

CHARLTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM  
68 KINGSLAND DRIVE, SUITE B  
FOLKSTON, GA 31537  
THURSDAY, MAY 15TH, 2025  
6:00 PM

5/15/2025 - Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

Present was Chairwoman Alphya 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.

All guests are recorded hereafter.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

The invocation was led by Commissioner Gowen.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARY 1ST 2025 WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Crews motioned to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion.

Commissioner Gowen asked that the minutes be amended on petition item number two to correctly reflect who made the motion and who seconded. Commissioner Gowen motioned to adopt the agenda with the correction. Commissioner Everett seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. PRESENTATION OF APPRECIATION PLAQUE TO QUINN HUMPHRIES

Joel Shivar, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented an appreciation plaque to Quinn Humphries for her dedication and hard work as a volunteer coach in the recreational department.

2. PRESENTATION OF STATE RECORD HOLDER TROPHY TO GIOVANNI HUMPHRIES

Director Shivar presented Giovanni Humphries with the State Record Holder trophy.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **1. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2025 CHARLTON COUNTY, CITY OF FOLKSTON, AND CITY OF HOMELAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

James Horton, from South Georgia Regional Commission, was present for the public hearing. Mr. Horton discussed the comprehensive plan, the stakeholder meetings, and how the comprehensive plan benefits local governments in applying for grants and funds.

The board asked questions about the review process of the comprehensive plan and their ability to make revisions. Mr. Horton discussed the process of reviewing, updating, and adopting the comprehensive plan.

The board discussed previously completed, postponed, or underway goals from the 2020 comprehensive plan and their relation to the 2025 comprehensive plan. The board asked several questions about the plan and its contents.

After the board opened the floor for the hearing, there were no public comments made.

Commissioner Crews made a motion to authorize South Georgia Regional Commission to transmit the 2025 comprehensive plan to the State of Georgia for review. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The public hearing was closed at 6:39 PM.

## **PETITIONS**

### **1. CONSIDER PETITION FOR UNOPENED ROAD ABANDONMENT FROM DAVID LEWIS**

County Attorney Adams cited state law that allows the county to sell alleyways without the abandonment process. The only specification states the county must allow all property owners opportunity to purchase the property by notification that the property is available.

The board took no action but agreed to sale the property to Mr. Lewis after discussing the price.

## **PURCHASING ITEMS**

### **1. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PURCHASE OF CULVERT PIPES FROM FERGUSON WATERWORKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,614.50**

Ronnie Pollock, Director of Infrastructure and Development presented.

Commissioner Jones motioned to authorize County Administrator Hull to purchase culvert pipes from Ferguson Waterworks in the amount of \$17,614.50. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **GRANTS AND SPLOST PROJECT**

### **AGREEMENTS**

1. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR ROAD PAVEMENT ASH DISPOSAL UP TO \$50,000

Director Pollock presented.

Commissioner Gowen asked about the process. Director Pollock estimates removal will take a couple of weeks. Commissioner Crews asked about the thickness of the road ash. Director Pollock stated that it varies up to 10 inches.

The agreement will be funded by TSPLOST.

Commissioner Jones motioned to approve the agreement, pending the price is amended to exclude the taxes. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO EXECUTE THE ANNUAL AGREEMENT WITH CORPORATE HEALTH PARTNERS, LLC (ENGAGEMENT HEALTH GROUP) FOR WELLNESS SERVICES

Rebecca Harden, Director of Administrative Services, presented.

The agreement is the annual renewal for the employee wellness services which will cover the next 18 months of services. County Attorney Adams has reviewed the agreement and the changes he recommended have already been made. The funds for the agreement were budgeted with the group insurance funds.

Commissioner Gowen motioned to authorize County Administrator Hull to execute the annual agreement with Corporate Health Partners LLC. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Harden updated the board that the current wellness coach will be retiring June 1st. and the new wellness coach is local to the Southeast Georgia area.

### **ORDINANCES**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

1. MOTION TO ADOPT THE APRIL 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioner Crews asked if everything was okay, which Director Harden confirmed.

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

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S ACTION ITEMS**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Will Nance, the Supervisor of Elections, reminded the board that personal financial statements are due on July 1st. Commissioner Crews asked Teresa Guinn, member of the Board of Elections, if the forms have been prepared for elected officials to sign.

