

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
December 16, 2025
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia. Chairman Perdue presided, and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton were present. County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, and Director of Operations Brian Jones were also present.

Commissioner Byrd led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Perdue gave the invocation.

Ron Grace, a current member of the Tax Assessors Board and former employee of the Houston County Tax Assessor's Office, was recognized for his nearly fifty years of service to the citizens of Houston County.

Houston County Chief Appraiser James Moore spoke of the years of working with Mr. Grace.

Mr. Grace spoke about his years of service in the Tax Assessor's Office and on the Board, noting the many changes over the years. He talked about Houston County and the employees he was proud to have worked with.

Chairman Perdue thanked Ron for his service to the citizens of Houston County through his work both in the Tax Assessor's Office and on the Tax Assessors Board. He recognized those attending who were members of the Tax Assessors Board and the employees in the Tax Assessors Office.

Each Commissioner expressed their thanks to Mr. Grace for his service, commitment, and dedication to the Tax Assessors' Office, the Tax Assessors Board, and to the citizens of Houston County.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2025 meeting.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for the abandonment of an unimproved right-of-way designated as First Avenue in the Lashley Subdivision.

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

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

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of the right-of-way abandonment Resolution and Deed of Abandonment between Houston County and Gaudencio Godinez of Third Street in Bonaire, known as:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 12 of the 11th Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being a portion of unimproved right-of-way designated as First Avenue, situated in the Lashley Subdivision adjacent to Lots 242 and 243, as recorded in Plat Book 35, Page 128, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

This conveyance is subject to any easements for drainage or utilities presently existing within the above-described property.

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Chairman Perdue commented that many alleyways were platted when the Lashley neighborhood was platted, but they have never been used; therefore, this section of the right-of-way will be returned to the landowner.

Mr. Byrd presented a request from the City of Warner Robins for annexation of property located at 1093 Booth Road, Warner Robins, Georgia.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

There being no comments the meeting continued.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to concur with the annexation of property located at 1093 Booth Road, Warner Robins, also known as Tax Parcel 00122A 100000, with the following stipulations:

- The City of Warner Robins entering into an updated infrastructure agreement with Houston County.
- All existing County utilities stay with the County.

The current zoning is County R-4, and the requested zoning is City R-4.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a moratorium on businesses seeking licenses, permits, zoning changes, special use exception and other similar applications for the sale of vape products, low THC oil products, tobacco products, tobacco objects, alternative nicotine products, cannabidiol products, and alcoholic beverages sales, and more specifically the increase in stores that sell these products has shown a need to review and update current ordinances to regulate the sale and locations of these products for the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Houston County.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve signing the resolution placing a moratorium, for one hundred eighty days, on the issuance of licenses, permits and, barring the acceptance of new applications for business licensing, alcoholic beverages licensing, special use exceptions, zoning changes and building permits for new construction of, new opening of, relocations of and installation of stores, shops, and similar facilities that sell or seek to sell vape products, low THC oil products, tobacco products, tobacco objects, alternative nicotine products, cannabidiol products and alcoholic beverage sales in unincorporated Houston County Georgia.

Mr. Talton commented that three applications for businesses of this type in the application process would be given consideration.

Chairman Perdue stated that three business applications were at various stages, with one already approved by the Board and two yet to be determined. He expressed his thanks to Ms. Robinson for pushing this effort, stating that, as the number of these types of stores increases, this moratorium would help address the growing number and give the County time to update its ordinances.

Mr. Byrd advised that he is very much pro-property rights and pro-property business rights but that he agreed with this moratorium. He also stated that he talked with several business owners, workers and customers to get their feedback on the number of these types of businesses and everyone agreed that there were too many in Houston County.

Chairman Perdue finalized comments on the subject by saying that this moratorium will help address and protect the rights of property owners and the community.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of a bid on one new truck for use in the Juvenile Court.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid on one new 2025 Ford F-150 XL 5.0L, from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry, in the amount of \$50,971 minus a \$3,000 rebate for a total of \$47,971. This vehicle will replace a 2016 Tahoe with high mileage and repairs needed. This purchase will be funded by 2018 SPLOST.

Mr. Gottwals thanked Mr. Davis in the Accounting Department for finding the rebate, and his dedication to the Citizens of Houston County.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the following reappointments to the Houston County Library Board:

Julie Layne	02/01/2026 – 01/31/2030
Linda Jones	02/01/2026 – 01/31/2030
Samantha Hulbert	02/01/2026 – 01/31/2030
Josh Waters	02/01/2026 – 01/31/2030

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to hire poll workers for the upcoming January 20, 2026 Special Election for State Senate District 18.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring the following poll workers and renting equipment for the January 20, 2026 Special Election for State Senate District 18:

		AMOUNT	TOTAL
6	Managers (Precinct)	175.00	1,050.00
12	Assistant Managers (Precinct)	125.00	1,500.00
12	Clerks	115.00	1,380.00
30	Training	25.00	750.00
6	Training (Backup Workers)	25.00	150.00
3	Janitors -Schools	15.50	46.50
1	Janitors	25.00	25.00
30	BMD (Ballot Marking Device)	2.00	60.00
0	Election Supply Load Out Help	75.00	0
2	Election Night Equipment Return Help	75.00	150.00
2	Election Night Check-In Clerks	75.00	150.00
6	Supply pick-up / return supplies (Managers)	10.00	60.00
6	Cell Phones	10.00	60.00
0	Ballot Scan Clerk	100.00	0
	TOTAL		5,381.50

Chairman Perdue thanked Elections Supervisor Debra Presswood and the Board of Elections staff and poll workers for their work and for so quickly coordinating this special election, so that those living in State Senate District 18 will have representation this legislative session.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of the Hyper-V Server Replacement Project at the E911 Center.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the Hyper-V Server Replacement Project in the amount of \$139,321.32 with Total Computer Solutions of Warner Robins, Georgia. This project will be funded by 2018 SPLOST.

