

CHARLTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY ROOM
13063 FLORIDA AVENUE
ST. GEORGE, GA 31562
THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH, 2025
6:00 PM

3/20/2025 - Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

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

All guests are recorded here after.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Invocation was led by Commissioner Crews.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Crews motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. MOTION TO ADOPT THE MARCH 6TH, 2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

PRESENTATIONS

1. PRESENTATION FROM BOBBIE CANIPE, HEALTH INSPECTOR, REGARDING HEALTH INSPECTIONS AND BUSINESS LICENSES IN CHARLTON COUNTY

Mr. Bobby Canipe was not present at the time the item was called. Chairwoman Benefield stated that they would revisit the item once he was present.

Mr. Canipe's presentation began at 6:11 PM.

Mr. Canipe talked about the Department of Public Health programs, including permitting for tourism and restaurants, animal quarantines, regulatory compliance, and on-site sewage/well management

programs. Mr. Canipe discussed his attempts to educate in places where violations are found instead of revoking a permit when possible.

Mr. Canipe urged everyone to immediately seek medical attention if a bat is ever found in the home, due to the small bite marks they leave.

Chairwoman Benefield asked about a specific situation she was aware of and what the proper protocol in the situation was. Mr. Canipe discussed the process.

Commissioner Everett asked about drain field requirements.

Sheriff Phillips asked about the distance requirement for notification and protection for nearby areas with infected animals. Mr. Canipe informed Sheriff Phillips that he will have to circle back to the question once he had more information.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PETITIONS

PURCHASING ITEMS

GRANTS AND SPLOST PROJECT

AGREEMENTS

1. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH ECO PREMIER COATINGS FOR RECREATIONAL PICKLEBALL COURTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,000.00

Joel Shivar, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented the agreement and recommended ECO Premier Coatings be allowed to construct two pickleball courts for the county.

The recreation board also recommended using ECO Premier Coatings.

Commissioner Crews made a motion to authorize County Administrator Hull to execute an agreement with ECO Premier Coatings for two recreational pickleball courts in the amount of \$8,000.00. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

Commissioner Gowen asked how these courts would affect the plan to renovate the whole complex. Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Everett also had more discussion.

The motion carried unanimously.

After this item, the Commissioners heard the presentation from Mr. Bobby Canipe at 6:11 PM.

2. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO EXECUTE A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH GMASS FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,700.00

County Administrator Hull presented the agreement, which would allow for GMASS to provide additional services covering deeds and personal property, which is more cost effective than hiring another appraiser at the time.

Commissioner Jones asked if the contract is until the new tax clerk is trained or if this is in perpetuity.

The contract terminates in December 2026 but does feature an automatic renewal clause.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to authorize County Administrator Hull to execute a supplemental agreement with GMASS for additional services in the amount of \$23,7000.00. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CHARLTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000 FOR MANDATORY TRAINING AND PREVIOUS AUDITS

Commissioner Jones asked if he needed to recuse himself, since he served on the Development Authority, which County Administrator Hull and County Attorney Adams felt was unnecessary.

Abbi Taylor, Executive Director of the Development Authority, and Andy Gowen, Chairman of the Development Authority, were present to answer questions.

Commissioner Jones asked for clarification on the financial year funding. The county is in the process of closing out financial year 2024, which means this is the last opportunity to provide the development authority with the money budgeted for them from the 2024 financial year.

Commissioner Gowen asked if the city was involved in the contract. County Attorney Adams recommended continuing with the presentation but not signing the agreement until discussion with the city could be had. County Administrator Hull stated that he had previously discussed this agreement with the city.

The development authority was unaware that they were out of compliance until recently and were unaware of the new training requirements for board members. Training is scheduled for April and May.

Commissioner Crews commented about potentially receiving monthly updates from the development authority. Chairwoman Benefield propositioned quarterly updates.

Commissioner Jones asked about the Department of Community Affairs requirements. Commissioner Gowen asked about budget means.

Commissioner Gowen made a motion to approve the agreement subject to County Attorney Adams discussing the agreement with the city and gaining their approval. There was discussion. The motion dies without a second.

Commissioner Gowen made a motion to authorize County Administrator Hull to enter the intergovernmental agreement with the Development Authority, as presented with no qualifications. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried with 4 votes in favor from Commissioner Gowen, Commissioner Everett, Commissioner Crews, and Chairwoman Benefield and 1 abstention from Commissioner Jones.

ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS

MISCELLANEOUS

1. MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioner Jones asked about previous attempt to solicit bids for the EMS collection agency. Bids were previously rejected, and County Administrator Hull will follow up on possible rebid.

Commissioner Gowen asked again about the report showing the comparison of each month to the year prior. County Clerk Nettles and County Administrator Hull explained that they were working to create a report to provide the commissioners.

Commissioner Crews motioned to approve the report. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S ACTION ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

County Administrator Hull invited Ronnie Pollock, Director of Roads and Infrastructure to discuss a few things. Director Pollock informed the board that the motor grader was sold at auction for \$140,000 of which the county will receive \$128,000. Director Pollock also provided updates on Iver Allen Road, with expectations to be completed in roughly 3 weeks.

County Administrator Hull is working with the Florida Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Renyolds Rd Bridge repair in 2026.

County Administrator Hull has a team working on putting together media to distribute to the public for SPLOST expenditures and proposal for the next SPLOST.

Commissioner Gowen asked for an update on the Easton Prescott Rd project.

County Administrator Hull informed the commissioners that SPLOST will need to be discussed at the next retreat and discussed potential agenda items for the next meeting.

County Administrator Hull also informed the board about the economic impact statement of the POWWOW that they had been provided.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioners Jones questioned the 911 Telephone line on the financial report. The 911 Telephone fund is a tax the county receives that must go into a separate fund by law. Once a year, the fund is transferred to the general fund to support the E911 operation.

Commissioner Jones expressed his approval of using JM Wood for the auction process of the motor grader.

Commissioner Everett asked about any grants that may possibly be available for the diagnostic equipment the county is looking at purchasing. Commissioner Everett also shared his beliefs that county grant receipts are down compared to previous years.

Commissioner Jones thanked the Sheriff for his trash pickup detail last weekend.

Chairwoman Benefield reminded everyone to keep Fire Chief Lewis and Director of Administrative Services Rebecca Harden in their prayers for respective reasons. Chairwoman Benefield expressed happiness for EMA Director Bruce Young and asked that everyone continued to pray for him. Chairwoman Benefield also

asked that everyone pray for the children who are on Spring Break.

Chairwoman Benefield thanked County Administrator Hull for his endeavors and asked that he keeps moving forward.

Chairwoman Benefield asked Sheriff Phillips to get with County Administrator Hull and plan to host a townhall before the school year.

Commissioner Crew mentioned the trash on the road from the landfill and talked about the efforts to resolve the issue. Commissioner Crews feels that the landfill should start making efforts to resolve the issue. Commissioner Crews stated that the people working on picking up the trash have been doing a great job so far.

Chairwoman Benefield thanked the team leaders in the county and told them to stay encouraged.

Commissioner Gowen commented on a situation Commissioner Jones has brought to the Georgia Department of transportation (GDOT). Commissioner Jones asked GDOT to consider expanding the school zone on 121 due to concerns of visibility, speeding, and safety.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)

NEXT MEETING:

1. APRIL 3RD, 2025 IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM AT 68 KINGSLAND DRIVE, FOLKSTON GA 31537

ADJOURN

Commissioner Crews motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Alphya Benefield, Chairman

Madeline Nettles, County Clerk