

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
January 20, 2026
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 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 Robinson led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Attorney Tom Hall gave the invocation.

Chairman Perdue recognized three employees for their longevity of service to the County: Craig Duke, with 30 years of service working at the Landfill; Chief Tax Assessor James Moore, with 40 years of service; and Deborah Snellgrove, with 40 years of service working in the State Court.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2026, meeting.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for annexation from the City of Warner Robins.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments; there being none, the meeting continued.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to concur with the City of Warner Robins request to annex 8.75 acres on Duskmoores Drive/ Lake Joy Road known as Tax Parcel 000510 36A000 with the following stipulations:

- Developer conducts a water study to extend water system.
- Developer does not inundate adjacent land with surface or ground water from the low wet areas located on the parcel.
- Existing County utilities stay with the County.

Current zoning is County R-1 proposed zoning will be City of Warner Robins R-2.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for annexation from the City of Warner Robins.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments; there being none, the meeting continued.

Chairman Perdue then reminded those present about the State Senate District 18 vote that was occurring until the polls closed at 7pm and encouraged those present and those watching online to go vote if they had not done so already.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to concur with the City of Warner Robins request to annex of 7.45 acres on Duskmoores Drive/Lake Joy Road known as Tax Parcel 000510 36B000 with the following stipulations:

- Developer conducts a water study to extend water system.
- Developer does not inundate adjacent land with surface or ground water from the low wet areas located on the parcel.
- Commercial traffic will not be allowed to enter or exit the parcel using Duskmoores Drive.
- Existing County utilities stay with the County.

Current zoning is County R-1 and proposed zoning is City of Warner Robins R-2 (5.15 acres) and C-2 (2.3 acres).

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 608

Ms. Robinson presented a request for annexation from the City of Warner Robins.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

Darren Crozier spoke in favor of the annexation.

Chairman Perdue stated that the Board's concerns were the potential for a major increase in traffic on Feagin Mill Road and impacts to infrastructure.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to non-concur with the annexation of property located at 1302 Feagin Mill Road, containing 4 acres, known as Tax Parcel 000770 013000.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a Resolution calling for a countywide election to impose a one percent Floating Local Option Sales and Use Tax ("FLOST") in Houston County and a Resolution approving the Intergovernmental Agreement for the FLOST.

Chairman Perdue spoke on the Floating Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST), explaining that it is designed to lower the millage rate through a one-cent sales tax to be voted on by Houston County residents at the May 19, 2026, primary election. He further advised that all three Cities and the County were entering into an intergovernmental agreement regarding the disbursement of FLOST funds, and that City and County residents would see a reduction in their property taxes should the FLOST pass, and that it must be re-authorized every five years.

Commissioner Byrd thanked Chairman Perdue for bringing this opportunity before the voters to reduce the property tax obligation for property owners and reiterated that the purpose of the FLOST is to reduce property taxes. He concluded his comments by reading the FLOST ballot resolution.

Chairman Perdue thanked Commissioner Byrd for his comments and the cities for their cooperation on the FLOST resolution.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve a Resolution calling for a countywide election to impose a one percent Floating Local Option Sales and Use Tax ("FLOST") in Houston County, as authorized by Article 2B of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A. § 48-8-109.30), and to further approve a Resolution approving the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Imposition of the Floating Homestead Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST) and authorizing the Chairman to execute the Agreement on behalf of Houston County.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a Resolution authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to determine and carry out the appropriate method for disposal of surplus County property with an individual current value of \$500.00 or less, or a collective current value of \$500.00 or less per lot, and requiring the Purchasing Agent to submit quarterly reports to the Board detailing all surplus items disposed of under this authority.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve signing the Resolution giving authorization to the County Purchasing Agent to dispose of County property with a value of \$500 or less.

Chairman Perdue talked about the process of disposing of County surplus property in the past and advised that this new method would allow for the Purchasing Department to post items for sale online with a value of \$500 or less. Once a quarter, the Purchasing Department will provide a quarterly report to the Board with a listing of the items declared surplus, the value and the amount the County earned through the sale of this property.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued on Page 610

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 609

Chairman Perdue held a public hearing on the subject of Fluoridation in the County's water system referencing O.C.G.A. §12-5-175. Those speaking in favor of having Fluoridation in the County's water system included Dr. Torem Hendricks, Dr. Kim Cook and Dr. Jamie Mitchell. Speaking in opposition of Fluoridation in the County's water system were Dr. Todd Kinnebrew and Gen. Tanya Kubenic. No action was taken by the Board.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of the appointment of the County Historian.

Chairman Perdue spoke about Ms. Loudermilk's service to Houston County and her extensive knowledge of the County's history and dedication to preserving its rich history.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of a resolution appointing Ms. Ellie Loudermilk as the Houston County Historian.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to acknowledge the appointment of Zaire Brown to the Houston County Board of Elections by the Houston County Democratic Committee.

Chairman Perdue thanked those who serve on the Board of Elections and for their service to the citizens of Houston County.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of an independent contractor agreement for attorney services in the Houston County Juvenile Court.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of an independent contractor agreement with Nyonnohweah Snami Seekie to provide legal representation to indigents appearing in Juvenile Court. This agreement with a term of January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$12,500 will be paid as follows; \$2,083.33 for the first five (5) months and the sixth month rate being \$2,083.35.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant Office Assistant position in the Solicitor's Office.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring Mr. Alfredo Ruiz to fill the vacant Office Assistant position in the Solicitor's Office at a Grade 8 Step C. Personnel have reviewed Mr. Ruiz's qualifications and confirm that he meets the requirements for the C Step.

Mr. Byrd commented on Mr. Ruiz's dedicated service in the Marine Corps prior to applying with the Solicitor's Office.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request from Public Works for approval of a supplemental agreement on the Elberta Road Widening Phase 3 project. The agreement will revise the plans from a three-lane urban road to a three-lane rural road with a sidewalk on the north side.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of a supplemental agreement with Saunders Engineering Consultants, Inc., of Centerville, Georgia, in the amount of \$12,500, bringing the total cost to \$272,500 for design services. This agreement, with a three-month time frame, will be paid with 2018 SPLOST funds.

Chairman Perdue stated this project is also known as the Wilson Drive Widening Phase 2 Project.

Mr. Talton presented a request from Public Works for approval of a bid on replacing the lights in the Courthouse parking lot.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid from Speir & Associates of Macon, Georgia, in the amount of \$52,170, to replace the Courthouse parking lot lights. This project will be paid for with 2018 SPLOST funds and has a three-month timeline from the delivery of materials.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued on Page 611

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 610

Mr. Talton presented a request from Public Works to award the Construction-Manager-at-Risk (CMAR) services for the SR 127 Water Supply & Treatment Facility project.

Mr. Talton stated that of the four companies expressing an interest in the project, only two were deemed to be qualified candidates, with Parrish Construction having the most competitive bid, and that this project's estimated completion time is in the first quarter of 2028.

Ms. Robinson stated that she also worked with Mr. Talton on selecting the Construction Manager at Risk, thanked him for his work and input, and noted that both companies that submitted bids were highly qualified.

Chairman Perdue thanked both Commissioner Talton and Commissioner Robinson for their work on the selection committee for this project. He also thanked Director of Operations Brian Jones, Utility Superintendent Terry Dietsh, Facilities Superintendent Michael Phillips, the County's engineering consultant, Carter and Sloope, and Parrish Construction staff.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the CMAR to Parrish Construction Group, of Perry, Georgia, in the amount of \$75,000 with a goal of developing a Guaranteed Maximum Price for the County. This project has a completion date of December 2027.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of a grant for the Solicitor General's Office.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve accepting grant number SOL GEN AW-VOCA-25-071-012, in the amount of \$96,505.00, to help fund Victim Assistance, and Victim Compensation in the Solicitor General's Office. There are no matching fund requirements with this grant.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of a grant for the District Attorney's Office.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve accepting grant number AW-VOCA-25-071-12, in the amount of \$66,830.00, to help fund Victim Assistance, and Victim Compensation in the District Attorney's Office. There are no matching fund requirements with this grant.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid on a 2.5 Ton Crew Cab with Flat Bed Dump Truck.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid from Middle Georgia Freightliner of Macon, Georgia, for the total cost of \$116,301 for a 2027 Freightliner M2-106 Crew Cab with Flat Bed Dump. This truck will replace a 2012 Ford F-750 with high mileage and in need of repair. This purchase will be funded from 2018 SPLOST.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval to set the qualifying fees for the 2026 election as required by Georgia Code O.C.G.A. §21-2-131 (1) (A).

