

July 7, 2026

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Walton County Courthouse. Those participating in the meeting included Chairman David Thompson, Commissioners Amarie Warren, Pete Myers, Timmy Shelnutt, Lee Bradford, Jeremy Adams and Kirklyn Dixon, County Clerk Rhonda Hawk, County Manager John Ward, Planning Director Kristi Parr, Finance Director Jennifer Wall, and County Attorney Chip Ferguson. A list of employees and citizens in attendance at the meeting is on file in the auxiliary file under this meeting date.

PRESENTATIONS

Courtney Wright gave a presentation on the services of Walton Empowers and their impact on the community.

MEETING OPENING

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Shelnutt gave the invocation.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: *Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to adopt the agenda. All district commissioners voted in favor.*

DISCUSSION

County Manager's Report/Update

County Manager John Ward gave an update and report on county matters to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Repurposing Administrative Portion of Old Jail for Department Expansions

Motion: *Commissioner Warren made a motion to table until the August meeting. The Board will do a site visit on Thursday, July 9th. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and all district commissioners voted in favor.*

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning & Development Director Kristi Parr presented the Planning Commission recommendations.

Z26-0119 - Rezone 4.22 acres from A1 to A to grow and sell fruits, vegetables, eggs and cottage

food items with customer contact and Variance to have accessory building in front yard on less than 5 acres - Applicant: Christine Rojas Carrillo/Owners: Alejandro & Christine Carrillo - property located at 4350 Tiffany Lane, 4330 & 4310 Shiloh Rd. - Map/Parcels N039A024, 025 and 026 - District 1

Planning Commission recommended approval with the following conditions: 1) all parcels to be combined; 2) animals have to be maintained in the pink areas up to the red dotted line on the site plan; 3) variance to allow farmstand in the front yard on less than 5 acres.

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened the public hearing on the matter. Applicant Christine Carrillo spoke in favor of the rezone request. Dennis Nation spoke in opposition. He related the concerns of himself and neighbors citing safety concerns, lower property values and reduced quality of life. He further stated that the proposed business is in residential zoning. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: *Commissioner Warren made a motion to deny the rezone and variance request. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. All district commissioners voted in favor.*

Z26-0123 - Rezone 60.11 acres from A1 to A to grow and sell fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers with customer contact and up-pick - Applicant: Donnie A Wright, III Esq./Owners: William Paul Jones, Jr. & Tobey Lorraine Jones - property located at 2120 H D Atha Rd. & Ammons Bridge Rd. – Map/Parcel C0770094A00 - District 5

Planning Commission recommended approval as submitted.

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened the public hearing on the matter. Donnie Wright spoke in favor on behalf of applicant Paul Jones. There was no opposition present. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: *Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the rezone. All district commissioners voted in favor.*

LU26-0128 & Z26-0114 - Land Use Change from Highway Corridor to Suburban and Rezone a portion of C0090016 (1.329 acres) from A1 to R1 to create a buildable lot - Applicant: Kerry Roe/Owners: Kerry H. & Regina M. Roe - property located at 6327 Hwy. 20 - Map/Parcel C0090016 - District 2

Planning Commission recommended approval.

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened the public hearing on the matter. Applicant Kerry Roe spoke in favor. There was no opposition present. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: *Commissioner Myers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the request. All district commissioners voted in favor.*

Z26-0133 - Rezone a portion of C1360030 (5.082 acres) from A1 to B3 for commercial business

and outdoor storage of heavy equipment - Applicant: Mike Conner/Owner: Aycock Farms, LLC - property located at Hwy. 83 Connector & Dial Rd. - Map/Parcel C1360030 - District 4

Planning Commission recommended approval with the following condition: 1) entrance on Hwy. 83 Connector to be coordinated with GDOT.

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened the public hearing on the matter. Applicant Mike Conner and Susan Sykes, representing the property owner, spoke in favor. There was no opposition present. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: *Commissioner Bradford made a motion to approve the rezone request on the following conditions: 1) the rezone will be for the stated purpose only; 2) entrance and exit to be off of the Hwy. 83 Connector; and 3) no exterior work on equipment, all work to be done inside. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion and all district commissioners voted in favor.*

AZ26-0160 - Alteration to Zoning Conditions on Rezone Z24-0067 - Applicant/Owner: Igor Mitrovic - property located at 2435 Daniel Cemetery Rd. - Map/Parcel C1200177 - District 6

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened the public hearing on the matter. Applicant Igor Mitrovic spoke in favor. He is requesting to have the zoning condition of no additional buildings removed. He would like to move the unsightly cages and build a structure to house the birds. Robert Connerley spoke in opposition. He stated that the noise from the number of birds needed to be addressed. Mr. Mitrovic also has peacocks that are loud and have destroyed his garden and made a mess on his property. In rebuttal, Mr. Mitrovic said he would build an enclosure for the peacocks so they would not wander and the number of birds housed is limited by the USDA. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: *Commissioner Dixon made a motion to deny the request and for Planning and Development to obtain a decibel meter to check the noise level due to there being a noise ordinance. Commissioner Bradford seconded the motion. Commissioners Warren, Myers, Bradford, Adams and Dixon voted in favor with Commissioner Shelnett opposing the motion. The motion carried 5-1.*

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of June 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes
2. Contracts & Budgeted Purchases of \$25,000 or Greater
3. Request to Reapply for CHINS Grant - Juvenile Court
4. Acceptance of ROW (60') - Franklin Estates Phase 2
5. Acceptance of ROW (60') - Pinehurst Subdivision
6. Agreement - The Shpigler Group - Water Rate Study (for the record)
7. Engagement Letter - Mauldin Jenkins
8. Agreement Renewal - Accurate Controls Inc., Security Systems
9. Deputies Beyond the Badge - Request to Donate 2026 F150 and 2026 F250

Motion: *Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon, to approve the*

Administrative Consent Agenda. All district commissioners voted in favor.

SHERIFF

WCSO Request to Reallocate Position Control and Grade Changes

Motion: *Commissioner Adams made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the request. All district commissioners voted in favor.*

Agreement - Terminals with Synovus (Ovation) to Accept Credit/Debit Cards

Motion: *Commissioner Warren made a motion seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the agreement. All district commissioners voted in favor.*

FINANCE

Resolution - Project Length Budget - Fire Station #4 Addition/Renovation

Motion: *Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Warren to adopt the Resolution. All district commissioners voted in favor.*

BIDS/PROPOSALS

Precision Planning, Inc. - Design/Project Management - Fire Station #4 Addition/Renovation

Motion: *Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the proposal from Precision Planning in the amount of \$180,000. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion; all district commissioners voted in favor.*

APPOINTMENTS

NEGRC - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee

Motion: *Commissioner Adams made a motion seconded by Commissioner Warren to appoint John Ward, County Manager and Ben McDaniel, Vice President of Economic Development to serve on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee. All district commissioners voted in favor.*

Walton Co. DFCS Board

Motion: *Commissioner Bradford made a motion to reappoint Darren Vinson to the Walton County DFCS Board. This is a 5-year term. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and all district commissioners voted in favor.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Warren commended those who worked hard on the America 250 events and requested the Board have a future work session to take a comprehensive look into the policy and procedures of the Parks and Recreation Department. County Manager John Ward is to schedule a date for the work session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shelnutt, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

All documents of record for this meeting are on file in either the addendum book or auxiliary file under this meeting date.

DAVID G. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN

RHONDA HAWK, COUNTY CLERK