

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting  
July 8, 2025  
Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia. Chairman Perdue presided, and Commissioners Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton were present. County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Operations, and Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar were also present. Commissioner Byrd was not in attendance.

Chairman Perdue gave the invocation.

Commissioner Gottwals led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Mike Doubleday, Director of the 402nd Software Engineering Group (SWEG), shared insights from his 36-year career at Robins Air Force Base, which began in 1989. Throughout his time at Robins, he has held 11 different positions across the base. Mr. Doubleday highlighted the mission of the 402nd SWEG in supporting military readiness by maintaining and enhancing various aircraft's computer and navigation systems. He also discussed ongoing recruitment efforts to attract engineering talent from universities across the southeast, as well as local outreach through the Project Synergy program in collaboration with area high schools.

Each Commissioner expressed their appreciation to Mr. Doubleday for the work that he and those who serve with him in the 402nd Software Engineering Group do daily in support of our military personnel and for the sensitive matters and roles that they take on.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2025, meeting. Upon voting Mr. Talton, Mr. Gottwals, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

As an update to the published agenda, Chairman Perdue stated that Commissioner Talton would be recusing himself from agenda item #5 and that Commissioner Robinson would make the motion.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2854 through #2857, #2859, and #2860.

Chairman Perdue closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened a Public Hearing.

Applicant #2854 was present; there was no opposition.  
Applicant #2855 was present; there was no opposition.  
Applicant #2856 was present; there was no opposition.  
Applicant #2857 was present; there was no opposition.  
Applicant #2859 was present; there was no opposition.  
Applicant #2860 was present; there was no opposition.

There being no comments, Chairman Perdue closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

County Attorney Tom Hall made a blanket statement for the benefit of all applicants for Special Exceptions for home occupations: even if the Board of Commissioners approves an application, neighborhood covenants may still impose certain restrictions upon or against home businesses. These restrictive covenants are not superseded by any action taken by the Board of Commissioners. The actions taken by the Board will not change any provision within the covenant that prohibits any commercial or business activity.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 530

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve the following Special Exception Applications to include any and all stipulations as noted on the Zoning & Appeals recommendation and Section 95 Requirements staff report:

#2854	Brian & Tiffany Hubbard	Photography Business
#2855	George Pena-Labrada	Fencing Business
#2856	Jacqueline Stewart	Consulting Business
#2857	Abigail Williams	Event Planning
#2859	Lonnie Owens & Laquanda Robinson	Construction Consulting
#2860	Micah Crews	Lawn Care Business

Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Andrews informed the approved applicants that the next step in obtaining their business license was to apply at the Commissioner's Office.

Mr. Talton presented a request from Mark King, owner of 201 Oak Street and 503 Third Street in Elko, Georgia, to abandon the unnamed unimproved alleyway that traverses between the two properties.

Chairman Perdue closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened a Public Hearing.

There being no comments, Chairman Perdue closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve Mr. King's request and the signing of a Resolution of Right-of-Way Abandonment. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Mr. Gottwals, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue mentioned that a map of downtown Elko shows many alleyways that were planned but never developed, and this property is one of them. He further explained that since Mr. King owns the parcels on either side of the alley, abandoning the right-of-way is simple and allows the property owner to utilize it.

Mr. Talton presented a request for an overhead right-of-way easement on Dunbar Road.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve the signing of a Right of Way Easement with Flint Electric Membership Corporation for an overhead power line on property located on Dunbar Road known as Tax Parcel #0W72B0 004000. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue explained that Flint Energies requested overhead access across County property to provide power to a residential development.

Mr. Talton presented a request for the award of a proposal for the expansion of the Gas Collection and Control System (GCCS) at the Landfill.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve awarding the proposal for the Phase 6, Stages 1A and 2B Gas Collection and Control System expansion to Integrity Environmental Solutions, of Marietta, Georgia, in the amount of \$996,873.75. This project will be funded by Solid Waste Capital Funds. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Mr. Gottwals, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue noted that all Subtitle D landfills, including the County's landfill, must collect methane gas produced from the refuse disposed of there. He explained that after collection, the Houston County Solid Waste Disposal Facility uses large generators that convert the methane into electricity, which is then distributed to the power grid.



Ms. Robinson presented a request to release the maintenance bond for the roads in Riverbend North Subdivision, Phase 2.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve the release of Morris Bank Letter of Credit #410, currently held as a maintenance bond for the roads in Riverbend North Subdivision, Phase 2. Also, to accept the following roads into the County’s Road inventory, establish the official street names, set the speed limits as indicated, and record the total length of each road as follows:

Street Name	Street Length	Speed Limit
Flat Shoals Drive	0.341 mile	25 mph
Sapelo Way	0.104 mile	25 mph
Taccoa Court	0.094 mile	25 mph

Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Gottwals, and Chairman Perdue voted yes, Mr. Talton abstained. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue commented that with one commissioner absent and another abstaining from the vote, he had the rare opportunity to vote. He then thanked Public Works staff for inspecting the roads to ensure they meet County specifications before releasing the maintenance bond.

Mr. Talton presented a request from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to exercise its first option to renew the Wildlife Management Area Agreement.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve renewing the Oaky Woods Wildlife Management Area Lease Agreement between Houston County and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the 2025-2026 hunting season. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to hire poll workers for the Special Primary Democrat Runoff Election.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, to approve hiring the following poll workers for the July 15, 2025 Special Primary Democrat Runoff Election:

		AMOUNT	TOTAL
17	Managers (Precinct)	175.00	2,975.00
34	Assistant Managers (Precinct)	125.00	4,250.00
17	Clerks	115.00	1,955.00
0	Training	25.00	0
0	Training (Backup Workers)	25.00	0
5	Janitors -Schools	15.50	77.50
2	Janitors	25.00	50.00
77	BMD (Ballot Marking Device)	2.00	154.00
1	Election Supply Load Out Help	75.00	75.00
2	Election Night Equipment Return Help	75.00	150.00
2	Election Night Check-In Clerks	75.00	150.00
17	Supply pick-up / return supplies (Managers)	10.00	170.00
17	Cell Phones	10.00	170.00
0	Ballot Scan Clerk	0	0
	TOTAL		10,176.50

Upon voting, Mr. Gottwals, Mr. Talton, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 532

Chairman Perdue commented that this is a statewide Public Service Commission runoff.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant Senior Utility Clerk position in the Water Department.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve hiring Ms. Tess Chambers to fill the vacant Senior Utility Clerk position in the Water Department at a Grade 12 Step C effective July 9, 2025. Upon voting, Mr. Gottwals, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue commented that he was glad to have Ms. Chambers join the County and the Public Works team.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Houston County and the Centerville Police Department.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, to approve signing a Memorandum of Understanding between Houston County and the Centerville Police Department in the amount of \$5,400 for the training of twelve Centerville Police Officers through the Operational Readiness for Police Officers program. This agreement will be funded by the County's opioid settlement special revenue fund. Upon voting, Mr. Gottwals, Mr. Talton, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue mentioned that cities received limited opioid settlement funds and that the County is collaborating with the Centerville Police Department to provide training for their officers.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of a bid on four new Chevrolet Tahoe PPV's for use in the Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve the bid from Donohoo Chevrolet of Fort Payne, Alabama, for the purchase of four Chevrolet Tahoe PPV vehicles at a cost of \$49,900 each, for a total amount of \$199,600. This purchase will be funded by the 2018 SPLOST. Upon voting, Mr. Gottwals, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue thanked Purchasing staff and Sheriff's Department staff for their efforts in locating in-stock vehicles that the County could purchase.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to declare items surplus.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, to approve declaring the following items surplus and list them for sale on GovDeals:

- 40 Dell desktops without hard drives
- 100 Dell monitors
- 2 Manual Stencil Machines

also, to declare the following surplus and be disposed of:

- 8 Golden Eagle Radars
- 1 Stalker Lidar
- 3 Agilent Heartstream FR2 AED units
- 20 Kenwood Analog Office Radios
- 5 Motorola Portable Digital Radios

Upon voting, Mr. Gottwals, Mr. Talton, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.



Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 533

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Houston County School District.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve signing an Intergovernmental Agreement between Houston County and the Houston County School District for reimbursement of costs associated with the construction of a 500-foot turn lane on Kings Chapel Road. The total cost of the improvement shall not exceed \$109,760 and will be funded by 2018 SPLOST. Upon voting, Mr. Gottwals, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue stated that the County and the Board of Education are working together to build a turn lane in front of Kings Chapel Elementary School to improve traffic flow during drop-off and pick-up times.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval to renew a Memorandum of Agreement pursuant to authorities contained in Articles I through III, Chapter 3, Title 38, Official Code of Georgia Annotated, including O.C.G.A. § 38-3-29, specifically.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, to approve the signing and renewal of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, allowing the Houston County Fire Department to remain the host agency for Georgia Search and Rescue Task Team # 4. Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Talton, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue thanked Chief Stoner for his continued work in keeping this GSAR team stationed here in Houston County. He spoke about the recent public safety exercise at Frito-Lay, which saw great participation and cooperation from agencies all over the region.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of Change Order #002 for the Houston County Courthouse Modifications Judges' Chambers project.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve signing final adjusting Change Order #002 for the Houston County Courthouse Modifications - Judges' Chambers project with Parrish Construction Group of Perry, Georgia, resulting in a contract reduction of \$71,243.40. This final change order brings the new Guaranteed Maximum Price to \$866,286.60. Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Gottwals, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue noted that changes to the courthouse were necessary due to the addition of a Superior Court judge. He explained that the project also included general renovations and repairs needed due to the building's age. Chairman Perdue expressed his appreciation to County staff and Parrish Construction for their work and efforts on the project.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to approve Change Order #1 for the Water System Improvements to serve Cemex project.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, to approve the signing Change Order #1 for the Water System Improvements to serve Cemex project with John R. Walker, Inc., of Macon, Georgia, adding 90 calendar days to the contract duration with no change in the contract price of \$2,076,756.89. Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Talton, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue stated this was a change in calendar days, not a price change from the contractor.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 534

Ms. Robinson presented a request to approve the annual Houston County Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) budget letter.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve signing the FY2026 Houston County DFCS budget letter. Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Gottwals, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue recognized DFCS representatives who attended the meeting and invited them to speak.

Senay Marble, Houston County DFCS Director, thanked the Board for approving the budget letter and introduced the staff members who had accompanied her to the meeting.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for the acceptance of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council 2026 Accountability Court Funding Program Houston Mental Health Court Grant.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, to approve acceptance of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Grant #AW-ACFP-26-128-016 in the amount of \$322,993, with required matching funds totaling \$48,449. Upon voting, Ms. Robins, Mr. Talton, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue commented on the great work done by the Accountability Court and thanked Judge Lumsden for her dedication and use of the Court to help those involved.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to renew a professional services contract with IHOPE, Inc., and Houston County.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve signing the renewal of the professional services contract with IHOPE, Inc. The contract has been reviewed and approved by both the Accountability Court and the Contractor. Additionally, the County Attorney's Office has reviewed and approved the agreement. Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Gottwals, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$6,354,006.29. Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Talton, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened Public Comments.

Dr. Daryl Vining thanked the Commissioners for their service and referenced the recent flash flood deaths in Texas. He expressed concern about the need for a traffic light at the intersection of Crestview and Hwy 41, citing increased development and reduced visibility for those attending his nearby church. Dr. Vining concluded by inquiring whether a study had been conducted comparing at-large versus district representation on the Board, and if so, requested a copy.

Mr. Steve Cooper spoke about his concerns on the need for improvements in the Lashley Community.

Mr. Bob Floyd expressed his concerns regarding various issues in the Magistrate Court and highlighted the need for improvements in the Lashley Community.

There being no further comments Chairman Perdue closed Public Comments and asked for Commissioner's comments.



Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 535

Mr. Gottwals thanked everyone for attending the meeting and remarked on the difficulty of watching the news from Texas, emphasizing the need to pray for the families affected.

Mr. Talton commented on the large number of items addressed in the agenda and expressed pride in serving the entire Houston County community. He concluded by thanking those who attended and spoke during public comments on issues important to them.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending and sharing their concerns. She concluded by speaking on the large amount of work covered during the meeting.

Chairman Perdue spoke about the good work done on the lengthy agenda and thanked those involved in its preparation. He expressed appreciation to the representatives from the Houston County DFCS office for attending the meeting. He also commented on the recent change of command ceremony at Robins Air Force Base, noting that Col. Reese is being succeeded by Col. Hemphill as commander of the 78th Air Base Wing. He then acknowledged Commissioner Byrd’s absence, sharing that he and his son are on an extended trip and wished them well. He concluded by thanking Mr. Doubleday for attending and highlighting the important work and support provided by the 402nd Software Engineering Group at Robins.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, to approve adjourning the meeting. Upon voting Mr. Talton, Mr. Gottwals, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Meeting adjourned.

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Robbie Dunbar  
Director of Administration

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Chairman

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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Commissioner  
Commissioner Byrd was not in  
attendance so will not sign  
Commissioner