

August 5, 2025

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Walton County Courthouse. Those participating in the meeting included Chairman David Thompson, Commissioners Bo Warren, Pete Myers, Timmy Shelnett, Lee Bradford, Jeremy Adams and Kirklyn Dixon, County Clerk Rhonda Hawk, County Manager John Ward, Planning Director Charna Parker, 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**

County Manager John Ward recognized Barry Finley (Sheriff's Dept.) and Lamar Martin (Parks & Rec.) on their retirement.

## **MEETING OPENING**

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Shelnett gave the invocation.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### Resolution - Adoption of 2025 Millage Rates for Walton County

***Motion:*** Chairman Thompson made a motion to adopt the 2025 Millage Rate of 12.278 and fire district millage rate of 02.365. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion. Chairman Thompson, Commissioners Warren, Myers and Shelnett voted in favor. Commissioners Bradford, Adams and Dixon opposed the motion. The motion carried 4-3.

### Resolution - Adoption of 2025 Millage Rate for Walton County Board of Education

***Motion:*** Commissioner Dixon made a motion to adopt the 2025 Millage Rate of 15.965 for Walton County Board of Education. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

### Resolution - Adopting the Project Length Budget for 2025 SPLOST Resurfacing and Amending the FY26 Budget

***Motion:*** Commissioner Adams made a motion to adopt the Project Length Budget for 2025 SPLOST Resurfacing and amending the FY26 Budget in the amount of \$87,500. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

## DISCUSSION

### County Manager's Report/Update

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

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning Director Charna Parker presented the Planning Commission recommendations.

CU25-0153 & Z25-0154 - Rezone 8.734 acres from A1 to B2 for parking of commercial vehicles and Conditional Use for outside storage - Applicant: Kibrom Moges Kidane/Owner: Next Generation Soccer Partners, LLC - Property located at 1890 Highway 81/Parcel C0510197 - District 3 - Planning Commission recommended denial.

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened the public hearing on the matter. David Bird, representing the applicant Kimbrom Kidane spoke in favor. He and his wife own the adjacent property and feel it would be a good fit. The property will be aesthetically pleasing, maintain a 200ft. set back with a tree buffer and video surveillance 24/7. There will be no overnight parking and limited hours during Youth Middle School drop-off and pickup. There was no opposition present. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

***Motion:** Commissioner Shelnut made a motion to approve with the following conditions: 200 ft. buffer retaining the trees currently on site, no overnight parking, business hours to be limited during Youth Middle School drop off and pickup and no fuel storage or hazardous materials. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion. Chairman Thompson, Commissioners Warren, Myers, Shelnut, Bradford and Adams voted in favor with Commissioner Dixon opposing the motion. The motion carried 6-1.*

LU25-0199 & Z25-0198 - Land Use Change from Suburban to Employment Center and Rezone 2.64 acres from A1 to B3 for outdoor storage and car repair - Applicant/Owner: Melody C. Jackson Moon - property located at 1350 Mountain Creek Church Road/Parcel C1210079A00 - District 6 - Planning Commission recommended denial.

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened the public hearing on the matter. Applicant Melody Moon and husband Joseph Moon spoke in favor. Mrs. Moon stated that her husband works on cars as a hobby and would like to be able to keep the cars on the lot. Tony Smith spoke in opposition stating it was more of a junk yard than a hobby shop. In rebuttal, Mr. Moon stated that he did not receive pay for the work done on the cars and that some belonged to friends that had nowhere to park them. After some discussion, Commissioner Dixon stated that the matter was very confusing and he would like to see a plan for development of the site and more information verifying ownership of the vehicles. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

***Motion:** Commissioner Dixon made a motion to table the matter for 30 days for more information. Commissioner Bradford seconded the motion, voted and carried unanimously.*

25-0218 - Rezone 2.45 acres from A2 to R1 to create 2 buildable lots - Applicant: Brent Miller/Owner: Stefan Vancica (Covenant Property Management, LLC) located on Wall Road/Parcel C1630079A00 - District 6 - Planning Commission recommended approval.

