

Mayor: Melvin D. Harper, II

City Council: Cortney Austin, Patrice Manley, LaRounda Thomas, Chris A. Paulk, Clae Wynn



City Clerk: Donna R. Prather

City Attorney: Warren Mixon

Police Chief: Bill Barrs **Director of Utilities:** Bruce Wilder

City of Ocilla

There will be a workshop meeting of the Ocilla City Council held on March 16, 2026, at 5:30 PM in the City Council Chambers located at 111 North Irwin Avenue, Ocilla, GA 31774 to receive public comments.

The regular monthly meeting of the Ocilla City Council will be held on March 16, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers located at 111 North Irwin Avenue, Ocilla, GA 31774 to address City business.

Agenda

Call to Order

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Adopt Agenda

Approval of Prior Month's Minutes

- Workshop Meeting 02/16/2025
- Regular Monthly Meeting 02/16/2025
- Public Hearing 02/26/2026 (12 noon)
- Public Hearing 02/26/2026 (5 pm)

Old Business: None

New Business:

- 2021 CDBG Housing Grant Project Fund
- GA Tax Collection System/Contract
- Surplus Resolution/Children's World Old Building/Old Middle School
- Tax Anticipation Note/Line of Credit

Department Head Reports:

Bill Barrs-Police Chief

Wilder-Director of Utilities

Executive Session

If Needed-In Accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-2(1), 50-14-2(2), 50-14-3(4), and 50-14-3(6)

Council Member Reports:

Mayor Melvin D. Harper, II

Council Member Cortney Austin

Council Member Patrice Manley

Council Member LaRounda Thomas

Council Member Chris Paulk

Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn

Adjourn

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON
FEBRUARY 16, 2026 AT 5:30 PM IN THE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT
111 NORTH IRWIN AVENUE, OCILLA, GA

Those present for the meeting are as follows:

Melvin D. Harper, II	Mayor
Clae Wynn	Mayor Pro Tem
Cortney Austin	Council Member
Patrice Manley	Council Member
LaRounda Thomas	Council Member
Chris Paulk	Council Member
Donna R. Prather	City Clerk

Mayor Melvin Harper stated the purpose of the Workshop Meeting is to hear the concerns of the citizens.

Betty Hyman Tomberlin wants to have the water turned on at 700 N. McKinley Lane. She stated her brothers, Charlie and Willie, that lived there had passed away. She wants to move into the family house, but her brothers left a balance on the account.

Billy Leverette stated he has come to Council with stuff that needs to be done around his house that has not been done yet.

Mr. Leverette asked Chief Bill Barrs about cars and golf carts running the stop sign by his house. A lot of cars are without taillights. He stated someone is going to get killed one day.

Chief Bill Barrs stated he don't have the manpower to have someone to sit in that area, but he will do more consecrated patrol in the area.

Rev. Jame Curtis stated he is coming as a citizen of Ocilla. He wants the Council to consider allowing the citizens to make payments on their taxes. The County has allowed payments on taxes for years. He is asking the City to offer the same.

Rev. Curtis also asked Council to work together. He knows they were elected by districts, but keep in mind you represent the entire city. He stated everything is not meant to be said during the meeting; some things need to be discussed in executive session. He stated a young lady was talking about the videos circulating around hurting Ocilla. When the cameras are on, it is designed to bring chaos and confusion to the community. We have become a laughingstock all around. Rev. Curtis stated he is just asking everyone to work together and put the City and citizens first.

Meeting Adjourn

_____ Melvin D. Harper II, Mayor

_____ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON
FEBRUARY 16, 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
Clae Wynn	Mayor Pro Tem
Cortney Austin	Council Member
Patrice Manley	Council Member
LaRounda Thomas	Council Member
Chris Paulk	Council Member
Donna R. Prather	Clerk

Mayor Melvin Harper II called the meeting to order.

