

**Augusta Aviation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**June 25, 2026**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Orwen Aviation Commission Chambers  
2nd Floor - Terminal Building**

**Commission Members:** Commissioner Ronic West; Commissioner Michael Cioffi;  
Commissioner Dan Troutman; Commissioner Wilbert Barrett;  
Commissioner Charles Larke; Commissioner James Germany;  
Commissioner Larry Harris; Commissioner Randy Sasser;  
Commissioner Kay Roland

**Absent:** Commissioner William Fennoy; Commissioner Davis Beman;  
Commissioner Marshall McKnight

**Staff:** Mr. Herbert L. Judon, Jr.; Ms. Lauren Smith;  
Mr. Robert Kerr – Staff Attorney; Mr. Kenneth Hinkle;  
Ms. Elizabeth Giles; Ms. Diane Johnston; Mr. Chris Valentine

**Others:** Ms. Debbie Dent – Mead & Hunt; Mr. Clay Jessie – Mead & Hunt;  
Mr. Marc – Mead & Hunt; Ms. Lisa – CMI, Mr. Jim Plunket, Mr. Edwin  
Scott (virtually); Ms. Dana-Lynn McIntyre – Augusta Press  
Mr. Ryan Lynch – WJBF; Ms. Pamela Davison – Bravo Air

**CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER –** *Chair Commissioner Ronic West called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. and Commissioner Barrett offered prayer.*

- I. AGENDA, MINUTES, STATISTICS, & CONSENT –** Chairwoman Ronic West  
*Motion by Commissioner Cioffi 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Larke to remove Consent Items D. 1. IV. B. The Augusta Technical College Foundation/ Leadership Awards Gala & C. Friends of North Augusta Animals/ Rock for Rescues 2026, addendum to section VII Commission Comments / Action Requests for scheduling Ordinance Update Workshop #4.*  
*No Discussion; Unanimous Ayes; Motion Carries*

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*Note of Personal Privilege by Commissioner Germany: stated that we need a formal voting system for the Aviation Commission Meetings to calculate votes to ensure they are being reflected accurately in minutes. Commissioner West asked that this topic be added on the July Aviation Commission Meeting Agenda.*

- A. June 25, 2026, Augusta Aviation Commission Meeting Agenda
- B. May 28, 2026, Augusta Aviation Commission Meeting Minutes  
*Motion by Commissioner Cioffi 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Sasser to approve May 28, 2026, Augusta Aviation Commission Meeting Minutes*  
*No Discussion; Unanimous Ayes; Motion Carries*
- C. May 2026 Statistics  
*Motion by Commission Roland 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commission Harris to approve May 2026 Statistics*  
*No Discussion; Unanimous Ayes; Motion Carries*
- D. Consent Items
  - 1. Director Action Requests – IV. A – F (Approved in Augusta Aviation Marketing & Construction Committee Meetings)  
*Motion by Commissioner Troutman 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Larke to approve Consent Items A & C through F.*  
*No Discussion; Unanimous Ayes; Motion Carries*

## II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Masters Committee Report – Commissioner Dan Troutman  
*Commissioner Troutman reported that the Committee met but did not have a quorum. Discussion focused on Masters Tournament operations, including East Side expansion logistics and transportation planning. The Airport experienced a successful Masters week with no significant operational issues, and both commercial and general aviation activities were handled effectively. Vehicle congestion was reviewed, and staff reported that new pavement improvements on the East Side are expected to be completed by 2027 to support future operations.*
- B. Air Service Committee Report – Commissioner Randy Sasser  
*Commissioner Sasser reported that the Committee met without a quorum. Discussion centered on the passenger experience during Masters week, particularly on Monday, as well as the high passenger volumes experienced on Wednesday and Friday. The Committee noted continued airline interest in adding flights and utilizing larger aircraft, which has contributed to congestion and longer wait times. Members discussed how current and planned capital projects will help address these challenges and emphasized the need to evaluate future gate area expansion and continue proactive discussions with airline partners regarding scheduling.*
- C. Marketing Committee Report – Commissioner Michael Cioffi  
*Commissioner Cioffi reported that the Committee approved a \$1,000 sponsorship request from ASPF. Two additional sponsorship requests were tabled until July pending identification of available funding. Staff will return with proposed budget adjustments and policy revisions for Committee consideration.*
- D. Construction Committee Report – Commissioner Dan Troutman  
*Commissioner Troutman reported that the Committee approved the security camera upgrade contract and related CACO. The Committee also approved a feasibility study for the potential relocation of the ARFF facility and discussed future uses for the former car wash area and parking needs.*

*Ms. Elizabeth Giles provided an update on pending grants, including three grants related to the security camera project and one grant for an ARFF vehicle. Due to application deadlines, the Mayor will execute the grant documents prior to formal Commission approval, with the grants to be presented to the Commission at a future meeting for ratification.*

### III. FINANCIALS – Mr. Stephen Hedden

#### A. May Financials

*Mr. Hedden reported that future Statements of Cash Balances will include cash on hand as a separate line item to provide greater transparency. He also noted that staff is reviewing discrepancies between the cash and cash equivalents reported in the financial system and the bank statements to ensure consistency and accuracy.*

