

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON
OCTOBER 20, 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
Donna R. Prather	Clerk

Council Member Lisa Cook and Council Member Clae Wynn were absent.

Mayor Melvin Harper II called the meeting to order.

Reverend James Curtis 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 Lemora Moses seconded the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Patrice Manley 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 September 15, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk second the motion, which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that were held on September 15, 2025. Council Member Patrice Manley second the motion, which passed with Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes that were held on September 18, 2025. Council Member Patrice Manley second the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Aging Advisory Board Appointment/Southern Georgia Region Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to table the agenda item until a suitable candidate could be found for the position. Council Member Lemora Moses seconded the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Patrice Manley all voted for the motion.

Landfill Estimate/Notice of Violation

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to approve the estimate in the amount of \$8,210 from Parrish Land Clearing, LLC for phase one of bringing the Landfill into compliance with EPD. Council Member Lemora Moses second the motion, which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

Retired Educators Proclamation

Mayor Melvin Harper read the Retired Teacher's Proclamation proclaiming November 2, 2025, Retired Educators Day in Georgia.

Josephine Spaulding Davis 101st Birthday Proclamation

Mayor Melvin Harper read the Proclamation honoring and celebrating the 101st birthday of Ms. Josephine Spaulding Davis proclaiming October 23, 2025, as "Josephine Spaulding Davis Day" in the City of Ocilla.

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to adopt the proclamation honoring and celebrating the 101st birthday of Ms. Josephine Spaulding Davis proclaiming October 23, 2025, as "Josephine Spaulding Davis Day" in the City of Ocilla. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk second the motion, which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

Surplus Resolution

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to adopt the Surplus Resolution. Council Member Lemora Moses seconded the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Patrice Manley 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 turned the floor over to City Attorney Warren Mixon.

Mr. Mixon brought the Council attention to the Municipal Court position being transferred to the Police Department. He stated we can't do that because it is in violation of City code. Sharlene can't perform duties as Secretary for the police Department and Municipal Court Clerk because according to code there must be a separation of power. Mr. Warren recommended rescinding the appointment of Sharlene Matthews as Municipal Court Clerk.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to hire a part-time Municipal Court Clerk to bring us into compliance. Council Member Lemora Moses seconded the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Patrice Manley all voted for the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to suspend Municipal Court until a Clerk is hired. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

Utilities Director Bruce Wilder submitted the monthly report of all monthly activity for the Utility and Street Department. Citizens are also asking for speed bumps on Lakewood Drive and Kirk Lane. He stated he will get with Council Member Lisa Cook.

Council Report:

Mayor Melvin Harper stated citizens that live between 8th & 10th street are requesting speed bumps toward Morris Chapel. We are experiencing good results from enforcing the code enforcement ordinance on dilapidated homes and yard debris. Mr. Harper stated, Major Bill Barrs have been a great help. He encouraged the citizens to keep their yards clean.

Council Member Patrice Manley thanked Director Bruce Wilder and crew for all they do without complaining. Ms. Manley asked Bruce to look into the standing water in the ditches on 7th Street. Director Wilder stated he would check into it after it rain so that he could see what she was talking about.

Council Member Lemora Moses stated citizens are dumping trash etc. on 5th Street since the dumpsters closed. He asked if cameras could be installed in the area to catch those that are dumping illegally. Chief Ashley Jones she he would install deer cameras in that area.

Mr. Moses also stated he would like to see more participation in the birthday parade for Ms. Davis.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk asked everyone to keep Council Member Lisa Cook and her family in their prayers. Mr. Paulk also asked Director Bruce Wilder about his plan for the spraying field. He stated it will be taken care of during the winter.

Executive Session

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Patrice Manley, second the motion, which passed with 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