James Curtis gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Council Member Chris Paulk made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Cortney Austin seconded the motion, which passed with Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Cortney Austin, Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn, and Council Member Patrice Manley and Council Member LaRounda Thomas all voted for the motion.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Council Member Cortney Austin made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes that were held on December 15, 2025. Council Member LaRounda Thomas second the motion, which passed with Council Member Cortney Austin, Council Member LaRounda Thomas, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Chris Paulk, and Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Council Member LaRounda Thomas made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that were held on December 15, 2025. Council Member Patrice Manley second the motion, which passed with Council Member LaRounda Thomas, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Cortney Austin, Council Member Chris Paulk, and Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Council Member Cortney Austin made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes that were held on January 5, 2026. Council Member LaRounda Thomas second the motion, which passed with Council Member Cortney Austin, Council Member LaRounda Thomas, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Chris Paulk, and Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes that were held on January 15, 2026. Council Member LaRounda Thomas second the motion, which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member LaRounda Thomas, Council Member Cortney Austin, Council Member Chris Paulk, and Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Council Member Cortney Austin made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Meeting minutes that were held on January 22, 2026 at 12 noon. Council Member Chris Paulk second the motion, which passed with Council Member Cortney Austin, Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member LaRounda Thomas, and Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Meeting minutes that were held on January 22, 2026 at 5:00 pm. Council Member Cortney Austin second the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn, Council Member Cortney Austin, Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member LaRounda Thomas, and all voted for the motion.

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Meeting minutes that were held on January 29, 2026. Council Member LaRounda Thomas second the motion, which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member LaRounda Thomas, Council Member Cortney Austin, Council Member Chris Paulk, and Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Council Member Cortney Austin made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes that were held on January 29, 2026. Council Member LaRounda Thomas second the motion, which passed with Council Member Cortney Austin, Council Member LaRounda Thomas, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Chris Paulk, and Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Surplus Resolution/Fire Department Mobile Home

Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn made a motion to approve the Surplus Resolution declaring the 2023 Fleetwood Home surplus and authorizing the proposal of the said property. Council Member Cortney Austin second the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn, Council Member Cortney Austin, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Council Member LaRounda Thomas all voted for the motion. Council Member Chris Paulk opposed the motion.

Tax Anticipation Note

The Council discussed the current rental fees and application. Council Member Patrice Manley asked do we walk through the building with the renter and do we sign off on the walk through. They also discussed a double penalty when the building is not cleaned and when the renters do not vacate the building at the correct time. It was stated that everyone must pay for the building despite their reason for using it.

Council stated that at this time we are to reinforce the current application and they will revisit the price change at a later date.

*Ocilla/Irwin County Planning & Advisory Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals
Appointments*

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk made a motion to appoint Karsen Wynn and Mariah Walker to the Ocilla/Irwin County Planning & Advisory Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Lisa Cook, and Council Member Clae Wynn and all voted for the motion.

Irwin County Library Board of Trustees Appointment

Council Member Patrice Manley made a motion to appoint Shirley Edwards Matthews to the Irwin County Board of Trustees. Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk seconded the motion, which passed with Council Member Patrice Manley, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Paulk, Council Member Lisa Cook, and Council Member Clae Wynn and all voted for the motion.

Tax Anticipation Note

Mayor Melvin Harper stated it is not a secret that we are operating on a tax anticipation note. We need funds to operate until the 2025 taxes start coming in.

Finance Director Paula Jones handed each Council a spreadsheet with the City's largest debt along with the amount for general fund payroll and group insurance. She suggests that we get a line of credit and we would spend no more than necessary.

Council discussed amounts and debt issues. Mayor Harper stated in addition to the loan amount, let's not forget there is an interest rate included in the loan amount.

Council Member Chris Paulk made a motion to open a line of credit in the amount of \$400,000 through bids. Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn seconded the motion.

After further discussion about the line of credit amount, Council Member Chris Paulk amended his original motion to open a line of credit in the amount of \$1,000,000. Council Member Cortney Austin seconded the motion, which passed with Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Cortney Austin, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member LaRounda Thomas, and Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn all voted for the motion.

Council continued to discuss the urgency for funds because this is payroll week. They discussed the amount of time it would take to get \$1,000,000 line of credit.

Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn made a motion to approve a 50,000 Tax Anticipation Note. Council Member Patrice Manley seconded the motion, which passed with Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member Chris Paulk, Council Member Cortney Austin, and Council Member LaRounda Thomas all voted for the motion.

Council Member Chris Paulk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn seconded the motion.

It was brought to the Council attention that the Department Heads had not reported. Council Member Chris Paulk rescinded his motion.

Department Head Reports:

Chief of Police Bill Barrs submitted the monthly report of all monthly activity for the Police Department and Criminal Investigation Division. Chief Barrs stated they are outing the pieces back together.

Director Bruce Wilder submitted the monthly report of all monthly activity for the Utility and Street Department. Mr. Wilder stated we are behind the eight ball on copper and lead. Funding is available but we can't apply because of pass due audits. The estimated cost for the project repairs is an estimated 2 million dollars.

He also reported that he pulled his first PFAS (Forever Chemicals) sample to send off for results.

Council Report:

There were no Council reports.

Executive Session

Council Member Chris Paulk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn second the motion, which passed with Council Member Chris Paulk, Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn, Council Member Cortney Austin, Council Member Patrice Manley, Council Member and LaRounda Thomas all voted for the motion.

_____ Melvin D. Harper II, Mayor

_____ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON
FEBRUARY 26, 2026 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT
111 NORTH IRWIN AVENUE, OCILLA, GA

Those present for the meeting are as follow:

Cortney Austin	Council Member
LaRounda Thomas	Council Member
Chris Paulk	Council Member
Donna R. Prather	City Clerk

Mayor Melvin Harper, Council Member Patrice Manley, and Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn were absent.

Council Member Chris Paulk called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Council Member Chris Paulk stated the purpose of this Public Hearing is to hear public concerns regarding the proposed millage rate.

Public comments:

Hal Roach stated the Industrial Authority taxes have not been paid in several years. The Industrial Authority taxes are not to be used by the City. The citizens are being double taxed to cover the debt owed by the City. It is illegal to use the taxes owed to the Industrial Authority.

Meeting adjourned.

_____ Chris Paulk, Council Member

_____ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
OF THE CITY OF OCILLA COUNCIL HELD ON
FEBRUARY 26, 2026 AT 5:00 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
Cortney Austin	Council Member
LaRounda Thomas	Council Member
Chris Paulk	Council Member
Donna R. Prather	City Clerk

Council Member Patrice Manley and Mayor Pro Tem Clae Wynn were absent.

Mayor Melvin D. Harper called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Mayor Melvin D. Harper stated the purpose of this Public Hearing is to hear public concerns regarding the proposed millage rate.

Public comments:

Dawn Giddens asked Council, do you own your own home? If not, you don't know the struggle for a single parent home. We have to pay county taxes, school taxes, city taxes, and insurance. If you don't own your own home, you would not understand. Ms. Giddens stated she wants to get out of Ocilla. She also asked if the City has a plan in place for partial payments or a payment plan because people cannot afford to pay taxes at 15 mills, especially the elderly. They will be forced to decide between food, medicine, and taxes.

Noah Griffin stated he appreciates the job the Council is doing. He served three terms on City Council. While serving, they formed a Land Bank Authority to help citizens pay their taxes. The Board did not want to sell the properties of those that didn't pay their taxes. He stated, if you had been budgeting and people not paying there is a problem with the budget. He asked the Council to be mindful of the people. He also asked if anyone knew what happened to the Land bank Authority Board?

Meeting adjourned.

_____ Melvin D. Harper, II, Mayor

_____ Donna R. Prather, City Clerk

GA-TCS Bill Printing Agreement

City of Ocilla



The following agreement provides for the printing of property tax bills for the City.

Application Setup

No software application will be setup for the City. GATCS will deliver the tax bill files in the format that is used by Divco, the GA-TCS print vendor.

Delivery

The data will be prepared and delivered within 14 working days after the City agrees to the terms of the proposal, an agreement is signed and tax millage rates are provided to GA-TCS.

Support Details

K&G Consulting Services, LLC will be fully responsible for support regarding the delivery of the property tax billing files.