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened the public hearing on the matter. Applicant Brent Miller spoke in favor. Larry Metcalf spoke in opposition. He is concerned about water runoff and septic tanks because his well is only 25 ft from the property line. In rebuttal, Mr. Miller stated there is county water so no need for wells and that the county health department will need to approve the placement of the septic tanks. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

***Motion:*** Commissioner Dixon made a motion to approve with the conditions that they meet all health department requirements and leave as many trees as possible for a buffer at the Metcalf property. Commissioner Shelnutt seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Annexation Request - City of Social Circle - 27.937 acres Fairplay Road

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

## **ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of July 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes
2. Contracts & Budgeted Purchases of \$25000 or Greater
3. Declaration of Surplus
4. Mutual Aid Agreement – Walton Co. Fire & Rockdale Co. Fire
5. Life Check Systems - WCPSC - Software Agreement
6. Salem Radio Tower - Third Amendment Agreement - E911
7. Agreement Renewal - Reserve Deputy - Loganville Christian Academy
8. Fee Schedule
9. I3 Software Services Agreement - Probate Court (subject to Co. Attorney review)

***Motion:*** Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to approve the Administrative Consent Agenda. All voted in favor.

## **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Keith Brooks and Colonel Scott Whisnant addressed the Board with requests for the Sheriff's Office. The requests for budget amendments are needed to facilitate hiring and staffing of the new facility.

Request for Budget Amendment - Shift Differential Pay for E911 Employees - \$25,000.00

***Motion:*** Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the request for shift differential for E911 employees. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Request for Budget Amendment - 25 Additional Detention Officer Positions, Uniforms and

Equipment - \$2,186,721.83

**Motion:** *Chairman Thompson made a motion to approve the request for 25 additional officer positions, uniforms and equipment. Commissioner Shelnutt seconded the motion and all voted in favor.*

Agreement Renewal - School Resource Officers - Walton Co. School District

The Chairman stated that the amount of the agreement had not be negotiated in four years. He would like to see an analysis of the costs before approving the contract for the next budget year.

**Motion:** *Chairman Thompson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shelnutt, to approve the renewal for FY26. All voted in favor.*

## **CONTRACTS**

Reeves Young - Change Proposal #39 - Musco Pole's Spread Footing & Ground Water Remediation - Walnut Grove Park

**Motion:** *Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Chairman Thompson, to approve Change Proposal #39. All voted in favor.*

Reeves Young - Change Proposal #40 - Building F - DCR Media, Additional Welded Tabs & Re-Paint

**Motion:** *Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Warren to approve Change Proposal #40. All voted in favor.*

## **ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS/PROPOSALS**

Inmate Medical Service - Walton Co. Jail

**Motion:** *Commissioner Adams made a motion to accept the proposal from MedHealth, LLC for Inmate Medical. Commissioner Shelnutt seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.*

Fire Hydrant Services - Walton County Water Department

**Motion:** *Commissioner Shelnutt made a motion to accept the proposal from Georgia Hydrant Services. Chairman Thompson seconded the motion. Commissioner Myers recused himself from voting. Chairman Thompson, Commissioners Warren, Shelnutt, Bradford, Adams and Dixon voted in favor. The motion passed.*

Bay Creek Church Road Milling and Widening Project

**Motion:** *Commissioner Shelnutt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Warren, to accept the bid from Blount Construction in the amount of \$302,086.03. All voted in favor.*

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### 2025 Legislative Leadership Conference - Voting Delegate

***Motion:*** Chairman Thompson made a motion to nominate Kirklyn Dixon as the 2025 Legislative Leadership Voting Delegate. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion:*** Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shelnett, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

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

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DAVID G. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN

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RHONDA HAWK, COUNTY CLERK