

CHARLTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
68 KINGSLAND DRIVE, SUITE B
FOLKSTON, GA 31537
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2025
6:00 PM

2/20/2025 - Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Present was Chairwoman Alpha Benefield, Commissioner Jesse Crews, Commissioner James Everett, Commissioner Drew Jones, Commissioner Luke Gowen, County Attorney John Adams, County Administrator Glenn Hull, and County Clerk Madeline Nettles.

Absent was Director of Administrative Services Rebecca Harden.

All guests are recorded hereafter.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

The invocation was led by Commissioner Everett.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Crews made a motion to add "MOTION TO ACCEPT EASEMENT FROM JOHN CALVIN DAVIS" to the agenda under Added Agenda Items. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gowen made a motion to adopt the agenda with the amended item. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 6TH, 2025 WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETINGS

Commissioner Crews motioned to approve the minutes from the February 6th, 2025 Workshop and Regular Meetings. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

1. PRESENTATION OF ST. MARY'S RIVER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Merrill Varn of the St. Mary's River Management Committee presented the 2024 Annual report.

Ms. Varn highlighted areas of the report including Land Use, Water Quality, Water Quantity,

Regulation, and Partners and the recommendations St. Mary's River Management Committee made to the county.

Commissioner Jones shared his concern about trash being thrown over bridges and expressed an interest collaborative with Sheriff Phillips, St. Mary's River Management Committee, and Ronnie Pollock to discuss potential options to manage this issue.

2. PRESENTATION FROM EMA DIRECTOR BRUCE YOUNG ON WINTER STORM ENZO

EMA Director Bruce Young presented a final report on Winter Storm Enzo.

Commissioner Jones expressed his gratitude to Charlton Electric.

Commissioner Everett and County Administrator Hull discussed the homeless population in the county.

Commissioner Benefield stated that she is happy with the results of the warming center and how happy she is to see the county provide for residents in need.

County Administrator Glenn thanked the board for their support with this project and the public's partnerships.

Commissioner Benefield asked County Clerk Nettles to ensure the names of all churches and organizations be given to the paper to be accurately recorded.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PETITIONS

PURCHASING ITEMS

GRANTS AND SPLOST PROJECT

AGREEMENTS

ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS

1. MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING TAMMY BURCH FOR HER SERVICE TO CHARLTON COUNTY

The board recognized Tammy Burch and applauded her years of service.

Chief Appraiser Laurie Thomas read the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crews motioned to adopt the resolution recognizing Tammy Burch for her service to Charlton County. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR LOCAL SUPPLEMENTS FOR RETIRED JUDGES AND SURVIVING SPOUSES OF RETIRED JUDGES, TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND OTHER RELATED PROVISIONS

County Administrator Hull discussed the proposed resolution, which is direct response to Georgia House Bill 85.

Commissioner Gowen asked County Attorney Adams if he is familiar with this and whether the county should wait until the House passes the bill before acting. Commissioner Crews also discussed this matter.

Commissioner Crews made a motion to adopt the resolution to provide for local supplements for retired judges and surviving spouses of retired judges, to provide for an effective date, and other related provisions.

Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. MOTION TO REAPPOINT JESSE CREWS AND ALPHYA BENEFIELD TO THE CHARLTON COUNTY RECREATION BOARD

Commissioner Jones made a motion to reappoint Commissioner Crews and Commissioner Benefield to the Charlton County Recreation Board. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion.

Commissioner Crews and Commissioner Benefield both recused themselves.

The motion carried, with Commissioner Everett, Commissioner Jones, and Commissioner Gowen in favor of the motion. Commissioner Crews and Commissioner Benefield were recused.

2. MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioner Crews asked if everything was good.

Commissioner Gowen asked if the jump in revenue in the general fund was from property taxes, which was confirmed.

Commissioner Gowen asked for year-to-year comparisons in future reports.

Commissioner Crews made a motion to approve the January 2025 financial report. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

1. MOTION TO ACCEPT EASEMENT FROM JOHN CALVIN DAVIS.

County Administrator Hull discussed the proposed easement agreement, which would formalize the easement with Mr. Davis for Summerall Lane in lieu of the county abandoning their prescriptive easement of Wolfgang Alley.

Commissioner Gowen apologized to the other parties involved for not notifying them sooner, due to not being aware of the agenda item himself.

Commissioner Gowen welcomed Steven Lloyd to the floor to speak on the matter. Mr. Lloyd expressed his concerns about the drainage issues and the potential impact the abandonment of Wolfgang Alley would

have on the drainage issues, including blocking him and other property owners from accessing their homes during heavy rains. Commissioner Gowen asked Mr. Lloyd if the county receives a drainage easement, would this resolve his concerns, to which he agreed.

County Administrator recommended the board give him the authority to have the county engineers come up with a solution for the drainage issue and that the board move forward with the easement agreement to give the engineers a clear guide to work with.

Commissioner Benefield asked if the board needs to wait until a drainage easement can be discussed before moving forward with the easement. County Attorney Adams recommended the county waiting if they were going to pursue a drainage easement as well.

Commissioner Crews asked if the road department is currently maintaining the drainage. Director of Infrastructure and Development, Ronnie Pollock, took the floor to discuss the drainage, stating that he was previously unaware of any issues in that area. Mr. Pollock agreed to work on the issue if Mr. Lloyd would meet with him to show where the problems lie and discuss potential solution.

Commissioner Gowen made a motion to table the approval of the easement agreement per the recommendation of Mr. Pollock. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Crews report on Connie Bass, the Senior Center Manager, and the Senior Center's Valentine's Dance. Commissioner Crews expressed his gratitude for Mrs. Bass and talked about how wonderful the event was.

Commissioner Everett asked about the media table, which County Administrator explained that it was moved for the directors to all sit together. Commissioner Everett requested that a media table be set up for Mr. Gardner with the Charlton County Herald moving forward.

Commissioner Jones stressed his concerns about the trash issue on the side of the road and in ditches, stating that he wants it to be a priority for the county to come up with a cleanup plan. Commissioner Crews discussed the trash issue on Highway 121.

Commissioner Gowen commended the sheriff on the roadway cleanup by inmates that one of his employees was overseeing the other day. Sheriff Phillips stated that if they had more community service people coming more frequently and be able to coordinate them to come at the same time, it would be better to keep the roads clean. Sheriff Phillips also talked about department efforts to begin ticketing trucks exiting the landfill that are not covering themselves and are causing the litter on the road. Commissioner Gowen recommended the sheriff work with DOT on this matter, and Commissioner Jones offered his support.

Commissioner Benefield thanked the sheriff for his support to the senior citizens and his presence at the dance, discussing how he and his wife were instrumental to bringing laughter to the Senior Center Valentine's Dance. Commissioner Benefield reported that there were over 100 people present.

Commissioner Benefield thanked everyone for their support. Commissioner Benefield discussed a personal health matter and thanked everyone for their patience, understanding, and support.

NEXT MEETING:

1. NEXT WORKSHOP IS MARCH 6TH, 2025 AT 5:00 PM IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM
2. NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS MARCH 6TH, 2025 AT 6:00 PM IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Alphya Benefield, Chairman

Madeline Nettles, County Clerk