

October 7, 2025

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Walton County Courthouse. Those participating in the meeting included Chairman David Thompson, Commissioners Amarie Warren, Pete Myers, Timmy Shelnett, Lee Bradford (via telephone), Jeremy Adams and Kirklyn Dixon, County Clerk Rhonda Hawk, County Manager John Ward, Planning Director Charna Parker, Assistant Planning Director Kristi Parr 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**

Judge Bruce Wright performed the swearing in of Amarie Warren, District 1 Commissioner.

County Manager John Ward recognized John Timothy Lyle, Investigator, on his retirement.

## **MEETING OPENING**

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Shelnett gave the invocation.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Thompson asked that the agenda be amended removing Item 6.2 Impact Fee Advisory Committee and Item 9.1 Appointments to Walton County Hospital Authority.

Motion: *Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the agenda removing Item 6.2 and 9.1. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion and all voted in favor.*

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

Chairman Thompson proclaimed the following: Lung Cancer Awareness Month (November), Retired Educators Day and Southern Metalcraft, 2025 Industry of the Year.

## **DISCUSSION**

### County Manager's Report/Update

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

## **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Asst. Planning Director Krista Parr presented the Planning Commission recommendation.

Z-25-0283 - Rezone 3.90 acres from R1 to A to have animals and possibly sell them - Applicant:

Carlos Barahona - Owners: Anita and Arash Panjwani and Cinthia Santos Diaz - property located at 2487 Johnson Road - Map/Parcel C0100016 - District 2

*Planning Commission recommended denial.*

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened the public hearing on the matter. C. J. Hipp-Barros spoke on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Barahona would like to keep chickens on the property. Ms. C. J. Hipp-Barros stated that she is his neighbor and has no problem with the chickens. Lawrence Bowman spoke in opposition. He lives next door and said there were already at least 50 chickens on the property. Ryan Nesbit and Ralph Hester also spoke in opposition citing their concerns over property values and the area not being a farming community. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Myers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shelnett to accept the Planning Commission recommendation to deny the rezone and give him 30 days to remove the chickens since it is not allowed in the current zoning. Commissioners Warren, Myers, Shelnett, Bradford, Adams and Dixon voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Thompson opposed the motion. The motion carried 6-1.*

## **ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of September 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes
2. Contracts & Budgeted Purchases of \$25,000 or Greater
3. Declaration of Surplus
4. VOCA Grant Renewal - District Attorney's Office - \$89,964.00
5. Grant Application - Firehouse Subs - Walton Co. Fire Rescue for Digital Fire Extinguisher Training System \$14,632.00
6. Acceptance of Grant for Juvenile Court - \$99,673.00 - Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for Children in Need of Services - Truancy Intervention Program

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

## **CONTRACTS**

IGA - Court Reporter Compensation - Alcovy Judicial Circuit

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the IGA with the Alcovy Judicial Circuit subject to final review by the County Attorney. All voted in favor.*

Watch Systems, LLC - OffenderWatch Database - WCSO (subject to County Attorney review)

***Motion:*** *Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the software agreement with Watch Systems, LLC subject to final review by the County Attorney. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.*

Proposal and Sales Agreement - Williams Fire Apparatus - Lease Purchase Agreement with Leasing 2, Inc. to finance and purchase Sutphen SPH100 Ladder Truck and Resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into the Lease Purchase Agreement in the amount of \$2,131,822.99, for 5 Years - \$489,055.68 annual cost

**Motion:** *Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the Sales Agreement, Lease Purchase Agreement and Resolution authorizing Chairman Thompson to enter into the Lease Purchase Agreement with Leasing 2, Inc. to finance the purchase of a Sutphen Ladder Truck SPH100 in the total amount of \$2,131,922.99 from Williams Fire Apparatus, subject to review by the County Attorney. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion and all voted in favor.*

Georgia DOT Request for Financial Commitment (\$75,000) - Local Bridge Replacement - Dewey Hogan Road over W. Chickamauga Creek

**Motion:** *Commissioner Shelnett made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the funding in the amount of \$75,000. All voted in favor.*

Professional Services Agreement - Break the Cycle Counseling & Consulting, LLC - Grant Administration - Juvenile Court (subject to Co. Attorney review)

**Motion:** *Commissioner Shelnett made a motion to approve the agreement with Break the Cycle Counseling & Consulting, LLC for grant administration for Juvenile Court subject to final review by the County Attorney. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeremy Powers spoke during public comment.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:** *At 6:52 p.m., Commissioner Adams made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss economic development. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion and all voted in favor.*

**Motion:** *At 7:26 p.m., Commissioner Dixon made a motion to return to regular session. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion and all voted in favor. There were no votes taken in executive session.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** *Commissioner Warren made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.*

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

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DAVID G. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN

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RHONDA HAWK, COUNTY CLERK