*Reviewing the profit and loss statement, Mr. Hedden noted a positive trend of increasing revenues and controlled expenses. He highlighted a 2.5% increase in contract labor expenses and noted that supply costs have risen, likely due to inflationary pressures. Fuel expenses continue to be difficult to project because of market volatility; however, fuel revenues have increased correspondingly as fuel prices have risen.*

*Mr. Hedden also provided an overview of the FY 2027 budget development schedule. The current County submission deadline is July 17, although staff have requested flexibility on that date. Budget discussions will begin with staff, followed by review with the Finance Committee and the full Aviation Commission before submission to Augusta-Richmond County. The consolidated Augusta-Richmond County budget is scheduled for submission in September.*

*Motion by Commissioner Barrett 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Harris to accept May Financial Report  
No Discussion; Unanimous Ayes; Motion Carries*

### IV. DIRECTOR ACTION REQUESTS

- A. Augusta Regional Airport (AGS) – American Foundation for Suicide Prevention/ *Out of Darkness Walk* – Ms. Lauren Smith
- B. Augusta Regional Airport (AGS) - The Augusta Technical College Foundation/ *Leadership Awards Gala* – Ms. Lauren Smith
- C. Augusta Regional Airport (AGS) - Friends of North Augusta Animals/ *Rock for Rescues 2026* – Ms. Lauren Smith
- D. Augusta Regional Airport (AGS) - Security Camera Improvements CA/CO – Work Authorization #24 – Ms. Elizabeth Giles
- E. Augusta Regional Airport (AGS) – Security Camera Improvements Contract with NetPlanner Systems, Inc. – Ms. Elizabeth Giles
- F. Augusta Regional Airport (AGS) - Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Facility Replacement Feasibility Study – Work Authorization #25 – Ms. Elizabeth Giles

### V. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### A. 2026 Drone Summer Camp – Ms. Diane Johnston & Mr. Chris Valentine

*Ms. Diane Johnston reported on the Airport's first two-week drone camp in partnership with Georgia Tech. The program included 12 high school students and two Georgia Tech mentors, with ARFF Sgt. Valentine serving as instructor. Students built and demonstrated a drone focused on first responder emergency scenarios, including basic medical response tools.*

*The program is fully funded through a three-year, \$65,000 Georgia Tech grant covering instruction and mentor costs, and will be repeated next year with potential for returning students to assist as mentors. Commissioners discussed eligibility (currently 11th–12th grade, age 16+ due to liability), drone capabilities, and possible expansion to middle school programming in the future.*

## VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*Motion by Commissioner Troutman 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Larke to enter Executive Session at 11:02 a.m. to discuss Litigation and Real Estate*

*No Discussion; Unanimous Ayes; Motion Carries*

*Commissioner West requested the following individuals to remain in Executive Session: Mr. Herbert L. Judon, Jr., Ms. Elizabeth Giles, Mr. Kenneth Hinkle, Mr. Robert Kerr, Mr. Edwin Scott (attended virtually via Zoom), & Mr. Plunkett.*

A. To Discuss Real Estate

B. To Discuss Litigation

*Motion by Commissioner Sasser 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Troutman to exit Executive Session at 12.25 p.m.*

*No Discussion; Unanimous Ayes; Motion Carries*

*Motion by Commission Sasser 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Barrett to execute the Executive Session Affidavit*

*No Discussion; Unanimous Ayes; Motion Carries*

## VII. COMMISSION COMMENTS / ACTION REQUESTS

A. The 2026 Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA) Annual Conference & Exhibition will take place in Philadelphia, PA from September 14 to 17, 2026. The multiday aviation event will be at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. – Mr. Herbert L. Judon, Jr.

<https://airportscouncil.org/conference/2026-annual-conference-and-exhibition/>

*Motion by Commissioner Barrett 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Troutman to approve Commissioner West's attendance at the ACI Conference.*

*No Discussion; Unanimous Ayes; Motion Carries*

*Addendum: Vote to schedule 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Ordinance Update Workshop – Commissioner West*

1. July 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

2. July 20, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

*The following Commissioners were available to attend on July 7<sup>th</sup>; Commissioner Sasser, Commissioner Harris, Commissioner Larke, and Commissioner Troutman.*

*The following Commissioners were available to attend on July 20<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner West, Commissioner Sasser, Commissioner Harris, Commissioner Larke, Commissioner Roland, Commissioner Cioffi, Commissioner Germany, Commissioner Troutman, and Commissioner Barrett.*

*Motion by Commissioner Troutman 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Sasser to approve AGS Staff to publicly advertise the Ordinance Workshop to be held July 20, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.*

*No Discussion; Unanimous Ayes; Motion Carries*

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

*Commissioner Troutman noted that Robert's Rules of Order allow members to vote by alternate methods when necessary.*

*Commissioner Sasser requested that staff provide a full, clean draft of the ordinance for review during the upcoming workshop.*

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**ADJOURN MEETING**

**Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Larke 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Harris**

**No Discussion; Unanimous Ayes; Motion Carries**

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:33 p.m.**

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Ronic West, Chairwoman  
Augusta Aviation Commission

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Date