

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON
JULY 07, 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
Clae Wynn	Council Member
Donna R. Prather	Clerk

Council Member Patrice Manley and Council Member Lisa Cook were absent.

Mayor Melvin Harper II called the meeting to order.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to suspend the Special Called Meeting to enter the Public Hearing. Council Member Lemora Moses second the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voting for the motion.

Public Hearing/ Proposed Budget 2025-2026

Mayor Melvin Harper stated the reason for the Public Hearing is to hear comments regarding the budget from the Public. Mayor Harper asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the Budget.

There were no public comments.

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to close the Public Hearing to enter the Special Called Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk second the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lemora Moses, and Council Member Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Council Member Lemora Moses made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Council Member Clae Wynn second the motion; which passed with Council Member Lemora Moses, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk all voted for the motion.

Proposed Budget 2025-2026

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to recommend the following cuts and changes to appropriate the funds towards the \$500,000.00 tax anticipation note.

- Municipal Court Clerk's position moves to the Police Department from City Hall; savings of \$45,000.
- The Police Department will freeze the open position to save \$115,000.

- Fire Department moves to the County, lease fire truck for a \$1.00, and the City agrees to pay 50% of Chief Will Townsend’s salary and benefits; savings of \$273,000.
- Street Department cut Director’s salary \$50,000.
- Cut supplies and monthly allowance in the Mayor’s budget by \$4,000.
- Cut Animal Control salary and professional service by \$5,000.
- Cut travel and training in the Council’s budget by \$5,000.

Council Member Clae Wynn Second the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voting for the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to adopt the 2025-2026 budget to include the recommended budget cuts listed above. Council Member Clae Wynn Second the motion; which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Clae Wynn, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voting 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, and Council Member Lemora Moses all voting for the motion.

_____ Melvin D. Harper II, Mayor

_____ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk