

June 3, 2025

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Walton County Courthouse. Those participating in the meeting included Chairman David Thompson, Commissioners Bo Warren, Pete Myers, Timmy Shelnett, Lee Bradford, Jeremy Adams and Kirklyn Dixon, County Clerk Rhonda Hawk, County Manager John Ward, Planning Director Charna Parker, Finance Director Jennifer Wall, PIO Ben Hammond, Major Scott Whisnant, Fire Chief Kevin Haney and County Attorney Chip Ferguson. A list of employees and citizens in attendance at the meeting is on file in the auxiliary file under this meeting date.

PRESENTATIONS

Carl Morrow and Joseph Whelchel recognized members of the Walton Citizen Corps Council and thanked them for their service. EMS Director Ronnie Almand recognized Josh Mobley for his leadership.

MEETING OPENING

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Shelnett gave the invocation.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

***Motion:** Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams to adopt the agenda deleting Item 4, Proclamations, as there were no proclamations to be presented. All voted in favor.*

DISCUSSION

County Manager's Report/Update

County Manager John Ward gave an update and report on county matters to the Board.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning Director Charna Parker presented the Planning Commission recommendations.

CU25-0120 - Conditional Use for outside storage - Applicants/Owners: Thomas Alan & Susan Atha - property located at 5395 Hwy. 20 & McCullers Road/Map/Parcel C0080003 - District 2

Planning Commission recommended approval with conditions: 1) Only empty dumpsters to be on site; 2) no transfer station allowed; 3) no cleaning of dumpsters on site; 4) only C&D dumpsters can be used; 5) no more than 30 dumpsters stored on site at a time; 6) no dumpsters can be removed past 7:00 p.m.; 7) hours to be 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened a public hearing on the matter. Applicant Alan Atha spoke in favor of the conditional use. There was no opposition present. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve per the Planning Commission recommendations. Commissioner Shelnutt seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Z25-0148 - Rezone 2.0 acres from A2 to B3 for towing company & vehicle storage - Applicant: Jody Whitlock/Owner: Jody & Ted Whitlock - property located at 3275 Broadnax Mill Road/Parcel C0440003 - District 1

Planning Commission recommended approval with condition: Evergreen plantings around the perimeter.

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened a public hearing on the matter. Applicant Ted Whitlock spoke in favor. There was no opposition present. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve per the Planning Commission recommendation. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Z25-0153 - Rezone 7.52 acres from A1 to A for commercial kennel with Variance - Applicant/Owner: Michelle Brooks - property located at 689 Gene Bell Road/Parcel C1660006 - District 6

Planning Commission recommended approval as submitted.

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened a public hearing on the matter. Applicant Michelle Brooks spoke in favor. There was no opposition present. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: Commissioner Dixon made a motion to approve per the Planning Commission recommendation and that it be for a kennel only with no boarding allowed. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

CU25-0157 & Z25-0158 - Rezone 1.0 acre from A1 to B2 for minor auto repair and Conditional Use for outside storage, Variance to reduce transitional buffer on easterly side from 50' to 25'- Applicant: Michael Greenlee/Owner: Emily Jamshedi - property located at 5495 Hwy. 20 & Lance Ct./Parcel C0070004 - District 2

Planning Commission recommended approval with the following conditions: 1) Fencing and evergreens around property; 2) proper lighting inward and downward; 3) fencing to be kept in good repair and if the evergreens die, they will be replaced in a timely manner.

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened a public hearing on the matter. Applicant Michael Greenlee spoke in favor. There was no opposition present. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve per the Planning Commission recommendations. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

OA25-0159 - Amendments to the Walton County Land Development Ordinance as per amendment sheet dated 4/1/2025.

Amendment #1 - Chapter 18 Article II, Occupation Taxes, Section 18-33 to remove the amount of the "fee."

Amendment #2 - Amendment to Chapter 18, Article III to remove fee amount.

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened a public hearing on the matter. There was no one present to speak. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve amendment #1 and amendment #2. Commissioner Shelnutt seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Amendment #3 - Article 5, Part 5-1, Section 5-1-100, Personal Care Services

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened a public hearing on the matter. There was no one present to speak. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve amendment #3. All voted in favor.

Amendment #4 - Section 6-1-110 Airstrip, Helipad Private (9)

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened a public hearing on the matter. There was no one present to speak. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve amendment #4. All voted in favor.

Amendment #5 - Section 4-2-170 Cornish Creek, Beaver dam Creek Watershed & Hard Labor Creek Overlay Protection District (W-P2)

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened a public hearing on the matter. There was no one present to speak. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: Commissioner Shelnutt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve amendment #5. All voted in favor.

Right of Way Acceptance - Arrington Woods Subdivision

Motion: Commissioner Shelnutt made a motion to accept the Right of Way of Arrington Woods Subdivision. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

Adoption Resolution - Capital Improvements Element Annual Update

Attorney Chip Ferguson opened a public hearing on the matter. There was no one present to speak. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shelnett to adopt the Capital Improvements element Annual Update. All voted in favor.

Finance Director Jennifer Wall presented FY25 Budget Amendments.

FY25 Budget Amendment

Motion: Commissioner Shelnett made a motion, seconded by Chairman Thompson to approve the FY25 Budget Amendments. All voted in favor.

Authorizing Chairman to amend the FY25 Budget as part of the fiscal year closing process

Motion: Commissioner Dixon made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Chairman to amend the FY25 budget as part of the fiscal year closing process. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE

Ordinance Amendment - Amending Chapter 34, Article III, Section 34-33 regarding the rules for Hard Labor Creek Reservoir

Motion: Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shelnett to approve the ordinance amendment updating the rules for Hard Labor Creek Reservoir. All voted in favor.

Ordinance Amendment - Polling Places

Motion: Commissioner Shelnett made a motion to approve the ordinance amendment giving the Board of Elections authority to designate polling place locations. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of May 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes
2. Contracts & Budgeted Purchases of \$25000 or Greater
3. Declaration of Surplus - Vehicles
4. Approval of Uncollectable Property - Tax Commissioner
5. Walton County Water - 2025 Water Charge Offs
6. Agreement Renewal - Department of the Navy - Lease of Night Vision Equipment - Sheriff's Office
7. Acceptance of donation - Deputies Beyond the Badge - Armored Vehicle - Sheriff's Office
8. Request to Surplus and Transfer Multipurpose K9 - Sheriff's Office

Motion: Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to approve the Administrative Consent Agenda. All voted in favor.

CONTRACTS

CGI Digital Agreement - Community Showcase Video Program

Motion: Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the contract with CGI Digital. All voted in favor.

AT&T Master Agreement - Upgrade E911 Equipment and Software

Motion: Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Warren to table the matter. Major Scott Whisnant explained that the agreement was necessary for the equipment already purchased and he believed the cost to be \$21,500.14 per year. Commissioner Dixon withdrew his motion, Commissioner Warren withdrew his second. Commissioner Dixon made a motion to approve the agreement provided that the cost was accurate. Commissioner Shelnut seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Mutual Aid Agreement with Rockdale County - Walton Co. Fire Rescue (updated)

Motion: Commissioner Bradford made a motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with Rockdale County. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bradford, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

All documents of record for this meeting are on file in either the addendum book or auxiliary file under this meeting date.

DAVID G. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN

RHONDA HAWK, COUNTY CLERK