



MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:30 PM
Historic Court House
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
Chief Sewell, FIRE/EMS
Leslie Walker, Community Development Planner
Catherine Kirby, Animal Shelter Director
Paul Johnson, Coroner

MEDIA: McDuffie Progress

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Application for Alcohol License for 1520 Liquor Store, LLC – 1520 Harrison Road, Thomson, GA 30824.
No comments
2. Application for Alcohol License for 1798 Food & Gas, LLC – 1798 Warrenton Hwy., Thomson, GA 30824
No comments
3. Application for Alcohol License for 1798 Package Store, LLC – 1798 Warrenton Hwy., Thomson, GA 30824
No comments

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beggs called the meeting to order at 6:32pm and acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Beggs offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Jessica Rowland – Mrs. Rowland thanked the Board of Commissioners for their time tonight. She gave a background of who she is and what she represents. She is in the business of rehabilitating wildlife animals. This is not a zoo or business that is used for entertainment, it is a non-profit organization. Mrs. Rowland asked the crowd to stand if they were in support of this wildlife conservation, and many people stood. Once provisions are made in the County, she would like to spend her own money to create a private road, so this property is not land locked. She is in need of separating these lots due to insurance and liability reasons. If this is not approved, the wildlife conservation will not be able to move forward. Mrs. Rowland concluded by quoting the conservation's mission statement.
- Leonard Hennessy –
Mr. Hennessy introduced himself as a political candidate. He was asked to leave, due to this not being allowed at commission meetings.

APPROVALS

4. Acknowledgement of meeting location change

Chairman Beggs asked for a motion to acknowledge the meeting location change, due to elections using the Commissioner's meeting room to count ballots. A motion was made by Commissioner Hollimon to acknowledge this location change. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Wilson and passed unanimously.

5. Agenda (Current)

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

6. Minutes

Work Session – May 4, 2026

Regular Session – May 6, 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 Vice Chair Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. Stephanie Walker presented the awards they won at the Senior Center, and the Board took a picture with her and her awards.
8. Public Works Week is May 17-23, 2026, Chairman Beggs read the resolution recognizing this.
9. Emergency Medical Services Week is May 17-23, 2026, Chairman Beggs read a resolution recognizing this and the Board took a picture with the fire-fighters.

STAFF REPORTS

10. County Manager Report –

County Manager Burton stated that the interns are to begin in June, and we will have one intern in Community Development and one in the admin office. GDOT has sent Mr. Burton information on the bridge program. The landscaping RFP and Rock House RFQ are still under review. Mr. Burton is working on a scope of work for Eubanks Park to have some repairs done to the building.

11. Budget Report –

A copy of this report can be found in the agenda packet.

12. Financial Report -

A copy of this report can be found in the agenda packet.

OLD BUSINESS

13. Consideration to Approve Variance to permit further subdivision of the subject property within the R-2 zoning district and allow the use of an existing easement to serve multiple lots. 603 Margarets Rd. Parcel ID 00520078

Mr. Walker stated the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the split of the property, and to deny recognizing the private road.

Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously

14. Consideration to Approve Road List for LMIG and LRA 2026

County Manager Burton stated that his recommendation along with ATLAS is to keep the same list of roads that were presented before. Chairman Beggs stated that Vice Chair Wilson was wanting more roads in the Cherokee area to be repaired, but studies show these roads are not in need compared to others in the county. We are planning to apply for a grant to try and help the Cherokee area. The following represents the recommended and revised road lists for 2026 LMIG and LRA programs.

<u>Road Name</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Hillman Gay	2.3	\$ 575,000.00
Lokey	0.89	\$ 223,000.00
Wildwood	0.17	\$ 42,500.00
Old Wire	0.55	\$ 137,500.00
Earle	0.3	\$ 75,000.00
Pylant Crossing	0.4	\$ 100,000.00
Star Hinson	0.88	\$ 220,000.00
	5.49	\$1,373,000.00

The following is breakdown of funding. TSPLOST is used for the 10% required local match for LMIG.

\$631,877.85	LMIG
\$681,171.69	LRA
<u>\$ 63,187.79</u>	TSPLOST

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve the road list for LMIG and LRA 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously

15. Consideration to Approve work to Rousseau Creek Boat Ramp

The Army Corps does not want to help with the cost of repairing this boat ramp. Mr. Burton stated we are looking at \$10-15k to repair the ramp and have appropriate signage.

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve spending \$15,000 from the campground enterprise to work on the Rousseau Creek boat ramp. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

16. Consideration to Approve Application for Alcohol License for 1520 Liquor Store, LLC – 1520 Harrison Road, Thomson, GA 30824.

Mr. Walker presented all 3 applications. These applications are all submitted by the same person. The person has done everything correctly to obtain an alcohol license.

Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to approve all 3 applications for an alcohol license. The

motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously

17. Consideration to Approve Application for Alcohol License for 1798 Food & Gas, LLC – 1798 Warrenton Hwy., Thomson, GA 30824

Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to approve all 3 applications for an alcohol license. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously

18. Consideration to Approve Application for Alcohol License for 1798 Package Store, LLC – 1798 Warrenton Hwy., Thomson, GA 30824

Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to approve all 3 applications for an alcohol license. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously

19. Consideration to Approve Change Order #3 for Sweetwater Baseball Tower

The work at the Sweetwater Baseball Tower has run into some electrical issues. This change order is for \$23,425.15.

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve Change Order #3. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Wilson and passed unanimously.

20. Consideration to Approve Health Insurance Renewal

Andy Knox Jr. gave a presentation on our insurance renewal. These documents to compare companies can be found in the agenda packet. Majority of the employees are not happy with the current provider, Crumdale, and wish to have Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to transfer to BCBS and discuss further at work session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollimon and passed unanimously.

21. Consideration to Approve Change Order #2 for Blind Willie McTell Downtown Park

County Manager Burton stated that this change order consists of demolition of existing clay storm, underground slabs, and unsuitable soils. Along with additional excavation, stone, geo-fabric to bridge unsuitable soils, rebuild building pad, and re-excavate footers. Mr. Burton asked the city if they could contribute approximately \$50,000 towards this project due to it being a gas line that was not marked. Mr. Burton has worked on the numbers to try and work down the cost of this project, due to it being over budget.

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

22. Consideration to Approve CSRA EOA Subcontract Agreement

FY 2026 CSRA EOA Subcontract Agreement first awarded \$10,000 to McDuffie County Senior Center but, they received the Amended contract from the state, so they were able to award McDuffie County Senior Center \$20,000. This new contract is replacing the old one for FY 2026.

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

23. Consideration to Approve Dog and Cat Sterilization Program Grant

Animal Shelter Director Catherine Kirby wants to apply for this grant to help with spaying the community's pets.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PROPERTY

Enter: Vice Chair Wilson made a motion to enter executive session at 7:40pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

Exit: Commissioner Hollimon made a motion to exit executive session at 7:52pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION (if any)

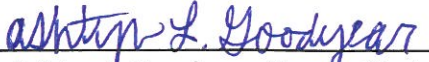
No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Hollimon to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:52pm. 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