Sheriff Phillips informed the board that Heart 2 Heart will place a microchip scanning station in front of the Sheriff's office. Heart 2 Heart will be paying for the scanning station, sign, and the scanner. They will need a post from the road department, but there is no other cost to the county as the scanner is battery operated. The scanning station will be free for public use. Commissioner Gowen asked about liability the county may incur for allowing the station to be on county property. County Attorney Adams expressed his support for the scanning station.

Gordon Bollen informed the board that the initial issue he presented to the board at a previous meeting has been resolved. However, Mr. Bollen informed the board that there is no dead-end road sign on his end of the road, which is causing an issue with people entering his property. Mr. Bollen has put up his own signs, which have not deterred the unwanted visitors. Mr. Bollen also expressed concerns about the portion of road between his property line to the asphalt portion of road becoming worn from use. Ronnie Pollock, Director of Infrastructure and Development, suggested putting gravel down on the road. County Administrator Hull will look into it.

Forrest Allen thanked the board for approving to have the road ash removed from the road in front of his home.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS**

County Administrator Comments were heard after the Commissioners' Comments Section.

The Farm at Okefenokee wants to host a workshop for dinner and discussion on June 17th. County Administrator Hull asked for the board to let him know their availability.

County Administrator Hull discussed a draft resolution to adopt formal policy for ordinance adoption. The board discussed the difference between the current policy and the drafted policy. County Administrator Hull informed the board that the current process outlined in the ordinance would need to be repealed or amended. The board agreed to moving forward with the process of changing the ordinance.

County Administrator Hull presented a draft agreement with Camden County for EMA enhancement, including support, planning, professional development and mutual aid, which he stated does not diminish the current EMA position. County Administrator Hull asked the Board to support him in proceeding. Commissioner Gowen asked EMA Director Bruce Young for his opinion on the draft agreement. Director Young stated this is the second time he has seen it. Director Young also commented that when he tried to comment on it previously, he was told he did not have a voice or opinion on it. Discussion about the current state of the county's EMA department, mutual aid agreements, disaster and hazard mitigation plans, and changes in the EMA department continued between the board, County Administrator Hull, and Director Young.

County Administrator Hull updated the board on the Georgia Bend Fire Station development. The process will be handled internally and will follow the purchasing policy.

County Administrator Hull informed the board SPLOST will start coming to them soon. The first department has provided him all the information he has requested on previous SPLOST projects, and the rest of staff has until May 31st to provide their information.

County Administrator Hull presented a draft resolution appointing Rebecca Harden as acting county administrator in his absence while out of the country. County Administrator Hull will be bringing the

resolution before the board for official action at the next meeting.

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Jones asked about the radio tower in the Georgia Bend. County Administrator Hull is in negotiations with an electrical co-op to own the tower and use the space. Commissioner Jones stated that the county bought the tower, but Mr. Hull said there is no record of the purchase. Commissioner Jones, County Administrator Hull, and Sheriff Phillips discussed the tower further.

Commissioner Gowen asked for the community to pray for Justin Jones, a Georgia State Patrol officer who was in a work-related accident. Chairwoman Benefield provided an update on Officer Jones.

Commissioner Benefield asked for continued prayer for Brian Rauls, who was in a recuperating state from a bad motorcycle accident.

Commissioner Everett stated, "God bless Charlton County."

Commissioner Crews asked County Clerk Nettles about the email issue. County Clerk Nettles provided an update on the efforts to resolve the issue.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

1. PLANNING RETREAT ON MAY 16TH FROM 5:30-9:00 PM AT 3932 MAIN STREET, FOLKSTON, GA
2. PLANNING RETREAT MAY 17TH FROM 8:30 AM- 2:00 PM AT 68 KINGSLAND DR. ROOM 117, FOLKTON, GA
3. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING ON JUNE 5TH AT 6:00 PM IN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM. WORKSHOP TO BE ANNOUNCED

### **ADJOURN**

Chairwoman Benefield addressed the staff, thanked the board for allowing her to serve as the Chairwoman, and thanked County Administrator Hull, while advising him to slow down and move forward intently.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

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Alphya Benefield, Chairman

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Madeline Nettles, County Clerk

