

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON  
NOVEMBER 17, 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
Lisa Cook	Council Member
Patrice Manley	Council Member
Lemora Moses	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 approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Lisa Cook, and Council Member Clae Wynn and 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 October 20, 2025. Council Member Clae Wynn second the motion, which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Clae Wynn, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lisa Cook, 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 October 20, 2025. Council Member Clae Wynn second the motion, which passed with Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lisa Cook, and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes that were held on October 27,2025. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk second the motion, which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voted for the motion.

**Old Business: NONE**

**New Business:**

*Urban Redevelopment Plan (URP)*

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to adopt the Urban Redevelopment Plan. Council Member Lisa Cook seconded the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Clae Wynn and Council Member Patrice Manley all voted for the motion.

*Cemetery Fees*

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to approve the following changes to the cemetery fees:

- ❖ \$500.00 per grave site for City residents
- ❖ \$1000.00 per grave site for non-City residents
- ❖ \$100.00 per burial permit for City residents
- ❖ \$250.00 per burial permit for non-City residents
- ❖ \$50.00 per monument permit

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

*Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)*

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to authorize Mayor Melvin Harper to accept bids from Financial Institutions for 2026 TAN. Council Member Lisa Cook seconded the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Clae Wynn and Council Member Patrice Manley all voted for the motion.

*Personnel*

Council Member Lisa Cook stated the Personnel Community would like to mend the personnel policy regarding Department Heads. After further discussion, Council Member Lisa Cook and Council Member Patrice Manley will meet City Attorney Warren Manley regarding the changes and bring them back before Council.

***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 thanked Council and the citizens for working with him during his tenure as Chief of Police.

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

Director Wilder asked the Council to change the commercial sewer base fee because it was not updated when all the other changes were made. He suggested the increase be at least \$2.00.

Council Member Clae Wynn made the motion to increase the commercial sewer base fee by \$2.25. Council Member Lemora Moses seconded the motion, which passed with Council Member Clae Wynn, Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Lisa Cook, and Council Member Patrice Manley, and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

***Council Report:***

**Mayor Melvin Harper** announced Better For Ocilla will be hosting a community feeding on November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Neighborhood Center. He asked for volunteers to help serve and asked for everyone to spread the word. This event is for everyone, and it is also first come first served.

Mayor Harper thanked Chief Ashley Jones for all his help and everything he has contributed to the City. He congratulated Major Bill Barrs on his promotion as Chief of Police. He stated he hope Major Barrs remains consistent and present as Chief of Police.

**Council Member Lisa Cook** told Chief Ashley Jones she hated seeing him go and that she appreciates all he has done in all the areas he has contributed to and not just to the Police Department.

Council Member Lisa Cook made a motion to appoint Major Bill Barrs as Chief of Police effective November 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:01 am. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion, which passed with Council Member Lisa Cook, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lemora Moses, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

**Council Member Patrice Manley** stated to Chief Ashley Jones she has enjoyed working with him and he has her blessing on his next endeavor.

Ms. Manley stated that homeowners on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> street hired contractors to work on their property, but they did not clean up and remove debris. She stated it is not our responsibility to contact the contractor but to contact the homeowner regarding the issue. She asked Major Bill Barrs to check into the situation as a code enforcement issue.

**Council Member Lemora Moses** stated to Chief Ashley Jones that they go way back and that he appreciates him. He also stated he has a good man following behind him.

Mr. Moses asked Director Bruce Wilder if the trees at the cemetery could be removed to make space. Director Wilder stated that they could be removed.

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

Mr. Moses asked Major Bill Barrs if he would need an Assistant Chief. His answer was yes. Mr. Moses made the statement to handle your business.

**Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk** stated it was a group effort on the budget decision to close the City Fire Station. He was not the one.

Mr. Paulk thanked Chief Jones for his service. He stated Chief Jones has picked up the Police Department in many ways and he challenge Major Bill Barrs to move it forward.

**Council Member Clae Wynn** stated he voted with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk regarding the decision to close the City Fire Department. He said it was a responsible decision.

Mr. Wynn thanked Chief Ashley Jones for his service as Chief and wished him well in his next endeavor. He also congratulated Major Bill Barrs on his promotion as Chief of Police.

### **Executive Session**

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 Patrice Manley, and Council Member Lisa Cook all voted for the motion.

\_\_\_\_\_ Melvin D. Harper II, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk