

CHARLTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
68 KINGSLAND DRIVE, SUITE B
FOLKSTON, GA 31537
THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH, 2025
6:00 PM

4/17/2025 - Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

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

Absent was County Attorney John Adams.

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Invocation was led by Commissioner Everett.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. MOTION TO ADOPT THE APRIL 3RD, 2025 WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PETITIONS

PURCHASING ITEMS

1. MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BID FOR THE 2022 CBDG PROJECT (EASTON PRESCOTT RD)

Director of Development and Infrastructure, Ronnie Pollock, presented on the item.

The remaining funds for the project will come from TSPLOST.

Commissioner Gowen motioned to accept the bid for the 2022 CDBG project. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion.

Commissioner Crews asked for the time frame to complete the project. County Administrator Hul stated that projected completion will be earlier next year.

Commissioner Jones asked for clarification on the project. The project will include paving and box culvers.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BID FOR THE 2024 LRA PROJECT (GORDON ST.)

Director of Development and Infrastructure, Ronnie Pollock, presented on the item.

The remaining funds for the project will come from TSPLOST.

Commissioner Crews motioned to accept the bid for the 2024 LRA Project. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. MOTION TO REJECT THE BID FOR THE 2024 LMIG PROJECT

Director of Development and Infrastructure, Ronnie Pollock, presented on the item.

The bid came in at \$307,000 over the estimated bid price. The county engineer has recommended to combine this project with the 2025 LMIG project.

Commissioner Jones motioned to reject the bid for the 2024 LMIG project. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT WITH NORTON IRRIGATION FOR CONCRETE CRUSHING SERVICE

Director of Development and Infrastructure, Ronnie Pollock, presented on the item.

The county has received a quote for approximately 2,000 tons of concrete to be crushed.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to authorize county administrator hull to execute the agreement with Norton Irrigation for concrete crushing services. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

After some more discussion, Commissioner Jones made a motion to reconsider and to authorize the agreement for concrete crushing services up to \$50,000. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

GRANTS AND SPLOST PROJECT

1. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO APPLY FOR GRANTS FOR FIRE AND RESCUE

Director of Fire and Rescue, Chief CL Lewis, presented on the item.

Chief Lewis has several grants available to supplement some of the larger purchases the fire department is in need of. Commissioner Crews asked for clarification on some of the items the grants will be used for.

Commissioner Gowen asked for clarification on what the board would be approving. County Administrator Hull stated that the board would be approving the application for the grant and the acceptance of the grant if awarded in this motion.

Commissioner Jones motioned to authorize County Administrator Hull to apply for the grants for Fire and Rescue, and accept the grants if awarded. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

AGREEMENTS

1. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO EXECUTE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF HOMELAND FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTION SERVICES

Will Nance, Superintendent of Elections, presented on the item.

Commissioner Gowen motioned to authorize County Administrator Hull to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Homeland for municipal election services. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH UGA FOR 4-H AGENT POSITION CONTINUATION

County Administrator Hull presented the item.

The current 4-H agent is vacating the position. The agreement authorized UGA to begin looking for applicants to fill the vacancy. There are no changes to the county's financial commitment. County Administrator Hull reports that both the Board of Education and UGA plan to continue contributing their portion as well.

Commissioner Crews made a motion to authorize County Administrator Hull to execute the agreement with UGA for the 4-H agent position continuation. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS

MISCELLANEOUS

1. MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2024 FINAL BUDGET AMENDMENT

Becky Harden, Director of Administrative Services, presented on the item.

Mrs. Harden discussed the changes in budget, including the decreased revenue from the landfill that was not anticipated when the 2024 budget was prepared, and the expense lines that exceeded their

budgets. Mrs. Harden discussed that these changes were kept in mind when preparing the 2025 budget and departmental changes made to off-set these differences in the coming year.

Commissioner Gowen motioned to approve the 2024 final budget amendment. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 2025 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Jones asked that the county revisit bidding out the EMS billing services.

Commissioner Crews made a motion to approve the March 2025 financial reports. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. DISCUSS MONTHLY WELLNESS PROGRESS REPORTS

The board received the month wellness progress reports.

