Thomson & Dearing McDuffie County, Georgia

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session Meeting
Monday, September 29,2025 at 6:30 PM
Second Floor Training 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
Stephen Sewell, Fire/EMS Chief
Trevor Welcher, Recreation Director
Robert Spurlin, IT Director
Brandon Burton, County Manager

MEDIA: The McDuffie Progress

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER — **Chairman Beggs**

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE — **Chairman Beggs**

COMMISSIONERS' WORK SESSION

All agenda items are for discussion only. No action was taken during the meeting. Chairman Beggs called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Discussion Concerning Appointment to the Board of Assessors**

   Chairman Beggs informed the Board of Commissioners that there is a vacancy on the Board of Assessors. Chairman Beggs asked if anyone had any recommendations or applicants to appoint to the BOA, that he had acquired with someone who was interested and would like to move forward. The Board of Commissioners agreed.

   This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

2. **Discussion Concerning Appointment to the Recreation Advisory Board**

   Chairman Beggs informed the Board of Commissioners that there is a vacancy on the Recreation Advisory Board and that we have received some appointment applications. Chairman Beggs asked if there were any recommendations. The Board of Commissioners had no other recommendations.

   This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

3. **Discussion Concerning Signage at Sweetwater Gym**

   Director Welcher gave an update on the signage of the side of the gym that faces Wrens Hwy. He informed the board that he has been waiting on a third quote from a company but had not received a response and wanted to move forward with a company he had an estimate for already. Chairman Beggs suggested that due to the project being costly and there being other ongoing projects that are more time sensitive, that we remove the remaining letters on the gym, and make room in the budget for next year to get a new sign installed on the side of the gym.

   This item was for discussion only.

4. **Discussion Concerning Application for Class Reunion at Property Across from Brickyard**

   Director Welcher presented an application for a class reunion at the property across from The Brickyard. There was discussion on creating a policy for this property for the future.

   This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

5. **Discussion Concerning 2026 CDBG**

   Chairman Beggs presented the options for the 2026 CDBG. Those options being: renovate the old school gym, improve the Cherokee infrastructure improvements, Cherokee housing only improvements, and Cherokee housing and infrastructure.

   This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

6. **Discussion Concerning American Red Cross Facility Use Agreement**

   Chief Sewell presented this agreement. This agreement allows Red Cross to use the Sweetwater Gym in the case of an emergency.

   This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

7. **Discussion Concerning IT Policy – Backup & Recovery Policy**

   Director Spurlin presented each IT policy that needs updating. He asked the commissioners to please review, and that we will discuss again in the November Work Session.

   This item will be added to the November meeting agenda.

8. **Discussion Concerning IT Policy – Acceptable Use Policy**

   This item will be added to the November meeting agenda.

9. **Discussion Concerning IT Policy – Access Control**

   This item will be added to the November meeting agenda.

10. **Discussion Concerning IT Policy – HR-IT Account Provisioning and Deprovisioning**

    This item will be added to the November meeting agenda.

11. **Discussion Concerning IT Policy – MFA Policy**

This item will be added to the November meeting agenda.

12. **Discussion Concerning IT Policy – Incident Response Policy**

This item will be added to the November meeting agenda.

13. **Discussion Concerning IT Policy – Password Policy**

This item will be added to the November meeting agenda.

14. **Discussion Concerning IT Policy – Security Awareness Training Policy**

This item will be added to the November meeting agenda.

15. **Discussion Concerning IT Policy – Vendor Risk Management Policy**

This item will be added to the November meeting agenda.

16. **Discussion Concerning IT Policy – Patch Vulnerability Management Policy**

This item will be added to the November meeting agenda.

17. **Discussion Concerning Fire/EMS Department**

Chief Sewell discussed the Fire/EMS budget and shift schedules.

This item was for discussion only.

18. **Discussion Concerning Dearing Insurance Premium 2025**

The Board of Commissioners and Chief Sewell discussed the Town of Dearing insurance premium invoices.

This item was for discussion only.

19. **Discussion Concerning GMASS Contract**

Chairman Beggs presented the current GMASS Contract and the new one for 2026-2028. There are no changes to the contract.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

20. **Discussion Concerning Hurricane Helene Damage Bids**

Director Workman presented the Hurricane Helene bids that we received and asked to add this to the agenda to be approved, so we can move forward with these damages being repaired.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

21. **Discussion Concerning Solid Waste Contract for Transfer Station**

Chairman Beggs informed the Board of Commissioners that we may have the opportunity to find a better rate with a different company to haul trash.

This item will be added to the November meeting agenda.

22. **Discussion Concerning Surplus Vehicles List**

Clerk Goodyear presented a list of surplus vehicles from the sheriff's department, fire/EMS department, maintenance department, and public works department. It was suggested that these vehicles be a part of the Sunset Auction that is in November.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

23. **Discussion Concerning Fall Trash Amnesty Day**

Chairman Beggs presented a date for the fall trash amnesty day, October 18^{th}, 2025.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

24. **Discussion Concerning Parcel #00290034**

Chairman Beggs discussed that in a Land Bank Authority meeting it was discussed for us to deed this property to the LBA. This property was purchased from the County due to the Wrightsboro Rd sewer project.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL, PROPERTY

Enter: A motion was made by Commissioner Hollimon to move into executive session at 7:46pm. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

Exit: A motion was made by Commissioner Favors to move back into work session at 8:09pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to adjourn the work session at 8:10pm, seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chase N. Beggs

Chase N. Beggs, Chairman

ATTEST: Ashtyn L. Goodyear

Ashtyn L. Goodyear, County Clerk

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF MCDUFFIE

Thomson & Dearing McDuffie County, Georgia

AFFIDAVIT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner **Beggs,** Chairman, Commissioner **Sammie Wilson, Sr.**, Vice Chairman, Commissioner **Wm. M. Jopling,** Commissioner **Fred Favors,** and Commissioner **Steven Hollimon** being duly sworn, state under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief:

1.

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners met in a duly advertised meeting on **Monday, September 29, 2025.**

2.

During such a meeting, the board voted to go into executive session.

3.

The executive session was called to order at 7:46 p.m.

4.

The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:

_____ Consultation with the county attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1)

_____ Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(2) and (insert the citation to the legal authority making the tax matter confidential) _________________.

_____ Discussion:

X__ Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50- 14-3(b)(2)

X _ Authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b) (1)(B)

5.

Not Applicable During the closed session devoted to exempt topics, an incidental remark regarding a non-exempt topic or an attempt to discuss a non-exempt topic was made.

6.

Minutes were taken of this meeting and will be filed and held for in-camera inspection only.

This **29th day of September 2025**.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of **September 2025**.

Ashtyn Goodyear

Ashtyn Goodyear, County Clerk
Notary Public
My commission expires: June 17, 2029

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chas N. Beggs ____ Chairman

Sammie Wilson Sr. ____ Vice Chairman

Wm Jopling ____ Commissioner

____ Commissioner

____ Commissioner