

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7th, 2025 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 7th, 2025 at 5:30 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room of the Courthouse Annex.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch and he welcomed all those in attendance. Commissioner Sellers gave the invocation and Chairman Burch led the group in the pledge. Present were Chairman Leslie Burch; Vice Chairman Chad Kent; Commissioners Randy Sellers, Jakharis Jones, Daryl Edwards and Ricky Barnes. Also, present were County Manager Reid Lovett, County Attorney Tracy Brown and Deputy Clerk LaFonda Solomon. County Clerk Robyn Evans was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with no changes on a motion by Vice Chairman Kent; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Called Meeting September 9th, 2025, Regular Meeting September 9th, 2025, Called Meeting September 29th, 2025

Minutes from the Called Meeting September 9th, 2025, Regular Meeting September 9th, 2025 and Called Meeting September 29th 2025 were reviewed with no changes noted. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the minutes; Vice Chairman Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL GUESTS/ ANNOUCEMENTS

Appling County Extension Services- National 4-H Week

Appling County 4-H Youth Development agent, Julie Bacon and 4-H Program Assistant, Madison Waters gave a presentation about the local 4-H program. October 5-11, 2025 is National 4-H week. Julie Bacon informed the Board about all the different program opportunities offered through the 4-H program. She presented an informational handout that detailed the four core programs that the state expects every county to cover in their local 4-H program. She highlighted the growth of the program and spoke of the positive impact 4-H brings to the community. The program has added a local horse club and will hold their meeting in November. Ms. Bacon thanked the Commissioners for their support of the 4-H program assistant position.

Madison Waters thanked the Board for supporting her position as 4-H program assistant. She emphasized her passion for serving the community and working with youth.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Appling Co. Department of Family & Children Services Budget Memo

County Manager Lovett stated that the County approved \$10,000.00 appropriation for Appling County Department of Family and Children Services for fiscal year 2026. The funds will be issued to reimburse expenditures at the end of each month. Any expenditure exceeding \$500.00 requires approval by the County Director and DFCS Board. County Manager Lovett advised that the memo needed to be documented and signed by the Chairman. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to have the Chairman sign the County appropriations document on behalf of the Board.; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

B. 2026 LMIG Road Projects

County Manager Lovett shared that the County has until December to submit its LMIG application and receive funding. The money must be allocated and titled to specific roads. Lovett recommended to move Woodlawn Church Road to the current 2024 SPLOST and add both sections of Russell Road and Griffin Street to the 2026 LMIG list. Commissioner Jones made a motion to add both sections of Russell Road and Griffin Street to the 2026 LMIG list; Vice Chairman Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to move to move Woodlawn Church Road to the current 2024 SPLOST; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

County Manager Lovett shared updates on the Recreation department and the various extracurricular programs currently taking place. Lovett emphasized the need for the recreation complex parking facilities to be renovated. Each weekend the facility is full to capacity. The two options presented by Lovett were to resurface with asphalt or surface treatment. Commissioner Barnes added that with the high volume of traffic to the community, the parking lot needs to be presentable. Discussion was made regarding expansion of the parking lot and resurfacing. County Manager Lovett recommended that the Commissioners approve for him to draft the project and present the bids to the board. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to have County Manager Lovett draft the project and present bids to the Board; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

County manager Lovett shared that the roof has been completed on the Heritage Center and the second phase of remodeling will soon begin. He is getting quotes for the roof repairs on the food bank and Call to Love. Commissioner Sellers asked about ownership of the Call to Love and Food Bank Buildings. Lovett advised that he is currently working on that.

The road department is busy and was asked to train the city workers how to grade their roads.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to close the Regular meeting session and enter into Executive session; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman Kent made a motion to close Executive session and re-enter the Regular meeting session; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

County Manager Lovett announced that no action was taken.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Lovett shared a list of completed projects including the 2024 LRA, 2025 LRA and 2025 LMIG. Lovett shared that he was invited to read to a Pre-K class at 4th District Elementary and that he would like to do so more often. Baxley 150 Commemorative merchandise can be purchased through the City of Baxley and the Chamber of Commerce. Lovett added that the annual Christmas tree lighting is set to take place in conjunction with the City's tree lighting event this year. Lovett said this makes the most sense for unity and for our community.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch announced that the Commissioners will be attending a conference on Jekyll Island and receive their certification. "Training is good." Said Burch and thanked everyone for attending.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

LaFonda Solomon, Deputy Clerk

Leslie Burch, Chairman

LaFonda Solomon

Leslie Burch

