

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON
AUGUST 18, 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. Council Member Clae Wynn seconded the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

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

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

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Irwin County Library Board of Trustees Reappointment/Helen Moses

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to reappoint Helen Moses to the Irwin County Library Board of Trustees. Council Member Clae Wynn second the motion; which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Lisa Cook, and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

Revolving Loan Fund Committee Board Appointments

Mayor Pro-Tem Chris Paulk nominated Shannon Vickers.

Mayor Melvin Harper nominated Maurice Lake and Lemond Hall.

The nominations were closed.

Council Member Clae Wynn made a motion to appoint Shannon Vickers, Maurice Lake, and Lemond Hall to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee. Council Member Lemora Moses second the motion; which passed with Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Patrice Manley, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

Memorandum of Understanding/Fire Department

This agenda item was tabled.

Department Head Reports:

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

Major Bill Barrs stated he has taken some of the Code Enforcement duties. He is working with Mayor Harper to address some of the issues in the community. Major Barrs gave a monthly report of the work he has already done.

Utilities Director Bruce Wilder submitted the monthly report of all monthly activity for the Utility and Street Department.

Fire Chief Will Towson didn't have anything to report.

Council Report:

Mayor Melvin Harper reported that he met with the Facility Protection Unit today regarding gas. As of now, the City has a total of 19 violations that carries a fine of \$22,000 stemming back 6 years during the prior Director employment. The representative for Harp & Associates and Mayor Harper spent the day disputing the violations and answering questions with the hope of decreasing the fine. They will let us know in a few weeks what the fine will be.

Mayor Harper thanked Director Bruce Wilder for going far and beyond the call of duty.

Council Member Lisa Cook reported potholes are on Lakewood Drive.

Council Member Patrice Manley addressed an issue with noise from a party she put up with on Saturday night on corner of Oak Street and 7th Street in the vacant lot. Ms. Manley stated she called E911 to report on the loud music to have law enforcement come and have them turn the music down; but the dispatcher stated it was nothing they could do because Mayor Harper approved of the outdoor event. Ms. Manley stated it is not right to have that type situation going on in her neighborhood and she has every right to say something because the music that was being played was filthy, and she could hear the music in her residence. The music didn't stop until almost 3:00 am. She stated we do have a noise ordinance, and it should be enforced.

Council Member Lemora Moses thanked Director Bruce Wilder for his hard work and commitment. Mr. Moses asked City Attorney Warren Mixon, why City residents pay City and County taxes; but the County residents only pay County Taxes. Mr. Mixon answered, the State has set it up that way.

Council Member Lemora Moses asked Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk why he recommended closing the Fire Department and not ask the Police Department to cut their budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk answered that we can't afford the Fire Department. He also pointed out the excessive overtime and the fact that the Fire department do not bring in any revenue. Mr. Paulk also stated he is tired of people bringing up how much the salaries are in the Police Department. We need the police department to keep our community safe.

We really need to cut because we are borrowing money to pay bills, and the interest rate is increasing every year. It is time to stop kicking the can down the road and make the necessary decision now. This recommendation is not personally against Fire Chief Will Towson and the other firefighters; we simply can't afford the Fire Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk asked Director Bruce Wilder about a cone that has grown into the ground by the city limit sign on the Old Fitzgerald Highway that needs to be made visible again.

Council Member Clae Wynn asked Director Bruce Wilder did he take care of the leak on Brittney Way. Mr. Wilder replied, it has been taken care of.

Executive Session

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

_____ Melvin D. Harper II, Mayor

_____ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk