

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON
JUNE 16, 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
Patrice Manley	Council Member
Lisa Cook	Council Member
Clae Wynn	Council Member
Donna R. Prather	Clerk

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 relax the agenda to add Public Hearing to the agenda and to add Esparaza Mexican Restaurant under Old Business. Council Member Lisa Cook seconded the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes that were held on May 16, 2025. Council Member Patrice Manley second the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that were held on May 16, 2025. Council Member Patrice Manley second the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to suspend the Regular Monthly Meeting to enter a Public Hearing. Council Member Clae Wynn second the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Public Hearing/Esparaza Mexican Restaurant

Mayor Melvin Harper stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear from the public whether they are for or against the Esparaza Mexican Restaurant getting approved for alcohol licenses.

Susan Driskell stated she didn't think it was bad idea because they are losing customers to the Mexican restaurant in Fitzgerald because they sell alcohol.

There were no further comments.

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

Old Business:*Alcohol License/Victor Esparza*

Council Member Clae Wynn made a motion to grant Victor Esparza alcohol license for the Esparza Mexican restaurant. Council Member Lisa Cook second the motion; which passed with Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lisa Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion. Council Member Patrice Manley opposed the motion.

New Business:*Environmental Services Contract for the Ocilla SR 32 Landfill*

Council Member Clae Wynn made a motion to approve the Environmental Services Contract for the Ocilla SR 32 Landfill and authorize the Mayor to execute the document. Council Member Lemora Moses second the motion; which passed with Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Lisa Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, and Council Member Patrice Manley all voted for the motion.

Alapaha Animal Control/Shelter Contract

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to approve the revised Alapaha Animal control/Shelter contract. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk second the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Tornado Warning Sirens

Fire Chief Will Townson presented the Council with three quotes for warning sirens. Two quotes were for new sirens and one for a refurbished siren. The Council discussed the quotes.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to approve the quote from McCranie Warning Systems for two refurbished Federal Signal Thunderbolt 1000AT sirens with a five-year warranty for \$22,000. Council Member Clae Wynn second the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Patrice Manley all voted for the motion. Council Member Lisa Cook 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.

Director Corneilus Hall submitted the monthly report of all monthly activity for the Streets Department.

Utilities Director Bruce Wilder did not have anything to report on.

Fire Chief Will Towson submitted the monthly report on all activities for the Fire Department. He stated they had one major fire that resulted in a total loss.

Council Report:

Mayor Melvin Harper reported that there were a few flaws between the Community House and the Neighborhood Center the past weekend that were resolved.

Mayor Harper stated he has been working diligently on code enforcement by sending out letters to citizens to get overgrown and blight property cleaned up in the City.

Council Member Lisa Cook thanked Director Cornilus Hall for fixing the potholes on Lakewood Drive and Kirk Lane. She also asked when the road would be repaired behind Jack.

Council Member Patrice Manley asked about fixing the pothole on Oak Street by Ms. Ida Anderson house.

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to appoint Director Bruce Wilder over the Sanitation Department. Council Member Lisa Cook seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, 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 Lemora Moses stated he has received calls regarding individuals riding four wheelers and dirt bikes on the weekend around five and six o'clock in the evening on Oak Street. He stated they are cutting through the opening in the speed bumps. Mr. Moses stated he has received calls regarding dogs that are running loose after dark and complaints regarding the potholes.

Council Member Clae Wynn asked Director Bruce Wilder about a leak on the south end of Alder Street. Mr. Wynn also asked City Clerk Donna Prather about the audit.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk did not have anything to report.

Executive Session/Personnel

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to enter Executive session to discuss personnel. Council Member Lisa Cook second the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Patrice Manley all voted for the motion. The Executive Session lasted approximately 45 minutes.

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

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to terminate Director Corneilus Hall effective immediately. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk seconded the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

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

_____ Melvin D. Harper II, Mayor

_____ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk