



MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 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
Paul Johnson, Coroner
Leslie Walker, Community Development Planner

MEDIA: McDuffie Progress

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. **Alcohol License for Crawford Double O' Farm, LLC**
There were no public comments regarding this matter.

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

Rev. Ricky Battle with Kingdom Generation International Ministries offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT

No one signed up for public input

APPROVALS

2. **Agenda (Current)**

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

3. **Minutes**

Work Session – February 2, 2026

Regular Session – February 4, 2026

Executive Session – February 4, 2026

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

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. 2026 ACCG Capitol Connection Conference – March 4-5, 2026
5. Community listening session is February 18, 2026, at 8:30 am and 6:00pm. The morning session is at the Thomson Depot; the evening session is at the Thomson-McDuffie Middle School cafeteria.
6. Spring sports registration

STAFF REPORTS

7. County Manager Report –

Mr. Burton informed the board that we were awarded the Tire grant, and we are looking to participate three days for trash cleaning up days. The total amount of this grant is about \$2500. They indicated that if we go over this amount that it is capped for the year around \$50,000. Recreation survey ends February 20, 2026. The new Chief Tax Appraiser begins April 6th. She is from Liberty County and has a bachelor's degree in accounting and an MBA and has served as a deputy appraiser for many years and is highly recommended. Permit Clerk is going through the pre-employment process, and we hope to extend an offer this week. The Community Development Director is planned to start March 1st. This person is a registered civil engineer and has many years of planning and land development experience.

8. Budget Report –

Director Workman gave a budget report for January 2026. A copy of this report can be found in the agenda packet.

9. Financial Report –

Director Workman gave a financial report for January 2026. A copy of this report can be found in the agenda packet.

NEW BUSINESS

10. **Consideration to Approve Crawford Double O' Farm, LLC Alcohol License**

Leslie Walker presented this consideration. Vanessa Crawford, the owner of this business, has applied for an alcohol license on her farm. The citizen has passed all requirements.

Vice Chair Wilson made a motion to approve this alcohol license. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

11. **Consideration to Award Solid Waste RFP**

County Manager Burton presented this consideration. We had two proposals that were sent in. Republic Services and Waste Management. Republic Services references were pleased with the simplicity in dealing with the company the simple cost structure. Republic was the lower bid and provided all requirements in the RFP. Republic does not require a minimum tonnage, nor does it include any escalators other than CPI.

Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to approve this RFP. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

12. **Consideration to Approve Homestead Exemption**

County Manager Burton presented this consideration. The applicant requested to be reimbursed for years of taxes paid, however, OCGA only provides for a 3-year lookback. The applicant's husband qualified for a disabled veterans discount. The Board of Assessors has approved the homestead exemption for this applicant.

Commissioner Favors made a motion to approve this reimbursement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

13. Consideration to Approve TIA Agreement – Samuels Road

County Manager Burton presented this consideration. This is a budgeted item for engineering in FY26 under TSPLOST. This will contract GDOT and the County to continue the design and construction for Samuels Road. This is to relocate the piece of road near Sterling Wells, so citizens are not traveling through the industrial site.

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

Consideration to Approve Resolution 2026-005

Resolution 2026-005 is attached to the end of the TIA agreement. This resolution should have been listed separately for approval on the agenda but was not.

Vice Chair Wilson made a motion to approve resolution 2026-005. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

14. Consideration to Award Raysville Fire Station Upfit

County Manager Burton presented this consideration. This project was advertised to complete the interior buildout of the existing Raysville Fire Station. The County received numerous bids for this project. This project will be funded by SPLOST. One to close out SPLOST V, with the remaining from SPLOST VI and VII. Staff recommend that this contract be awarded to B&S Building Ventures in the amount of \$198,875.00.

Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to award this bid for the Raysville Fire Station upfit. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Wilson and passed unanimously.

15. SPLOST VIII IGA and Project List

County Manager Burton presented this agenda item. We are looking at 21.2 million for the county in funds. A list of proposed projects can be found in the agenda packet. Chairman Beggs said the public had some confusion on the \$40 million SPLOST VIII number and where this came from – which was originated from budget planning and request from all departments. This number given tonight is more realistic about what we will receive. The original list has been condensed to fit the 21.2 million budget. Commissioner Jopling had some questions about some of the items, and how they may be underfunded. Chairman Beggs said we are also looking to have some state funds possibly that will help with some of these items on our list. The SPLOST VIII list is due to Phyllis by March 6th. We will have a called meeting due to our Regular meeting being cancelled for an ACCG conference.

No action was taken.

16. Baseball Tower Exterior Repair

County Manager Burton presented this agenda item. This is the first portion of the baseball tower renovation. This first phase will seal the exterior envelope. Once this work is completed and the exterior is sealed, the renovations of the interior can be completed. The interior will have some reconfiguration to maximize space and bring facilities into ADA and other code compliance.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PROPERTY

Enter: Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to enter executive session at 7:05 pm. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

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

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION (if any)

17. Consideration to Authorize the County Manager to Proceed with Surplus Property on White Oak Rd

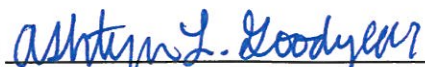
Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to authorize proceeding with surplus property on White Oak Rd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:17 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Chase N. Beggs, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Ashtyn L. Goodyear, County Clerk

**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 Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

2.

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

3.

The executive session was called to order at 7:05 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:

_____ 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 17th day of February 2026.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of
February 2026.

Ashtyn Goodyear
Ashtyn Goodyear, County Clerk

Notary Public

My commission expires: June 17, 2029

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Cham N. Beggs Chairman

Sammie Wilson Sr. Vice Chairman

Fred Favors Commissioner

Wm Jopling Commissioner

Steven Hollimon Commissioner