

Charlton County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Commissioners Conference Room
68 Kingsland Drive, Suite B
Folkston, Georgia 31537
Thursday, August 7th, 2025
6:00 PM

8/7/2025 - Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Present was Chairwoman Alpha 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.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Crews led the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Crews motioned to amend the agenda to include "Thank You Presentation to Georgia Forestry." 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 ADOPT THE JULY 17TH WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Crews motioned to adopt the July 17th Workshop and Regular Meeting minutes. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. MOTION TO ADOPT THE JULY 28TH SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Gowen motioned to adopt the July 28th Special Called Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

1. PRESENTATION OF STATE CHAMPION AND STATE RUNNER-UP FOR 15 AND UNDER GOLF

Joel Shivar, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented the item after the amended item at 6:18 PM.

Director Shivar presented Nolan Lambert, who placed second in the 15 and Under Boys Golf State Championship, to the Board of Commissioners. Nolan was presented with a plaque commmerating his achievement.

Director Shivar presented Kimbree Gowen, who was named State Champion in 15 and Under Girls Golf, to the Board of Commissioners. Kimbree was presented with a plaque commmerating her achievment.

2. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO BRUCE YOUNG

Rebecca Harden, Director of Administrative Services, presented this item at 6:06 PM, before the other items under the "PRESENTATIONS" section of the agenda.

Director Harden read the proclamation honoring Bruce Young's service to the county. Mr. Young was presented with a plaque, commemorating the recognition.

3. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO GLENN HUGHES

Director Harden presented this item after item number 2 under the "PRESENTATIONS" section of the agenda at 6:08 PM.

Director Harden read a proclamation honoring Glenn Hughes' service to the county. Mr. Hughes was presented with a plaque, commemorating the recognition.

4. PRESENTATION FROM THE CHARLTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Item was heard after item number 1 under the "PRESENTATIONS" section of the agenda at 6:23 PM.

Donna Nance, of the Charlton County Historical Society discussed upcoming events for the America 250 celebrations. Mrs. Nance asked the board to contribute financially to the events for both the 2025 and 2026 calendar years.

Commissioner Jones recommended bringing the item back to a workshop for further discussion.

AMENDED ITEM: THANK YOU PRESENTATION TO THE GEORGIA FORESTRY DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE COUNTY

The item was heard after item number 3 under the "PRESENTATIONS" section of the agenda at 6:13 PM.

County Administrator Hull recognized their service to the county and the efforts made by members of Georgia Forestry to rescue the Franklin Family during the airplane crash that occured at Davis Airfield earlier this year.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. FIRST PUBLIC READING OF PROPOSED ANIMAL ORDINANCE

This item had previously been brought before the board several months ago. This combines the

currently adopted ordinance on vicious dogs with the proposed draft regarding nuisance animals.

County Clerk Nettles read the proposed ordinance.

Sheriff Phillips asked for clarification on whether the board would appoint someone to handle the enforcement of this chapter or if Sheriff Phillips would be responsible for enforcement. Sheriff Phillips also expressed concerns about the portion of ordinance that requires confiscation of animals. It was clarified that the portion of ordinance discussed had previously been adopted under the vicious dogs code section.

PETITIONS

PURCHASING ITEMS

1. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO PURCHASE A 320 HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$332,000

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

Director Pollock discussed trade in options and using funds from a motor grader that had been previously surplus.

Commissioner Jones authorized County Administrator Hull to purchase a 320 hydraulic excavator, contingent on the results of exploring trade in options with JM Wood. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

It was clarified that despite the quote being listed as expired, Yancey had agreed to extend the quote in order for the item to be presented at this meeting.

2. MOTION TO AMEND PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN TO RATIFY THE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF THE SCBA COMPRESSOR

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

When the work to repair the SCBA Compressor began, further issues were discovered that would add an additional \$3,000 to the repair costs.

Commissioner Jones motioned to amend the previous action taken to include the additional repair costs in the ratification of the emergency repair of the SCBA Compressor. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

GRANTS AND SPLOST PROJECT

1. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HULL TO ENGAGE HOFSTADTER AND ASSOCIATES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE 2022 CDBG PROJECT

A bidding committee ranked all proposal responses to the county's request for proposals, and found Hofstadter and Associates highest ranked.

Hofstadter currently provides engineering services to the county.

Commissioner Jones motioned to authorize County Administrator Hull to engage Hofstadter and

Associates for engineering services for the 2022 CDBG project. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. MOTION TO APPROVE 2026 SPLOST PROJECT LIST

The project list adopted at the special called meeting had a clerical error on the county's portion, which the draft presented under this item resolves.

Commissioner Gowen asked where funding for the road department would come from to offset the shortfall in SPLOST allocations. County Administrator Hull listed several potential funding sources including LMIG, LRA, TSPLOST, Safety LMIG, and CDBG.

Commissioner Crews motioned to approve the 2026 SPLOST Project List. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGREEMENTS

ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS

MISCELLANEOUS

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S ACTION ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

County Administrator Hull presented a draft policy regarding special event permits, which came from a local business's request to hold a large scale event. The current ordinance does not allow for temporary alcohol permits, but the state does if the county would like to pursue that. County Administrator Hull would like to work with the current requestors to fine tune the policy and then bring back to the board for further consideration. Commissioner Crews asked Director Lewis and Sheriff Phillips about events previously held at the business.

County Administrator Hull discussed a proposal from Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid to create a public TV educational documentary. Viewpoint is asking for financial contributions of around \$30,000 from the county to assist with production costs. Commissioner Gowen asked where this proposal came from. Viewpoint directly reached out to County Administrator Hull. County Attorney Adams recommended not pursuing the documentary. The board was in agreement with County Attorney Adams' recommendation.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Crews asked Joel Shivar, Director of Parks and Recreation, about putting pickleball courts at Chatman Mobley and St. George Recreational Facility, as well as the progress on the additional courts being put in at Deuce LLOYD. Director Shivar is still gathering information about putting pickleball courts at

the other parks. The maintenance department has fixed the issue with the posts from where the batting cages previously sat.

Commissioner Crews provided information on what SPLOST is and how it benefits the county. Commissioner Jones talked about how SPLOST funds has previously been used to buy necessary equipment and vehicles.

Commissioner Jones asked elections if they had everything they needed and were prepared for the next election. Will Nance, Superintendent of Elections, confirmed.

Commissioner Everett asked for an update on the Bethune Gym air conditioning project. Director Shivar is gathering quotes. Once compiled, Director Shivar will be bringing the item to the board for further discussion. A quote from GA Power also needs to be obtained as a new power pole may be required to support the additional energy. Commissioner Jones recommended also obtaining an estimate on monthly costs associated with operating air conditioning in the gym.

Chairwoman Benefield thanked everyone in their respective places. Chairwoman Benefield talked about school being back in session and how the children in our community to be watched and prayed for. Chairwoman Benefield requested that Commissioner Gowen be kept in your prayers due for health reasons. Chairwoman Benefield thanked everyone for their prayers for her family.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting is August 21st at 6:00 PM in the Board of Commissioners meeting room.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Alphya Benefield, Chairman

Madeline Nettles, County Clerk