oath of Police Officers), and add Sec. 36-10 (Disorderly Conduct, and Sec. 36-11 (Interference of Municipal Services). Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk second the motion; which passed with Council Member Lemora Moses, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Joint Development Authority for Natural Gas

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to appoint Mayor Melvin D. Harper, II to the Joint Development Authority for Natural Gas. Council Member Lemora Moses seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lemora Moses, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Tasers

Chief Ashley Jones recommended replacing and upgrading the department's aging TaserX26P inventory with the Taser 10 platform. He presented the Council with quotes from Axon.

Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to approve the recommendation to replace and upgrade the department's aging TaserX26P inventory with the Taser 10 platform. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Lisa Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

Police Department Building Maintenance

Chief Ashley Jones provided the Council with quotes from Adams Exterminators, Astro Exterminating Services, and Key Pest Control for termite protection and moisture barrier for the Police Department. Chief Jones recommended Adams Exterminators.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to approve the Adams Exterminators proposal for termite protection and moisture barrier. Council Member Lemora Moses second the motion; which passed with Council Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

July Monthly Meeting

Mayor Harper stated it is custom not to have a July meeting in Ocilla and surrounding agencies.

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to cancel the July Regular Monthly Meeting. Council Member Lisa Cook second the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lisa Cook, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk opposed 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 stated the daily per diem in the ordinance is \$50.00; but the personnel policy states the per diem is \$75.00. Chief Jones asked if the ordinance and personnel policy can have the same language.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to update the ordinance to say the same language as the personnel policy. Council Member Lisa Cook seconded the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

Director Corneilus Hall submitted the monthly report of all monthly activity for the Streets Department. Mr. Hall also presented quotes to repair Valdosta Avenue behind Jack's. The Council asked him to get quotes for asphalt instead of concrete to repair the road.

Director Hall stated Ms. Naomi Scott complained about dogs in the neighborhood that were housed in a fence and had food. Ms. Scott was informed that animal control did not have a right to bother those dogs.

Director of Water & Gas Bruce Wilder stated they are having to read more and more meters by hand because the meters are dying. He also found a glitch in the billing system that he is currently working on. Director Wilder stated he is revising a quote he received for software upgrade to read the meters.

Director Wilder stated he wants to change who the City purchases gas from. He is interested in City Services because he believes they will save us money. A pump burned up at the holding field. He is getting a quote to replace it.

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

Council Report:

Mayor Melvin Harper reported he has received many complaints regarding debris and trash pickup throughout the City. Mayor Harper spoke with Mr. Golden regarding the issue. Mr. Golden sent an employee to pick up the list of residents that have not received the services. Mayor Harper stated the City has many overgrown and blighted properties in the community. He is working with Chief Jones to address the issues.

Council Member Lisa Cook reported the stop sign on Lakewood Drive is leaning. Lakewood Drive also has a huge pothole that needs to be filled. Lakewood Drive and Lax Highway have a leak. Lakewood Drive has properties that have allowed their yards to be overgrown. Ms. Cook questioned the cost of the grant that Susan Driskell wrote for the plants that are planted in front of Ross Equipment Company. The plants don't match the cost.

Council Member Patrice Manley stated the fire department yards need to be kept up because the yards don't look good. She stated it needs some beautifications like flowers and bark. Ms. Manley asked Director Corneilous Hall; what night did the Street Department spray because she had not seen anyone. She stated she appreciates what the employees are doing but they must do better.

Council Member Lemora Moses asked about repairs being done at the Neighborhood Center. Mr. Moses also asked about the renaming of the alley after Monica Causey. Mayor Harper stated the alley is already renamed Monica Causey. It has a bag over it because they are waiting to reveal it. He has had an issue contacting Monical Causey.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk encouraged and thanked the employees for the job they are doing. He sees huge strides and the growth that are taking place. Mr. Paulk stated he met with the Public Safety Committee regarding a tornado warning system because he wants people to be safe. He encouraged Director Corneilous Hall to start thinking about hurricane season.

Executive Session

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

_____ Melvin D. Harper II, Mayor

_____ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk