



MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:30 PM
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:

Brandon Burton, County Manager
Ashtyn Goodyear, County Clerk
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Robert Spurlin, IT Director
Chief Sewell, Fire & EMS
Trevor Welcher, Recreation Director
Paul Johnson, Coroner

MEDIA: McDuffie Progress

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beggs called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Don Cummings from Sweetwater Baptist Church offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jason Cranford –

Jason passed out a handout to all Commissioners and the County Manager. Jason reminded the Board that he came before them a year ago with questions about the Rec Department and why there was such a lack of maintenance around the Rec Department. The last page of this handout was about equipment that was found behind the activity center at Sweetwater. Jason is a member of the Recreation Advisory Board but is here as a citizen who is disappointed in the simple lack of maintenance that could be done. He was told at the last meeting; staff was working on fixing fencing. The handout showed pictures of simple repairs that could be fixed quickly but had not in the last three weeks. Chairman Beggs said thank you for bringing this to the Board's attention and that County Manager Burton handle this tomorrow. Chairman Beggs said it is unacceptable that the trash was still behind the activity center, and we will get it up and taken care of.

Paul McCorkle –

Mr. Paul gave his greetings to the Board and made them laugh by saying he was glad to be on this side of the meeting and not on their side. His concern is with the lights on i20. He explained there are 9 poles that have 8 lights each, and tonight there was 2 poles out of the 9 that have lights lit up enough to see. He says this issue has been going on for almost five years. Mr. Paul says it reflects the County poorly for out-of-towners to see these lights out. He said he is not positive about this, but he believes these are at a flat rate, and that we pay for them whether they work or not. He asked Director Workman if this was accurate, and she said it was. County Manager Burton said that the maintenance team is working on getting estimates to have this work done. Mr. Paul said he would appreciate the effort into looking into this matter, and thanked the Board for listening to him.

APPROVALS

1. Agenda (Current)

Chairman Beggs asked if there were any corrections to the current agenda or minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Hollimon to approve the current agenda as written and was seconded by Vice Chair Wilson and passed unanimously.

2. Minutes

Regular Session – January 7, 2026

Executive Session – January 7, 2026

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

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. Chamber of Commerce Banquet Dinner is January 22nd from 5pm-9pm at the National Guard Armory
4. Blind Willie McTell Downtown Park Groundbreaking Ceremony is January 29th at 11:30 am.
5. Springs Sports Registration
6. Community listening session is February 18, 2026, at 8:30 am and 6:00pm. Morning Session is at the Thomson Depot, the Evening Session is at the Thomson-McDuffie Middle School cafeteria.

STAFF REPORTS

7. Park Project Proposals/Recommendations –

Director Welcher showed a video presentation of “Project Refresh” which is an intentional plan to enhance the parks in McDuffie County one by one. A copy of this presentation can be found on our YouTube channel from the January 20th meeting. After the presentation, Director Welcher gave a quick summary that this is information only right now. Director Welcher asked the Board if they had any questions, and they did not.

8. County Manager Report –

County Manager Burton gave some updates. The recreation survey will be posted tonight, after there were no further comments on editing the survey. This survey will run for 30 days. Burton had a follow-up meeting with Ossoff’s office in regard to potential Water/Sewer project, or any other infrastructure project the County may need. They are getting him in contact with someone who handles the transportation side, and Ossoff’s office are handling the economic development side. Water/Sewer projects would fall under the economic development side. A notice of non-compliance was issued for Stagecoach Rd. to the contractor. The contractor returned yesterday to begin working on the identified items, and there is still more work to be done. We will be forcing terms of conditions of the contract, ensuring we get what we asked for. Commissioner Jopling asked if the Recreation Survey will be posted on the website. Burton explained it will be on the website, Facebook, and we will have flyers with a QR code. Commissioner Jopling suggested we put it in the newspaper, and County Manager Burton told him we will put it in the newspaper as well. Vice Chair Wilson asked if there were any updates about the Tires grant. Burton said he attended a teleconference regarding this grant and the initial sign-up period, and this grant will be taken care of.

9. December Budget Report –

A copy of this report can be found in the Agenda Packet.

10. December Financial Report –

A copy of this report can be found in the Agenda Packet.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Consideration to Approve CHIP 2026 Resolution 2026-002

Chairman Beggs reminded the Board that we discussed in December about allowing the Regional Commission to handle our CHIP application this year. We have signed the letter of agreement to commit to this. This resolution is to authorize the actual application to the Regional Commission. The application fee is \$1000. Chairman Beggs added that this is rehabilitation for existing housing only. Clerk Goodyear has started a list of anyone who is interested in this, and she will get it to the Regional Commission.

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve the CHIP 2026 Resolution 2026-002. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

12. Consideration to Approve LMIG Road List for 2026

County Manager Burton told the Board in front of them was the list the consultant engineer came up with to create the possible application for LMIG through GDOT. We are poised to get approximately \$631,000 out of LMIG and then the balance we would use out of the Global Allocation in TSPLOST. We are looking at around 2.86 million for the five roads listed. Burton asked the Board to turn their attention to the last road, Old Washington Rd, and that over the years there has been discussion that a portion is in the city and a portion is in the County. Burton said he will talk to the city about covering the city part. There was a change order this year on our existing contract for Bowden Pond Rd to have patching done. If it can get done, we can remove it from the 2026 list and apply the funds elsewhere. Chairman Beggs asked if we could amend the list later if need be. Commissioner Jopling mentioned the list they have is usually longer than this. Burton reminded the Board that at the last meeting he presented them with the long list of roads, and since the Transportation Plan has not been adopted yet, we don't have a mechanism to rank these roads. That was why we had Atlas to come up with the roads they thought needed the most attention. From here on out the plan is to use the Transportation Plan to rank the roads in the County that need to be paved. Burton expects to come back this year and asks to expend some of our funds on rehabilitation of more roads. The LMIG request is due by February 1st. Chairman Beggs pointed out that the mileage on these roads is much longer than roads in previous years that were in neighborhoods. These roads are spread out through the County. Vice Chair Wilson mentioned these roads are all in the same District. Chairman Beggs reminded the Board that Atlas reviewed the long list of roads, and these five are the roads that needed attention first.

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve the 2026 LMIG Road list with the understanding the list can be amended at a later date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

13. Consideration to name the new school road, Bulldog Way

Chairman Beggs said this road has been being referred to as School Drive and needs to be named so they can have an address. For 911 purposes this road needs a name. The school says Bulldog Way is suitable for them.

Vice Chairman Wilson made a motion to approve naming new school road, Bulldog Way. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

14. Consideration to Approve VOCA Grant Resolution 2026-003

Chairman Beggs reminded the Board this is the VOCA grant we approve annually for the Victims Assistant Program. These are federal funds in the amount of \$138,401.00 and the District Attorney's

office handles the reporting and the funds.

Vice Chair Wilson made a motion to approve the VOCA Grant Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL

Enter: Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to enter executive session at 7:13 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

Exit: Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to exit executive session at 7:45 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

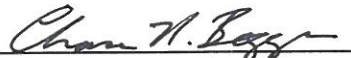
ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION (if any)

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Hollimon to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:46 pm. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Wilson and passed unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Chase N. Beggs, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Ashtyn L. Goodyear, County Clerk