K&G Consulting Services, LLC has no responsibility regarding the printing of the bills but will work with the City and the print vendor to assist in the process.

Contact Information

Gregg Reese
5040 Ridge Rd
Coolidge GA 30821
706-699-2286
gregg@gatcs.net

Cost of License & Support

The cost of printing will be as follows:

- Preparation and delivery of data by the Company: \$850.00 annual for an agreed upon 3-year term covering tax bills for 2025, 2026 and 2027 . Multiple data extracts within a digest year are at no additional cost.
- The cost above does not include the charges by the print vendor and postage
- If the City wishes to change print vendors and additional GATCS resources are required to generate tax bill files, the City will be notified and an addendum to the agreement will be made after the city agrees to the terms proposed by GATCS.

The Company will pay the print vendor after the City approves the printing and invoice the City for the cost provided by the vendor.

The cost above covers only the preparation and printing of the bills. If required, additional services will be provided at an agreed upon rate.

The anticipated cost for the service of printing the bills is below:

Property Tax Bills Description

Pricing

\$0.35 per bill

1. #10 Double Window Envelope, white stock, 1-color imprint
2. 8.5 x 11, tax bill on white, 1/3 perforated stock with a 1-sided variable data imprint in digital black only
3. All processing, printing and mailing services therein

**pricing does not include Track and Trace or Variable QR Codes*

***pricing does not include postage, which will be billed within Services Invoice*

Flats: When multiple notices are grouped into a single envelope, those groupings \$1.00 per envelope
(6+ sheets)

with 6+ notices must be inserted into a 9x12 envelope with a special, mailing cover sheet

Set Up Fee Per Mailing \$175.00

Postage will be billed within Services Invoice

Receipts - 3 Part NCR Description	Pricing*
• 3.67 x 8.5, White, Yellow, and Pink Pages	\$0.20 per set
Set-up Fee	\$175.00



by K&G Consulting Services, LLC

Additional Services and Add-Ons

Add Color to tax bill front	\$0.03 per bill
Generic Imprint of the back page of tax bill	\$0.02 per bill
Variable QR Code Mapping	\$125 Set-Up + \$0.01 per notice
Tax Bill Digests Binder QTY	\$150 per Heavy Duty Post Binder
Tax Bill Digest 3-Ring Binder	\$12 per binder
Tax Bill Digest Pages	\$0.08 per page
PDF file of notices in a single file format	\$125.00 per mailing
PDF File of notices as individual PDF's	\$125.00 per mailing + \$0.01 per converted PDF notice



by K&G Consulting Services, LLC

Signatures

X

City Representative

Title

X

Gregg Reese
K&G Consulting Services LLC



City of Ocilla

Mayor: Melvin D. Harper, II

Council: Cortney Austin, Patrice Manley, LaRounda Thomas, Chris A. Paulk, Clae Wynn

City Clerk: Donna R. Prather

City Attorney: Warren Mixon

Police Chief: Bill Barrs

Director: Bruce Wilder

111 North Irwin Avenue

Ocilla, GA 31774

(229) 468-5141 Phone

March 6, 2026

Tax Anticipation Note Bids: \$1,000,000.00

Present:

Melvin D. Harper II
Donna R. Prather
Paul J. Bee

Financial Institutions

Community Bank

Interest Rate

5.60%



Community pride in everything we do.

March 2, 2026

City of Ocilla
Attn: Mayor Melvin D. Harper, II
111 N Irwin Ave
Ocilla, Ga. 31774

Re: Bid proposal for 2026 TAN

Dear Melvin,

Please accept the following bid of 5.60% for the additional 2026 TAN in the amount of \$1,000,000.00. This rate is fixed until maturity and will not contain any pre-payment penalties. **Please note that our bid is subject to final underwriting, a Resolution from the City Council and an Attorney's Opinion Letter.**

Thank you for the opportunity to assist The City of Ocilla. Please feel free to contact me at 229-423-4321 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Shannon Vickers
Vice-President

Community Banking Company

202 S. Irwin Avenue • Ocilla, Georgia 31774 • (229) 404-1099