



MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Joint Called Work Session with the
Town of Dearing and City of Thomson
Saturday, January 29, 2026 at 9:00 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/CITY REPRESENTATION:

Brandon Burton, County Manager
Ashtyn Goodyear, County Clerk
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Robert Spurlin, IT Director
John Waller, City Admin

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

Ed Darby, Mayor
Scott Whittle
Alton Belton
Elaine Johnson
Charlie Bowles
Chauncy Ivey

TOWN OF DEARING REPRESENTATION:

Alan Axon, Mayor
Jennifer Perkins, Town of Dearing Clerk

MEDIA: McDuffie Progress

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beggs called the meeting to order at 9:12 am, acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Favors offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

1. Agenda (Current)

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

NEW BUSINESS

2. SPLOST VIII

The purpose of this joint work session is to discuss the needs of each entity for SPLOST VIII. The estimated amount of this SPLOST is \$35 million. Chairman Beggs gave the floor to County Manager Burton. Burton went through the County's SPLOST VIII wish list. A copy of this list can be found in the Agenda Packet. Interim City Administrator John Waller went over the City's wish list and how we could split these funds. He suggested we do this by population, if we went by the population percentage and the amount of the estimated SPLOST, the city would receive \$11.2 million to spend. This is how he calculated his base line. Waller broke this down into two categories, Water/Sewer and Other. The water/sewer projects are estimated at almost 20 million. Waller explained that if they spend \$4 million

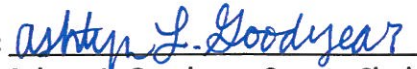
on a sewer lift system, it will save the city time and money. As of right now, they have the capability in the plant, there is 60% remaining capacity. The issue is getting the sewage from where it's being generated to the plant. There are 19 lift stations throughout the system, and 4 of those were built in the 80's. The discussion was then had about the 50/50 services shared between the city and the county. It appeared the entities agreed that we need to sit down and revisit our shared services. Burton believes that if we are 50/50 for the Water/Sewer and pay money into a system we have no control over, that we need to revisit this. Mayor Darby said this doesn't sound like a 50/50 shared service. The water-sewer commission is how the County has input for the water/sewer, Waller explained. The Airport is another topic that needs to be discussed. These agreements were made years ago, and some do not have agreements that can be found anymore. Chairman Beggs mentioned he thinks the city and county are both too small to nickel and dime each other. Commissioner Jopling gave the opinion of other departments that we have shared that the city does not pay for. Waller agreed with this. City Councilman Belton said that he believes no one is saying we do not need to work together, that we need to sit down and re visit these matters, and have written agreements. Town of Dearing would like to use the allocated \$400k to fix the walking track at the playground in Dearing, that it has a lot of citizens come to it. The town hall needs a new parking lot and new roof. Both fire stations need a new roof. Mayor Axon said whatever is left can go towards water/sewer.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by City Councilman Whittle to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:14 am. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

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Chase N. Beggs, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Ashtyn L. Goodyear, County Clerk