

CHARLTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
68 KINGSLAND DRIVE, SUITE B
FOLKSTON, GA 31537
THURSDAY, JUNE 5TH, 2025
6:00 PM

6/5/2025 - Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

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

Absent was Commissioner Luke Gowen.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Invocation was led by Commissioner Crews.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Crews motioned to amend the agenda and include "Motion to authorize County Administrator Hull to purchase equipment for the recreational youth football program" under the Miscellaneous section. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Crews motioned to adopt the amended agenda. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 15TH REGULAR MINUTES, THE MAY 16TH PLANNING RETREAT MINUTES, AND THE MAY 17TH PLANNING RETREAT MINUTES

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

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PETITIONS

PURCHASING ITEMS

1. MOTION TO RATIFY THE EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF CULVERT PIPES FROM CHEROKEE CULVERT COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,980.00

Ronnie Pollock, Director of Infrastructure and Development, presented on the topic. This was an emergency purchase to replace two pipes on Newell Rd due to previous pipes separating. The department purchased from the company with the lowest bid, Cherokee Culvert Company.

Commissioner Crews motioned to ratify the emergency purchase of culvert pipes from Cherokee Culvert Company. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

GRANTS AND SPLOST PROJECT

AGREEMENTS

1. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

County Administrator Hull introduced Amber Martin with The GEO Group to discuss the item. The modification to the current agreement has been negotiated since February on the county's behalf.

County Administrator Hull asked the county to authorize him to execute the agreement, pending no changes are made from the current agreement presented, when it is legally able to be executed.

Commissioner Jones motioned to authorize County Administrator Hull to execute the agreement. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Benefield stated the contract negotiations were discussed in closed session, but no action was taken on them.

2. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO EXECUTE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CHARLTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE PLACEMENT OF OFFICERS AT SCHOOLS

County Administrator Hull discussed the agreement which extends the current agreement for the school year and adds a cost-of-living increase clause.

Commissioner Jones motioned to authorize County Administrator Hull to execute the intergovernmental agreement. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO EXECUTE AN AMENDED AGREEMENT WITH MAVERICK FOR THE FIRE STATION #4

The amendment extends the scope of the metal building that was originally agreed upon by the board on November 21st, 2024.

The county is currently in the Request for Qualifications process for design-build teams for the projects.

Commissioner Crews motioned to authorize County Administrator Hull to execute an amended agreement with Maverick. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH BRANTLEY ROOFING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,160.00 FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Charles "Bubba" Smith was present to discuss the topic.

The county has previously repaired the roof. Mr. Smith recommends replacement of the roof. The quote by Brantley Roofing includes roofing the garage as well.

Commissioner Crews motioned to authorize County Administrator Hull to execute an agreement with Brantley Roofing for the Sheriff's Office roof replacement.

Commissioner Everett asked if the current shingles were architect shingles on the roof. Mr. Smith stated they were, but the issue is not with the shingles themselves, but the way the shingles were previously installed, which causes the shingles to come off the roof during storms.

Commissioner Everett seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

County Attorney Adams asked how old the roof is. Sheriff Phillips said the roof is roughly fifteen years old. County Attorney Adams recommends looking into the roof to see if the shingles warranty was still active.

ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS

1. MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO LEVY AN AD VALOREM TAX TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE CHARLTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Patrick Brooks was present and represented the Board of Education.

The Board of Commissioners previously voted on a resolution in 2017 for the same reasons, as it is standard procedure since only the county can levy the tax.

The bonds will be mainly paid back by SPLOST funds, but the resolution allows for additional tax to be collected to cover the bonds should SPLOST not pass or have a short fall in revenue.

Commissioner Jones motioned to adopt the resolution to levy an ad valorem tax to provide funds for the Charlton County School District General Obligation Bonds. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPOINTING REBECCA HARDEN AS THE ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR FROM JUNE 16TH, 2025 TO JUNE 23RD, 2025

County Administrator Hull will be leaving the country for a short period of time and will be unable to act as the county administrator while gone. County Administrator Hull recommends the board appoint Rebecca Harden as acting county administrator in his absence.

Commissioner Jones motioned to adopt the resolution appointed Rebecca Harden as the acting county administrator. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE COUNTY PROCESS FOR ORDINANCE ADOPTION

County Administrator Hull recommended some edits to Exhibit A of the resolution. Under section 4b number 2, change "clerk of superior court's office" should read "clerk of commission's office" and section 5, add number 4 add that copies of the ordinance will be available at the clerk of superior court's office and on the county website if available, to comply with state law.