No discussion was held, and no action was taken on the reports.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S ACTION ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Forrest Allen voiced concerns about the Ralph Davis Road, which he has previously spoken to Mr. Pollock about. County Administrator Hull will look into the situation and discuss the issue further with Mr. Pollock.

Gordon Bocen voiced concerns about Plantation Lane, which he has previously spoken to Mr. Pollock about. County Administrator Hull will look into the issue further.

Sheriff Phillips is working on the animal ordinance and has been speaking with Judge McMillan about the citation portion of the office. Sheriff Phillips discussed several invoices he is expecting from inmates being housed in other areas and necessary vehicle repairs. Sheriff Phillips recommended the county consider obtaining fire control equipment for citizen use at the airport until Fire and Rescue can respond to help minimize damage in case of an emergency.

Commissioner Jones asked for an update on the towers at the Georgia Bend fire station. County Administrator Hull has been speaking with Mobile Communications America about the towers. Commissioner Crews and Commissioner Gowen asked staff to contact the previous administrator for clarity on the tower plans.

William Allen voiced concerns for Post Road. Mr. Allen also voiced concerns about EMS transporting patients to Camden instead of other healthcare facilities. Commissioner Jones and Chief Lewis discussed the current protocol as established by the EMS Medical Director to transport based on the location the patient was when EMS responded and the needs of the patient.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

County Administrator Hull updated the board on the joint meeting with the City of Folkston, the Board of Commissioners, and the Development authority. County Administrator Hull asked the board to appoint a few people to represent the county at the meeting. The board appointed Commissioner Jones, Chairwoman Benefield, and County Administrator Hull.

County Administrator Hull informed the board that Wolfgang Alley will be brought before them again for the alleyway abandonment portion, as the process was not completed.

County Administrator Hull updated the board on the Senior Center Roof project, which will be completed after the painting is finished.

County Administrator Hull would like to bring a jail management system discussion to the board in a workshop setting.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Gowen recognized Abbi Taylor, the Executive Director of the Development Authority for attending. Commissioner Gowen thanked Representative Corbett and Senator Hodges for attending the Republican Party meeting. Commissioner Gowen thanked GDOT and Commissioner Murray for their assistance in completing the school zone expansion project by the elementary and middle schools in Folkston.

Commissioner Crews asked for an update on the hiring of the mechanic. Mrs. Harden reported that Scotty Simons and Van Del Redmon were working as the county mechanics. Commissioner Crews asked Chief Lewis to research fire safety equipment for the airport.

Commissioner Jones suggested finding a way to improve communications with the Georgia Forestry Department, as they are using a different radio system now.

Commissioner Jones would like to have the EMTs, paramedics, Georgia Forestry employees, and City of Folkston employees that assisted with the fire earlier today recognized. Commissioner Jones also recognized Dispatcher Week and commended the hard work the dispatchers do for the county.

Commissioner Everett commented on the lack of local investment in the county and asked if anyone was advocating for local jobs.

Chairwoman Benefield asked that everyone keep Director of EMA, Bruce Young, in their prayers due to the loss of three family members. Chairwoman Benefield thanked Sheriff Phillips and his staff for keeping the county safe. Chairwoman Benefield thanked Jamie Gardner of the Charlton County Herald for being present. Chairwoman Benefield thanked County Administrator Hull for accompanying her to the POWWOW and recommended that everyone attend the next one. Chairwoman Benefield thanked staff for everything they do and shared the board's appreciation for them.

Commissioner Gowen motioned to enter executive session to discuss land acquisition. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Benefield, Commissioner Crews, Commissioner Everett, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Gowen, County Administrator Hull, County Clerk Nettles, and Director of Administrative Services Harden entered executive session at 7:14 PM.

Chairwoman Benefield, Commissioner Crews, Commissioner Everett, Commissioner Gowen, County Administrator Hull, County Clerk Nettles, and Director of Administrative Services Harden exited executive session at 7:33 PM. Commissioner Jones was excused during executive session. No action was taken.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on May 1st, 2025. The workshop session will begin at 5:00 PM and the

regular meeting will begin at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Alphya Benefield, Chairman

Madeline Nettles, County Clerk