

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 4th, 2025 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 4th, 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 Edwards gave the invocation and Vice Chairman Kent 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

Chairman Burch noted the addition of Deidra Hewett under "Special Guests". County Manager Lovett added the following items under "New Business": Item H. Set meeting date for mileage rate approval, Item I. County Shop bid approval. Vice Chairman Kent made a motion to approve the agenda with changes; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting October 7th, 2025, Called Meeting October 20th, 2025

Minutes from the Regular Meeting October 7th, 2025 and Called Meeting October 20th, 2025 were reviewed with no changes noted. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL GUESTS/ ANNOUCEMENTS

A. Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Rich Bennett, Director of Economic and Community Development for the Heart of Georgia Autonomic Reginal Commission discussed the County's \$1million grant for TIA funding. These funds will be specifically used for essential storm drainage and street improvements along the four areas of Manning Williams Road, David Williams Road, Coot Jones Street and Gibbs Street. These improvements will significantly enhance infrastructure and reduce severe flooding in these areas and improve overall safety and accessibility for local residents in these areas. The purpose of the CDBG project is to benefit primarily low and moderate- income citizens. The project will begin within a year.

B. Deidra Hewett- Appling Hope Center

Deidra Hewett spoke on behalf of the Appling Hope Center, a 501c nonprofit. Mrs. Hewett stated that 60% of those utilizing their services are elderly, disabled or both. She spoke of how well the community has supported the Appling Hope Center and how Appling County is a model for other communities in a time of need. Mrs. Hewett gave a report on the number of people served at the warming station last January. Over 200 people were served each day. During the course of the service, the volunteers realized that most were coming dur to hunger and not because of the cold weather. One guy stated that he had to work exactly one hour to pay for one pound of hamburger. Hewett stated that their rent is \$1200 and their paycheck is only \$600.00. "Those are the people we are helping." In 10 months, the Hope Center has provided 15,000 to-go plates, averaging over 1,000 per month. Hewett ended with assuring that the Appling Hope Center is there for the community.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A.UGA Extension Service Agreement

County Manager Lovett shared the new UGA Extension Service Agreement and stated that there are no changes from the previous year agreement. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to allow Chairman Burch to sign the agreement; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

B. Harris & Company, P.C. Audit Agreement

County Manager Lovett shared that due to amount of federal money received, the County will be under a single audit this year, but all other pricing is the same and recommended the approval of the Harris & Company audit agreement. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the agreement with Harris & Company; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

C.2026 Board of Commissioners Monthly Meeting Schedule

County Manager Lovett recommended changing the following dates due to conflicts with Spring Break and Election Day: Change April 7th meeting to April 14th, July 7th to July 14th and November 3rd to November 10th, 2026. Vice Chairman Kent made a motion to approve the 2026 Regular Meeting schedule with changes; Commissioner Jones seconded; unanimously approved.

D.2026 County Office Closures/Holiday Schedule

No changes were made to the holiday schedule form the previous year. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the holiday schedule; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

E. Employee Christmas Bonus

County Manager Lovett recommended \$500 Christmas bonus to all full- time employees that receive benefits and \$250 to part-time employees excluding seasonal workers. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve \$500 Christmas bonus to all full-time employees that receive benefits and \$250 to part-time employees excluding seasonal workers; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

F. FY 2026 County Landfill Budget

County Manager Lovett shared the proposed 2026 Landfill budget in the amount of \$663,550. Lovett explained that the Landfill is an enterprise account has to be approved separately from the General fund budget. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the FY 2026 Landfill Budget; Vice Chairman Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

G. Job Description Update- Director of Emergency Management

County Manager Lovett shared the revised and updated Director of Emergency Management job description for approval. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the job description; Vice Chairman Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

H. Set Mileage Meeting Date

County Manager Lovett recommended the date of November 18 at 5:30 PM for the meeting to set the County Mileage rate. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the date; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