Commissioner Jones motioned to adopt the resolution amending the county process for ordinance adoption. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO REALLOCATE \$5,000 OF FUNDS BUDGETED FOR TOURISM PROMOTION INITIATIVES TO EXPLORE GEORGIA

The funds would send delegation to the Chicago to participate in conference that targets foreign visitors on behalf of Charlton County.

Commissioner Jones voiced concerns about the line advocating for Okefenokee Swamp and wants to ensure the funds would be used to promote tourism in all of Charlton County.

Commissioners Jones motioned to authorize County Administrator Hull to reallocate \$5,000 to Explore Georgia contingent that deliverables are amended.

Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AMENDED AGENDA ITEM: MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FOR THE RECREATIONAL YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM

The item was discussed previously during the workshop. County Administrator Hull would like to move forward for the fall seasons. The equipment will be funded by the recreational service account.

Commissioner Jones motioned to authorize County Administrator Hull to purchase equipment for the recreational youth football program. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion.

Commissioner Crews would like to authorize the funding of the equipment from the recreational service account, if other funding avenues are not available.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE CANCELLATION OF THE JULY 3RD, 2025 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SCHEDULED MEETING

The Board of Commissioners currently has a scheduled meeting for Thursday, July 3rd, 2025. The county government offices will be closed on Friday, July 4th, 2025, in observance of the holiday, with some departments closed on Thursday, July 3rd, 2025, due to their scheduled days of operation. If the commissioners cancel the July 3rd, 2025, meeting, all items for that agenda will be taken up at the following meeting.

Commissioner Everett motioned to cancel the July 3rd, 2025, Board of Commissioners Meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. REVIEW APRIL 2025 WELLNESS REPORT

No discussion was held, and no action was taken on this item.

Commissioner Jones asked, in the event County Administrator Hull cannot sign the agreement with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, does the motion of that item need to change. County Attorney Adams said the board authorize County Administrator Hull to execute the agreement, which allows him to do so.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S ACTION ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Elaine Bailey read a letter voicing concerns regarding the conditions of the Bethune Gym, including the lack of centralized air conditioning or heat, handicap entrances, and handicap parking. Mrs. Bailey stated the recent job fair had to end early because the gym became too hot.

Gary Tippins discussed items mentioned during the recent Tax Assessors conference he attended, including the house bill providing tax relief for storm damage, and the senate bill that affects the school mileage rate effective July 1st, 2025. Commissioner Jones asked about the new assessment notices. Mr. Tippins informed the board since the county opted into the new homestead program, the state will be sending out the new forms.

Sheriff Phillips stated the Junior Sheriffs Academy awards ceremony will be at 5:00 PM on Friday. Sheriff Phillips also clarified a situation from earlier this week, as the reported shooting was a self-inflicted homicide and the rumors that it involved multiple people or followed break-ins were incorrect.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Crews stated previous coach for the Charlton County High School football team, Rich McWhorter, was recognized in the Georgia Coaches Hall of Fame.

Commissioner Jones shared his excitement about recreational football coming back.

Commissioner Everett asked about the air conditioning in the gym and asked County Administrator Hull to look at the costs.

County Administrator Hull discussed a preliminary cost for the auditorium to be repaired, which is around \$230,000. Currently, the auditorium has no working sound system or stage lighting, and there is a possible structural issue in the roof.

Rebecca Harden, Director of Administrative Services, confirmed the issues was previously looked at, but the roof issue has worsened. The county has had to cancel upcoming events due to safety concerns.

Commissioner Jones would like to explore remedying the roof issue and then consider fixing the auditorium. County Administrator Hull stated the county could explore the auditorium as a potential SPLOST project.

Commissioner Jones asked Gary Tippins for his opinion of the situation. Mr. Tippins is aware that the walls in the auditorium are pushing out but recommends taking a laser to see how far they have moved.

Commissioner Crews feels that something should be done about the gym because it is used frequently and then also look into the auditorium repairs.

Chairwoman Benefield thanked Sheriff Phillips for his actions with the situation happening on social media.

Chairwoman Benefield recognized Joel Shivar for how he has brought the recreational department to where it is now and the improvements he has made. Chairwoman Benefield asked him to consider "stepping it up" for Chatman Mobley Park.

Chairwoman Benefield thanked Mr. Pollock for trying to pick up the trash more and filling the holes dug by the road department equipment.

Chairwoman Benefield thanked Sheriff Phillips for having a deputy present during the meeting.

Chairwoman Benefield thanked everyone in their respective places.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be June 19th, 2025, in the St. George Community Room.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Alphya Benefield, Chairman

Madeline Nettles, County Clerk