

February 11, 2025

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 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, Jeremy Adams, Lee Bradford via telephone and Kirklyn Dixon, County Clerk Rhonda Hawk, County Manager John Ward, Planning Director Charna Parker, and Attorney Chris Atkinson. 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 Jeff Carr on his retirement and several citizens who rendered aid to stranded motorist during the winter storms. DeDe Harris and advocates from Piedmont Walton and Monroe Police Department gave an update on the Walton Mental Health Taskforce.

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

Chairman Thompson requested that the Public Comment Section be moved and heard before Discussion and stated the rules for Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Trask representing members of the 4H Shotgun Team spoke in opposition to complaints being made against the team and the location of their shooting range on Criswell Road. Charles Woods who owns neighboring property spoke against the shooting range location citing noise and safety issues.

DISCUSSION

County Manager's Report/Update

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

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning and Development Director Charna Parker presented a Planning Commission recommendation that was tabled on 12/5/24 and stated that all code enforcement issues on the property had been resolved.

Z24100006 - Rezone 2.40 acres from A2 to B2 for industrial building to lease - Applicant: Rich Wade/Owner: Wade Nation LLC-Property located on 2384 Hwy 278/Map/Parcel C1580022-District 4 (Tabled for 60 days on 12/5/24).

***Motion:** Chairman Thompson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shelnett to approve the rezone as requested. Chairman Thompson, Commissioners Warren, Myers, Shelnett, Adams and Dixon voted in favor. Commissioner Bradford opposed the motion. The motion passed 6-1.*

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of January 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes
2. Contracts & Budgeted Purchases of \$25,000 or Greater
3. Declaration of Surplus
4. Acceptance of Bid – WCPSC Access Road – Summit Construction, \$1,590,000.00 (For the Record)
5. Fiscal Agent Designation Acceptance Agreement – Partnership for Families Children and Youth
6. Change Order – WCPSC (For the Record)

***Motion:** Commissioner Dixon made a motion to approve Items 1-5 of the Administrative Consent Agenda. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. All voted in favor.*

***Motion:** Chairman Thompson made a motion to approve Item 6 of the Administrative Consent Agenda. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion. Chairman Thompson, Commissioners Warren, Myers, Shelnett and Adams voted in favor with Commissioners Dixon and Bradford abstaining. The motion passed 5-2.*

HUMAN RESOURCES

Resolution and Adoption Agreement Amendment #2 ACCG Defined Benefit Plan for Walton County Employees

***Motion:** Commissioner Adams made a motion to adopt the Resolution, closing the Defined Benefit Plan to new employees effective 2/12/2025 and raise the required employee contribution to 4% for those remaining in the plan. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. All voted in favor.*

Resolution and Adoption Agreement Amendment #1 ACCG 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan for Walton Co. Employees

***Motion:** Commissioner Shelnett made a motion to adopt the Resolution requiring new employees beginning 2/12/2025 to make a mandatory 5% contribution to the 401A retirement plan. The County will match the required contribution. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. All voted in favor.*

Recommendation - Condrey & Associates - Pay and Classification for Walton Co. Employees

At 6:50 p.m., during discussion of the Condrey & Associates recommendation, the Chairman

temporarily recessed the meeting for first responders to render aid to someone with a medical emergency. The meeting continued at 6:59 p.m.

Motion: *Chairman Thompson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to accept the recommendation from Condrey & Associates; voted and carried unanimously.*

Request for Associate Judge for Juvenile Court

Motion: *Commissioner Shelnutt made a motion to approve the request for a new Associate Judge for Juvenile Court. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion and all voted in favor.*

Request for Associate Probate Judge/Staff Attorney

Motion: *Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the request to hire an Associate Probate Judge/Staff Attorney. All voted in favor.*

CONTRACTS

Change Proposal #7 - Removal of East Wall - Umpire Bldg. - Walnut Grove Park

Change Proposal #15 - Building C & G - Revised Gas Line - Walnut Grove Park

Change Proposal #22 - Amphitheater AVL Infrastructure Add - Walnut Grove Park

Motion: *Commissioner Dixon made a motion to approve Change Proposal #7, #15 and #22 for Walnut Grove Park. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.*

Motorola Solutions Change Order and ATT/Motorola Subscription Software Addendum - Maintenance for Additional Radio's - Sheriff's Office

Motion: *Chairman Thompson made a motion to approve the Motorola Solutions Change Order and ATT/Motorola Subscription Software Addendum pending review by the county attorney. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and all voted in favor.*

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution to Opt Out of The Homestead Exemption Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-44.2

Motion: *Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shelnutt to adopt the Resolution opting out of HB 581, Homestead Exemption pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-44.2. All voted in favor.*

APPOINTMENTS

Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Authority Board of Directors

Motion: *Commissioner Adams made a motion to reappoint Kenny Sargent of Keep Walton Beautiful and John Allman of Walton Co. Public Works for a four-year term on the Northeast*

Georgia Solid Waste Management Authority Board of Directors. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Advantage Behavioral Health Systems Community Service Board

Motion: *Commissioner Adams made a motion to reappoint Penny Shirley to the Advantage Behavioral Health Systems Community Service Board. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: *At 7:11 p.m., Commissioner Shelnett made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. §§ 50-15-2 (1). Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Commissioner Bradford was not present during the Executive Session.*

Motion: *At 7:19 p.m., Commissioner Myers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shelnett, to return to regular session. All voted in favor. There were no votes taken during the Executive Session.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: *Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shelnett, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 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