I.County Shop Bid Approval

County Manager Lovett shared that four bids were submitted for the construction of the new county shop. Altamaha Builders submitted the lowest bid at \$2,243,400. The construction of the new shop will be funded from the 2018 SPLOST. Commissioner Jones made a motion to accept the lowest bid; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Chanda Teston spoke on behalf of the Board of Tourism, Downtown Development Authority and Chamber of Commerce. She presented a flyer that showcased all the upcoming events within the community. The Veterans' Day Parade will be held on Monday, November 11 with a service to follow at the Courthouse. Teston invited all veterans to come out for the parade.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

County Manager Lovett reported that the Development Authority wishes to convey the armory property and 7.2 acres to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to accept; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

County Manager Lovett recommended to enter into contract for the purchase of 1205 West Parker Street for the use of county purposes. The cost of the property is \$1,450,000 with \$14,000 to be issued for earnest money. Vice Chairman Kent made a motion to enter the contract; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved.

PUBLIC INPUT

Joe Dykstra – Stray Animals (Dogs)

Citizen Joe Dykstra spoke on the topic of stray dogs within the county. He presented a sample ordinance to the commissioners for consideration. Dykstra said he has lost eleven (11) chickens and three (3) cats and when he tried to handle the situation himself by shooting a potentially dangerous animal in his yard, he nearly went to jail because the dog died on his neighbor's property. He asked, "Who's job is it to protect the citizens of Appling County?" He said, "If we are supposed to protect ourselves then instruct the Sheriff not to enforce any animal laws." Only the Sheriff's Department and animal control are allowed to trap and bait animals. Currently the County does not have animal control. Dykstra suggested that the Sheriff deputize volunteers or assign deputies for the purpose of animal control. He stated the ordinance could pay for itself with the issuance of registration fees and dog tags. He asked that the board work with vets to get the cost of micro chips reduced and the cost to spay and neuter cheaper.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Lovett shared that Commissioners Kent, Barnes and Jones have completed their training and are certified. The HAV drill is scheduled for November 5th, 2025 @ 8:30 AM. Christmas in the park is December 3, 2025 and the tree lighting will take place. The County is contacting DOT to examine the railroad crossing on Prentiss Road where several accidents have occurred.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch thanked everyone for attending

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

LaFonda Solomon, Deputy Clerk

Leslie Burch, Chairman

LaFonda Solomon

Leslie Burch



**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING MINUTES
November 18th, 2025 @ 5:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Appling County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Tuesday, November 18th, 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 Commissioner Barnes 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 and County Clerk Robyn Evans. County Attorney Tracy Brown absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda as stated; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Adopt Resolution – 2026 County Wide School Maintenance Tax Levy

County Manager Lovett read aloud the Resolution for County Wide School Maintenance Tax Levy, approved by the School Board for tax levy in the amount of \$17,576,384, at 11.273 mills. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the Resolution as read; Commissioner Kent seconded; unanimously approved.

B. Emergency Management Director Position

County Manager Lovett shared that he'd received Darrell Holcomb's resignation, effective January 31, 2026. Holcomb currently holds the Emergency Management Director position. Lovett requested permission from the board to post the anticipated vacancy and hire someone to learn under Mr. Holcomb, before he departs. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve this request; Commissioner Barnes seconded; unanimously approved. The vacancy will run in the following week's legal organ for thirty (30) days.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Real Estate
- B. Personnel
- C. Litigation

Chairman Burch shared that Attorney Brown would not be in attendance; therefore, executive session will not take place tonight.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Lovett shared with the Board that a county-wide staff Thanksgiving luncheon will be held at the Ag Center on November 25th, 2025, and is being sponsored by Caterpillar.

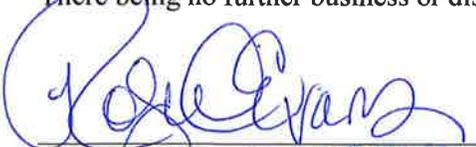
Lovett stated that he'd received the concept from Hofstadter & Associates, Inc., for the 2024 SPLOST project - splash pad at Northside park. He, also, shared that during the December meeting, he'd like to request approval to "drop" Lake Mayers for homeowners to repair docks, etc.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Burch reminded the Board of the First Responder Appreciation at the Ag Center on December 4th, 2025.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM.


Robyn O. Evans, County Clerk


Leslie Burch, Chairman

