Thomson & Dearing McDuffie County, Georgia

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session Meeting
Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 10:00 AM
Government Complex Commissioner Room
MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
Chase Beggs, Chairman
Sammie Wilson Sr., Vice Chairman
Bill Jopling, Commissioner
Fredrick Favors, Commissioner
Steven Hollimon, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:
Dave Headley, Interim County Manager
Ashtyn Goodyear, County Clerk
Ruthie Thomas, HR Director
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Robert Spurlin, IT Director
Leslie Walker, Planning & Zoning Director
Paul Johnson, Coroner
Chief Sewell, Fire & EMS
Gina Timmerman, Clerk of Superior Court
Trevor Welcher, Recreation Director
Catherine Kirby, Animal Services Director

MEDIA: McDuffie Progress

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beggs called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Leslie Holmes from Thomson Presbyterian Church offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)

Chairman Beggs asked if there were any corrections to the current agenda or minutes.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to approve the current agenda as written and was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

Minutes

Executive Session – July 15, 2025
Regular Session – July 15, 2025
Special Called Session – July 24, 2025
Work Session – August 3, 2025

Chairman Beggs asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to approve all sets of the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Digital Expansion Rally was held August 6th 2-6pm at the Boys and Girls Club
2. Animal Services Director, Catherine Kirby, was recognized for the Animal Shelter being a "No Kill" shelter.

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT

1. **Consideration to Appoint Commissioner Favors to the IDA Board**
   There was a vacancy on the IDA Board, and Commissioner Favors showed interest in being a part of this board.

   Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to approve this appoint. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously. ment.

2. **Consideration to Appoint Commissioner Hollimon to the Recreation Advisory Board**
   Commissioner Favors wanted to give his seat on the Recreation Advisory Board to Commissioner Hollimon.

   Commissioner Favors made the motion to approve this appointment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

3. **Consideration to Re-Appoint Michelle Parnell to the Library Board**
   Michelle Parnell has been an asset to the library board and has been recommended to be re-appointed.

   Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve this appointment. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consideration to Approve Ordinance Amendment 25-02; 1st Reading, Special Lighting District**
   Pam presented this information. The proposed rates in this lighting district ordinance are based upon the cost we accrued in the previous year. The ordinance showing these increases and some decreases are attached in this Agenda packet. Chairman Beggs explained that this is an annual ordinance that is amended depending on how much lighting is used in the listed areas in the ordinance.

   Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve this ordinance. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

2. **Consideration to Approve McDuffie Transit Procurement Policy**
   Pam presented this policy information. This policy was given to us by GDOT. We were allowed to make changes in section 5.5, which was updated to reflect the County's current purchasing policy. Chairman Beggs made the comment this was discussed in our Work Session.

   Commissioner Favors made a motion to approve the policy. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

3. **Consideration to Approve Eubanks Building Rental Fee to the Schedule of Fees**
   Chairman Beggs presented this explaining that due to the work at Eubanks Park, this park was previously not being able to be used. We are in the process of getting this park up and running. The staff report from Director Welcher recommended that we would charge $200 for the building rental and charge an upfront $50 cleaning fee. The $50 will be reimbursed if the renter adheres to the rules/regulations of the rental agreement.

Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to approve this schedule of fees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

4. **Consideration to Approve School Affiliation Agreement with Piedmont Healthcare**
   Chief Sewell presented this agreement and explained that this agreement is a part of our in-house EMT training and must have this in place to send students to clinicals. This agreement is no cost to the county.

   Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve this agreement. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

5. **Consideration to Approve Contract for Technical Services CSRA Regional Commission**
   Chief Sewell presented this contract and explained that this has to do with our five-year update for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is required for GEMA and FEMA for us to be eligible for funds during a disaster. When a disaster happens, and funds become available, if it is in our plan we can apply for these funds. This at no cost to the county out of the county budget. Commissioner Jopling thanked Chief Sewell and told him Well done for how he and his team handled Hurricane Helene. Chairman Beggs announced that we have a meeting to be scheduled to be proactive incase we have another disaster in the future.

   Vice Chairman Wilson made a motion to approve this contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

6. **Consideration to Approve 2025 Budget Amendments**
   Pam presented this and asked for the Board to approve the Budget Amendments that we discussed in Work Session. Commissioner Hollimon asked if Pam was able to save approximately $90,000. Pam says yes, that when she rearranged the insurances between the departments and what the employees had elected, we were able to put $90,597 back into budget contingency. Chairman Beggs made a comment that despite the raise in insurance cost, we did not have to push this back on employees.

   Vice Chairman Wilson made a motion to approve this amendment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

7. **Budget Report**
   Pam presented the Budget Report for June 2025. A copy of this can be found in the Agenda Packet

8. **Financial Report**
   Pam presented the Financial Report. A copy of this can be found in the Agenda Packet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. **Personnel, Litigation**

<u>Enter:</u> Commissioner Jopling made a motion to enter Executive Session at 10:22 am. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.
<u>Exit:</u> Vice Chairman Wilson made a motion to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 12:03pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION CONTINUED

There was no discussion after Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to adjourn the regular meeting at 12:04pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chase N. Beggs

Chase N. Beggs, Chairman

ATTEST: Ashtyn L. Goodyear

Ashtyn L. Goodyear, County Clerk