

CHARLTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
68 KINGSLAND DRIVE, SUITE B
FOLKSTON, GA 31537
THURSDAY, JANUARY 2ND, 2025
6:00 PM

1/2/2025 - Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

Present was Commissioner Jesse Crews, Commissioner James Everett, Commissioner Alpha Benefield, County Attorney John Adams, County Administrator Glenn Hull, Director of Administrative Services, Rebecca Harden, and County Clerk Madeline Nettles.

Absent was Commissioner Luke Gowen and Commissioner Drew Jones.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Invocation was led Commissioner Everett.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Items #1, #2, and #3 of "Miscellaneous" were moved to hear before the adoption of the agenda.

Commissioner Everett motioned to adopt the agenda. Commissioners Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. MOTION TO ADOPT 12/19/2024 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Everett made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. MOTION TO ADOPT 12/19/2024 REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Crews motioned to adopt the minutes as presented. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

No items were discussed.

PURCHASING ITEMS

No items were discussed.

GRANTS AND SPLOST PROJECT

No items were discussed.

PETITIONS

No items were discussed.

AGREEMENTS

No items were discussed.

ORDINANCES

No items were discussed.

RESOLUTIONS

No items were discussed.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. MOTION TO APPOINT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2025 CHAIRMAN

This item was heard before "ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA."

Commissioner Everett made a motion to appoint Commissioner Benefield as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Benefield seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Crews transferred the Chairman Gavel over to Commissioner Benefield.

2. MOTION TO APPOINT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2025 VICE CHAIRMAN

This item was heard before "ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA."

Commissioner Everett motioned to appoint Commissioner Crews as Vice Chairman. Commissioners Crews denied the appointment. The motion did not receive a second.

Commissioner Crews made a motion to appoint Commissioner Gowen as Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. MOTION TO APPOINT THE 2025 COUNTY ATTORNEY

This item was heard before "ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA."

Commissioner Crews made a motion to reappoint John Adams as the County Attorney. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2025 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING CALENDAR

Commissioner Everett asked County Administrator Hull about the workshops scheduled at 5:00 PM. County Administrator Hull clarified that the workshops are on the schedule to notify the public of them in advance, but they can be cancelled prior to the meetings if they are not needed at that time.

Commissioner Crews motioned to adopt the meeting calendar as presented.

Commissioner Everett again shared his concern for the workshops scheduled for 5:00 PM at the St. George Community Center.

Commissioner Everett seconded the motion to adopt the meeting calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2025 CHARLTON COUNTY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Commissioner Crews made a motion to approve the County Holiday Schedule as presented. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion.

Commissioner Crews asked if this was the same schedule as the previous year, which Director of Administrative Services Harden confirmed.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. MOTION TO APPOINT DONNA EUNICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN (DFCS) BOARD

Commissioner Crews made a motion to appoint Donna Eunice to the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) Board. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. MOTION TO APPOINT MARY KAY LINDQUIST TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Commissioner Everett motioned to appoint Mary Kay Lindquist to the Library Board of Trustees. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. MOTION TO APPOINT JESSE CREWS TO THE CHARLTON COUNTY FIRE BOARD

Commissioner Everett motioned to appoint Jesse Cres to the Charlton County Fire Board. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. MOTION TO APPOINT JIM GOWEN TO THE FOLKSTON/CHARLTON DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO SERVE OUT THE REMAINDER OF MARK PICKREN'S TERM

Commissioner Everett motioned to appoint Jim Gowen to the Folkston/Charlton Development Authority to serve out the remainder of Mark Pickren's appointment term. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. MOTION TO APPOINT TERESA GUINN TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Commissioner Crews recused himself during this item, due to being related to the suggested appointee.

Commissioner Crews made a motion to table the item until a quorum is present. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

No items were discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gary Tippins of the Board of Assessors provided an update on Chemours. The Assessors are waiting to hear from GMASS to verify that Chemours is still within the county limits, which Mr. Tippins expects to receive that update tomorrow.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Everett thanked the county for the love and support shown following the death of his sister.

County Administrator Hull stated that he has also received an update on Chemours, as Brantley County is also discussing the issue. County Administrator Hull will be working with County Attorney Adams to draft a letter intending to expedite the process.

County Administrator Hull asked the board to approve having the Chief Appraiser present House Bill 581 and the potential impact to the county so the board can decide on whether the county will be opting out of the decision.

County Administrator Hull reported that the hospital records have been destroyed at the request of the hospital authority, but the county has limited storage options for the remaining records that must be held. County Attorney Adams reported that the Hospital Authority has no funds to store those records.

County Administrator Hull clarified that the records still belong to the Hospital Authority and will have to be managed after they are stored. County Attorney Adams stated that they would need to be destroyed over a period of time.

Commissioner Benefield asked if the county is clear or if the county would be held liable for the records if they were to store the records for the Hospital Authority. County Attorney Adams stated that the Hospital

Authority is dependent on the county for help as they have limited funds and no personnel. County Attorney Adams stated that the county is acting at the request of the Hospital Authority. Commissioner Benefield clarified that the county would be free of liability.

Director of Parks and Recreation Joel Shivar confirmed that there is a room in the gym that can be locked, and only certain personnel be provided access to it. Director of Parks and Recreation Shivar confirmed that the room is unused and would be safe to store the records.

County Administrator Hull returned to the discussion about House Bill 581. Commissioner Crews feels that the Board needs to be briefed on the bill before they make a decision.

Gary Tippins of the Board of Assessors informed the Board that there is now paperwork for those who want to be tax exempt on logging equipment.

Commissioner Crews confirmed with the Sheriff about the meeting on January 6th, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the St. George Community Room.

Commissioner Benefield thanked the board for her appointment as Chairman. Commissioner Benefield thanked everyone present for their support and wished them a good 2025. Commissioner Benefield thanked County Administrator Hull and County Attorney Adams for serving the board and helping them. Commissioner Benefield also thanked Director of Administrative Services Harden and County Clerk Nettles.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on January 16th, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room.

The Board of Commissioners will have a workshop on January 16th, 2025, at 5:00 PM in Room 117 in the Annex Building.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Everett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Alphya Benefield, Chairman

Madeline Nettles, County Clerk