

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 AT 6:00 PM IN THE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT
111 NORTH IRWIN AVENUE, OCILLA, GA

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

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
Paula Ball	Finance Officer

Mayor Harper called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Councilman Chris Paulk gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was approved as presented by a motion from Councilman Chris Paulk and a second from Councilwoman Patrice Manley.

Councilwoman Patrice Manley made a motion to approve the August 18, 2025, workshop minutes. Councilman Lemora Moses seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Councilman Lemora Moses made a motion to approve the August 18, 2025, regular monthly meeting minutes. Councilman Chris Paulk seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Councilman Clae Wynn made a motion to approve the August 21, 2025, special call meeting minutes. Councilman Lemora Moses seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The first item of new business was a discussion about Street Department personnel. Mayor Harper requested this item be tabled until the December meeting. Councilman Chris Paulk made a motion to table the item. Councilman Clae Wynn seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the Police Department Vehicle Take Home Policy. Mayor Harper stated he felt we should review the vehicle policy to save money in every possible way. Chief Ashley Jones was asked to explain the current policy. No action was taken.

Sanitation fees were then discussed. Bruce Wilder, Utilities Director, stated sanitation fees have not increased since 1994. He suggested the rates be increased from \$19.00 to \$25.00 per month. Councilman Chris Paulk made a motion to increase the fees. Councilwoman Patrice Manley seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

A Memorandum of Understanding and Intergovernmental Agreement with the Irwin County School Board covering the School Resource Officers was presented by Chief Ashley Jones. Councilman Clae Wynn made a motion to approve the MOU/IGA. Councilman Lemora Moses seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

The taxation process for 2025 was then discussed. Tax Assessment Notices have not been sent out at the present time. This delay is going to cause tax collections to be delayed until probably February of 2026. The city has a \$500,000.00 Tax Anticipation Note that is due December 31, 2025. This is going to create an extreme hardship in the City of Ocilla.

Councilman Chris Paulk suggested turning the Sweet Potato Festival over to Irwin County.

Appointments to the Industrial Development Authority were presented with Rodney Miller, Kendall Edwards and Dr. Lamon Hall being the suggestions. Councilwoman Patrice Manley made a motion to accept the appointments. Councilman Lemora Moses seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Department Head reports were as follows:

Chief Ashley Jones stated he had nothing to present except his monthly report.

Utilities Director Bruce Wilder stated he had given out his monthly report and there was nothing to add.

Fire Chief Will Towson stated he had nothing.

Council Members' reports were as follows:

Mayor Melvin Harper, II stated the city has not hired a Code Enforcement Officer due to the financial status of the City. He has been serving as Code Enforcement Officer, but this person has to be certified. Therefore, an employee from the Police Department has been assisting him. Violations can be heard by our Municipal Court Judge.

Councilwoman Patrice Manley addressed loud music at the College Hill Park, and she suggested citizens using the park be required to keep it clean.

Mayor Harper thanked Chris Moore for helping with the Neighborhood Center.

Councilman Lemora Moses presented concerns with semi-trucks going to the chicken houses using city streets. Chief Ashley Jones stated there is an ordinance in place, but you cannot prevent deliveries to landlocked properties if this is their only access.

Councilman Chris Paulk had nothing to add.

Councilman Clae Wynn encouraged everyone to attend the County Commissioners meeting about the delay in the tax process. He asked where we stood with an audit. It was explained that we have someone that is willing to help but because of the financial hardship we are experiencing, there is no funding for this until taxes are collected.

Councilman Chis Paulk made a motion to enter executive session concerning litigation. Councilwoman Patrice Manley seconded the motion that carried unanimously. That asked that Chief Jones remain for the discussion.

The meeting was reconvened with no action being taken.

There being no further business, Councilman Chris Lemora Moses made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Chris Paulk seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Mayor Melvin D. Harper, II

Paula J. Ball, Finance Officer