

Charlton County Board of Commissioners
Special Called Meeting Minutes
Commissioners Conference Room
68 Kingsland Drive, Suite B
Folkston, Georgia 31537
Monday, July 28th, 2025
10:00 AM

7/28/2025 - Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Present from the Charlton County was Chairwoman Alpha Benefield, Commissioner Jesse Crews, Commissioner James Everett, Commissioner Drew Jones, County Administrator Glenn Hull, Director of Administrative Services Rebecca Harden, Superintendent of Elections Will Nance, and County Clerk Madeline Nettles. Absent was Commissioner Luke Gowen and County Attorney John Adams.

Present from the City of Folkston was Mayor Lee Gowen, Councilman Bruce Young, Councilman Rob Roberson, Councilwoman Ruby Baker, Councilman Marion Davis, City Manager Pender Lloyd, City Clerk Darlene Williamson, and Deputy Clerk Leta Carter.

Present from Homeland was Mayor L.C. Guinn, City Clerk Bernice Pascal, City Clerk Nikki Johnson, Public Works Supervisor Wesley Crews, and Councilman Delbert Shelton.

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Invocation was led by Commissioner Crews.

DISCUSS 2026 SPLOST PROJECTS AND ESTIMATED COSTS

County Administrator Hull discussed the purpose of the meeting, including to discuss SPLOST and FLOST. County Administrator Hull explained the different options for the referendums. County Administrator Hull shared that in communications with ACCG, it has been recommended that they not be put on the referendum together.

Mayor Gowen asked if both SPLOST and FLOST were to be put on the referendum and one were to fail, how long before the failed item could be put up for consideration again. County Administrator Hull stated SPLOST cannot be put on the referendum for one full year, while it is unknown how long before FLOST could be put on the referendum again.

Commissioner Jones explained what FLOST is to the group, stating this is to offset the increase for property tax and the money can only be used for property tax revenue.

Commissioner Crews recommended SPLOST be put on the first referendum and FLOST be placed on the next referendum. Both of the cities agreed.

Commissioner Jones motioned to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Folkston and City of Homeland, pending any revisions made by the attorneys, and to place FLOST on the first available ballot of 2026. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2026 SPLOST PROJECT LIST

County Administrator Hull discussed the draft project list labeled "Exhibit A," which is based on the same numbers from the current SPLOST. If proceeds from SPLOST go above the projections, the intergovernmental agreement breaks down the percentage which the county and each city will receive of the proceeds.

The City of Folkston is good with the draft project list but would like to add public safety vehicles and equipment as one of their project categories.

The City of Homeland would also like to add public safety equipment and water/sewer facilities equipment, facilities, and renovations.

Commissioner Crews suggested the county remove the Georgia Bend Fire Station (Station #4) from the county project list, as the county is building a new fire station there.

Commissioner Jones asked about the road department allocation being smaller. County Administrator Hull reasoned that the road department has access to TSPLOST, as well as SPLOST, while other departments do not.

Commissioner Crews motioned to adopt the SPLOST project list with the suggested revisions. Councilman Bruce Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLTON COUNTY, GEORGIA IMPOSING A COUNTY ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX AS AUTHORIZED BY PART 1 OF ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 48 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED

Commissioner Jones motioned to adopt the resolution imposing a county one percent sales and use tax as authorized by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and calling for a referendum to be placed on the November 2025 ballot. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY HOMELAND, THE CITY OF FOLKSTON, AND THE CHARLTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Councilman Young motioned for the City of Folkston to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Homeland and the Charlton County Board of Commissioners. Councilwoman Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jones motioned to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Folkston and the City of Homeland. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The City of Homeland, who did not have a quorum present, will hold a special called meeting to vote to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Folkston and the Charlton County Board of Commissioners.

ADJOURN

Councilman Young motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM.

Alphya Benefield, Chairman

Madeline Nettles, County Clerk