Chairman Perdue recognized Major Quinones and congratulated her on her recent promotion.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to declare items surplus to be sold on GovDeals or be disposed of.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve declaring the following surplus to be sold on GovDeals:

- 2 Ranges with Griddle Gas Ovens

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

- 2 Double Stack Ovens

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of the road list for the 2026 LMIG application.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, to approve the following list of roads for submission for the 2026 LMIG application process:

Road Name	Beginning	Ending	Length (Miles)	Description of Work
Houston Lake Rd	Dunbar Road	US 41	1.14	Base Repair/Resurface
Langston Road	Lake Joy Road	SR 127	1.16	Resurface
Moss Oaks Road	SR 127	US 41	1.62	Base Repair/Resurface
Elko Road	SR 26	Dooly Co. Line	2.59	Base Repair/Resurface
Wrasling Way	Houston Lake Rd	Peach Blossom Rd	0.66	Resurface/ Mill
Chattahoochee Dr	Thompson Mill Rd	1040 Chattahoochee Dr	0.61	Resurface
3 rd Ave (Lashley)	SR 96	First St.	0.49	Base Repair/Resurface
		Total Miles	8.27	

The estimated costs to perform this work will meet or exceed the minimum requirement of 30% matching funds by Houston County. Grant allocation and match requirements are shown below:

GDOT 2026 LMIG Allocation for Unincorporated Houston County	\$1,109,517.15
Minimum Mandatory Match (30%)	\$332,855.15

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

Chairman Perdue commented that County Engineering staff make decisions on the roads, that the number of roads repaired was shorter but for longer distances, and closed by thanking the Engineers and Public Works staff.

Mr. Byrd stated that he abstained from the vote due to a road on the LMIG repair list being in his neighborhood.

Mr. Talton presented a request to temporarily lower the water level of Houston Lake to allow adjoining property owners to conduct necessary inspections and maintenance on their lake structures in accordance with County policy.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve lowering the level of Houston Lake four feet starting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, giving four to five days for the lake to reach the target depth. The raising of the lake would begin on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, giving four days for the lake level to return to normal. This schedule will allow three weeks for maintenance and repairs. Public access will remain closed January 19, 2026 through

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February 24, 2026. Upon voting Mr. Talton, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried. Mr. Byrd abstained.

Motion by Mr. Talton to approve temporarily delegating authority to approve any final audit budget adjustment for FY25 to Chairman Perdue, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, and Director of Finance Danyelle George, to be ratified by the Commissioners at the first meeting in January 2026.

Chairman Perdue asked that, before any voting was done, Mr. Talton amend his motion to read the second meeting in January.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve temporarily delegating authority to approve any final audit budget adjustment for FY25 to Chairman Perdue, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, and Director of Finance Danyelle George, to be ratified by the Commissioners at the second meeting in January 2026.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$3,903,060.41.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

Reverend Doctor Rutha Jackson spoke on her views regarding the district versus at-large voting for Commissioner seats.

Mr. Coy Incaprera spoke about the need for continuing the sidewalk along Thompson Mill Road. He talked about the need for flashing speed lights in school zones and getting larger print on school zone signs.

Mr. Cameron Andrews spoke about his views in favor of the moratorium on liquor stores, vape, smoke, and THC shops in Houston County, saying it is okay to say no. He also supported using the LMIG grant dollars to improve Elko Road.

Mr. Tony Lowden stated that his daughter, Tabitha Lowden, requested he attend the meeting after seeing the published agenda about the moratorium to be voted on for liquor stores, vape, smoke, and THC shops. Tony shared his observations and experiences on these stores and congratulated the Board for approving this moratorium.

Mr. Thomas Reynolds spoke on school taxes, the moratorium and how pleased he was with the Board's action to approve this, school zone cameras and he urged the Board to keep the at-large representation for each Commissioner.

With no further comments, Chairman Perdue opened Commissioner Comments.

Chairman Perdue thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged everyone who lives in State Senate District 18 to vote in the special election on January 20th. He commented about the cooperation between the Houston County and Perry Fire Departments on a recent high-angle rescue of an individual trapped in an elevator. He expressed his thanks to Lisa Ham for her 39 years of service in Public Affairs at Robins Air Force Base and for her soon-to-retire status. He congratulated Ed Lukemire on his service to Houston County and on the recent announcement of his retirement. In closing, he wished everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr. Gottwals spoke about the moratorium passed and commented about the unhealthy desires that these types of stores offer. He spoke about the need to have hope and read the lyrics to "*While Shepherds Watched*" by Andrew Peterson, based on Luke Chapter 2, and concluded by wishing everyone a merry Christmas.

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Ms. Robinson stated it had been a good meeting. She thanked everyone for attending and for their opinions and participation and wished everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr. Talton thanked all County employees. He stated he was thankful for improvements in the County’s water system and roads, the construction of the Bonaire water tower, upgrades to the 911 Center, and public safety. He concluded his comments by expressing his thanks for living in such a successful and thriving community and wished everyone a merry Christmas.

Mr. Byrd thanked everyone for attending and recognized Ron Grace for his years of service. He thanked the county employees who serve the residents of Houston County and recognized the water department employees in public works for their efforts on the Bonaire water tower. He concluded his comments by wishing everyone a merry Christmas and encouraged everyone to be a light for someone else and to focus on expressing peace and kindness to others.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve adjourning the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner