

CHARLTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
68 KINGSLAND DRIVE, SUITE B
FOLKSTON, GA 31537
THURSDAY, MAY 1ST, 2025
6:00 PM

5/1/2025 - Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

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

All guests as recorded hereafter.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Everett led the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 17TH, 2025 WORKSHOP AND REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Commissioner Gowen motioned to adopt the minutes, with the name correction to the public comment section of the regular session minutes. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. FIRST PUBLIC READING OF THE PROPOSED ANIMAL ORDINANCE

County Administrator Hull discussed the proposed ordinance.

Commissioner Jones motioned to open the public hearing. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion.

Sheriff Phillips agrees with the ordinance as proposed and has talked to the judge about to ensure the ordinance's enforceability. Commissioner Gowen recommended the Sheriff come to the board if amendments need to be made to the ordinance as his staff begins enforcing it.

Leslie Coolwick, a representative of Heart 2 Heart Humane society, voiced her recommendations on the ordinance, which include further elaboration on certain terms.

County Attorney Adams commented on the intention of the ordinance and recommended that expansion of the ordinance should be considered at a later time.

Commissioner Gowen made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 6:14 PM.

PETITIONS

1. CONSIDER PETITION FOR ALLEYWAY ABANDONMENT FROM DAVID LEWIS

Commissioner Crews spoke on behalf of Mr. Lewis, who was not present.

Commissioner Crews motioned to move forward with the alleyway abandonment process. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion, contingent on the confirmation that one of the areas requested is an alleyway. Motion carried unanimously.

2. CONSIDER PETITION FOR ALLEYWAY ABANDONMENT FROM RODNEY THOMPSON

Rodney Thompson petitioned the board to consider the alleyway.

Commissioner Gowen motioned to move forward with the alleyway abandonment process. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PURCHASING ITEMS

GRANTS AND SPLOST PROJECT

AGREEMENTS

ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS

MISCELLANEOUS

1. MOTION TO REAPPOINT JOSEPH "KIP" TAYLOR AS THE CHARLTON REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE SOUTHERN GEORGIA AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Commissioner Gowen motioned to reappoint Joseph "Kip" Taylor. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S ACTION ITEMS

1. MOTION TO ABANDON THE PRESCRIPTIVE EASEMENT ON WOLFGANG ALLEY

County Attorney Adams presented on the item.

Commissioner Jones motioned to abandon the prescriptive easement on Wolfgang Alley. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Elaine Bailey updated the board on the upcoming job fair. The job fair will be sponsored by Family Connections and held on May 27th from 11:00 AM-2:30 PM at the County Recreational Gym. There will be representatives from several local businesses.

Commissioner Crews motioned to waive the reservation fees for the job fair. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

County Administrator Hull will have a draft version of the comprehensive plan for the next meeting and draft SPLOST ideas for the board to provide feedback on at the next workshop.

On May 5th, the scope of work for the Georgia Bend Fire station should be finalized, which staff will review. The county is waiting to receive bids for the Sheriff's roof replacement project.

County Administrator Hull will be bringing the county's time clock system for the board to consider a potential update.

Commissioner Jones requested that a study on the alleyways be conducted for possible alternative solutions for abandonment.

Commissioner Gowen clarified the abandonment of the prescriptive easement on Wolfgang Alley was an even exchange for a right-of-way on Summerall Lane with no funds exchanged.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Jones discussed how dry the area was and wants staff to look into providing food and drinks to the firefighters during this time.

Commissioner Everett discuss a previous public comment about how the decision to transport patients to which medical care locations is made. Fire and Rescue Director Chief Lewis and EMA Director Bruce Young discussed the protocol for ambulance decisions.

Commissioner Gowen asked Mr. Donald Glover, County Building Inspector and Code Enforcer, for an update. Mr. Glover updated the board on pending violations, progress with making contact with owners, and general responses. Commissioner Crews and Commissioner Gowen both discussed specific situations.

Chairwoman Benefield thanked everyone for attending, thanked the Sheriff, his staff and other local law enforcement officers for doing their job, thanked everyone for their prayers for the Everett, Young, and Rauls families, and thanked County Administrator Hull and his staff.

Chairwoman Benefield discussed the gathering at the courthouse for National Prayer Day earlier today.

Mr. Glover updated the board regarding the cases where there have been builds without permits recently, which the county is trying to address. Mr. Glover stated that sometimes the owner is at fault, but sometimes the contractors are not getting a permit without the owners' knowledge. Commissioner Jones confirmed with Mr. Glover the county code follows International Building Code.

NEXT MEETING:

On May 15th, 2025, the Board of Commissioners will have a workshop at 5:00 PM and a regular meeting at 6:00 PM.

On May 16th, 2025, the Board of Commissioners will have a planning retreat. Time and Location to be announced later.

On May 17th, 2025, the Board of Commissioner will have a planning retreat. Time and Location to be announced later.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Alphya Benefield, Chairman

Madeline Nettles, County Clerk