

May 5, 2026

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 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, Jeremy Adams and Kirklyn Dixon, County Clerk Rhonda Hawk, County Manager John Ward, Planning Director Kristi Parr, Finance Director Jennifer Wall, 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**

Count Manager John Ward recognized Jay Malcom and William Wynne, Jr upon their retirement from Walton County.

## **MEETING OPENING**

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Shelnett gave the invocation.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** *Commissioner Shelnett made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Warren, to adopt the agenda. All district commissioners 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 & Development Director Kristi Parr presented the Planning Commission recommendations.

Z26-0046 - Rezone 1.808 acres from A1 to A2 to create a buildable lot - Applicant: Dorin Cret/Owner: Dimitrie Ilisei - property located on Bold Springs Road - Map/Parcel C0860013F00 - District 5

*Planning Commission recommended approval as submitted.*

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened the public hearing on the matter. Applicant Dorin Cret spoke in favor of the rezone request. There was no opposition present. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

**Motion:** Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the rezone per the Planning Commission. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion and all district commissioners voted in favor.

Z26-0054 - Rezone 11.50 acres from A1/A2/R1 to B1 for a convenience store with gasoline stations, retail & quick service restaurants, public golf range and a variance to encroach into the 75' stream buffer - Applicant: Reed Creek Food Mart, LLC/Owner: James William Burson, II - property located at 2069 Highway 11 and Mountain Creek Church Road - Map/Parcel C0860040 - District 6

*Planning Commission recommended approval as submitted including the variance requested.*

County Attorney Chip Ferguson opened the public hearing on the matter. Marissa Bridges of LJI Engineering presented the project plans and traffic engineering study. The development will house a gasoline station, retail space and a driving range. They are working with GDOT and believe the proposed project will help to alleviate some of the problems with the intersection and be an asset to the community. Billy Mitchell also spoke in favor on behalf of Jackie and Bill Burson. Bruce Trask and Jon Hall spoke in opposition citing safety concerns at the intersection. In rebuttal, Terry Boomer a former traffic engineer and current land development engineer stated they've gone over the plan in great length with GDOT and will continue mitigating concerns as much as they have control over. Attorney Ferguson closed the public hearing on the matter.

**Motion:** Commissioner Dixon made a motion to approve the rezone and variance per the following conditions: 1) approvals from GDOT and planning studies be adhered to and to work with GDOT and the County so to make every effort to improve the area intersection, 2) driving range to have proper netting, 3) retail space to have no smoke shops, no tattoo parlors, no vape shops or adult novelty shops nor hookah lounges and these restrictions to be for life, 4) no stucco, buildings to be brick as presented. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion. Commissioners Warren, Myers, Shelnett, Adams and Dixon voted in favor with Commissioner Bradford opposing the motion. The motion carried 5-1.

#### Annexation Request - City of Social Circle

**Motion:** Commissioner Warren made a motion not to object to the request. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion and all district commissioners voted in favor.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of April 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes
2. Contracts & Budgeted Purchases of \$25,000 or Greater
3. IGA - City of Loganville Independence Celebration at West Walton Park

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

#### **FINANCE**

## Presentation of Proposed FY27 Budget Highlights

County Manager John Ward and Finance Director Jennifer Wall presented highlights of the FY27 proposed budget. The proposed budget assumes a county-wide millage rate of 12.278 which is unchanged from FY26.

## Resolution - Project Length Budget - 2026 LRA & SPLOST V Resurfacing

**Motion:** Commissioner Shelnett made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams to adopt the Resolution and Project Length Budget for the 2026 LRA and SPLOST V Resurfacing projects. All district commissioners voted in favor.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### 2026 Benefits Renewal - MSI Benefits

**Motion:** Commissioner Adams made a motion seconded by Commissioner Myers to approve the benefits renewal for 2026 with MSI Benefits. All district commissioners voted in favor.

## **CONTRACTS**

### Brycer Compliance Engine Software - Fire Marshal Code Compliance

Fire Marshall Johnathan Fuqua presented a contract for software from Brycer Compliance Engine Software to be used to track fire marshal code compliance at no cost to the county.

**Motion:** Commissioner Bradford made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shelnett to approve the contract subject to review by the County Attorney. All district commissioners voted in favor.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS/PROPOSALS**

### Acceptance of Bid - Demolition and Site Clearance of County-Owned Residential Structures

**Motion:** Commissioner Dixon made a motion to accept the low bid from RLC Farms, LLC in the amount of \$26,587.00 as presented by Facilities Director Hank Shirley. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and all district commissioners voted in favor.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### Northeast Ga. Region 10 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council

**Motion:** Chairman Thomspson made a motion to reappoint Ronnie Almand to the NEGA Region 10 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. Commissioner Bradford seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion:*** Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Warren, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 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