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the following qualifying fees for the offices listed below. Qualifying will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 2, 2026, and will end at noon on Friday, March 6, 2026. Qualifying for Nonpartisan offices will be held at the Board of Elections Office, Houston County Government Building, 2030 Kings Chapel Road, Perry, Georgia. The General Primary/Nonpartisan General Election will be held on May 19, 2026, and the General Election will be held November 3, 2026.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued on Page 612

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 611

State Court Judge	\$5,639.35
Solicitor - General	\$4,131.40
County Commissioner Chairman - Post 1	\$4,297.49
County Commissioner – Post 2	\$592.80
Board of Education – District 2	\$216.00
Board of Education – District 4	\$216.00
Board of Education – Post 6 (At Large)	\$216.00

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval to reallocate funding between ARPA capital projects to align approved budgets with actual and anticipated project costs.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the following:

- Decrease ARPA Project SFR3 – Hwy 341 & Graham Rd Waterline Extension by \$69,590.50 due to a reduction in change order costs upon project completion.
- Increase ARPA Project 13MC – Davidson Road Paving by \$34,696.58 to cover change order increases upon project completion.
- Increase ARPA Project 15MC – Bonaire Elevated Tank by \$34,893.92 to fund additional anticipated site work required prior to project completion.

These adjustments allow completed projects to be closed in compliance with U.S. Treasury reporting requirements and ensure available ARPA funding is reallocated to remaining eligible projects.

Chairman Perdue thanked all the employees involved in each of these projects and other County staff for spending these ARPA grant dollars appropriately and with a high level of accountability.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the ratification of final FY2025 audit budget adjustments, reallocating \$3,517,103 among departments in the General Fund with no net increase, and increasing Special Revenue Fund Expenditures as follows: Drug Fund \$48,000, Jail Inmate Fund \$169,551, and Law Library Fund \$315,480.

Fund Type	Fund Name	Adjustment Type	Amount	Net Impact
General Fund	General Fund	Reallocation	\$3,517,103	None
Special Revenue	Drug Fund	Budget increase	\$48,000	Increase
Special Revenue	Jail Inmate Fund	Budget increase	\$169,551	Increase
Special Revenue	Law Library Fund	Budget increase	\$315,480	Increase

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$2,636,623.16.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

Mr. Tim Myrtle spoke on his views in favor of including shared use paths on new road construction projects instead of sidewalks.

With no further comments, Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Commissioner Comments.

Chairman Perdue stated that he felt blessed to serve alongside with the members of the Board and thanked them for their service to the citizens of Houston County. He then spoke about the Comprehensive Plan Town Hall meeting scheduled for immediately following the Commissioners' meeting in the boardroom.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 612

Mr. Byrd thanked everyone for staying for the lengthy meeting and for their input on the various agenda items. He commented on the work addressed during the meeting, including the FLOST, the water treatment facility, and the closing of the 2025 fiscal year. He concluded his remarks by referencing the 20 County employees recognized earlier in the day for their longevity of service, noting their combined 430 years of service.

Mr. Talton also commented on the recognition held earlier in the day, stating that long-serving County employees are a key to the County's success. He thanked those who spoke during the Fluoride discussion and noted the respectful manner in which it was conducted. He concluded his remarks by sharing that he was in Savannah over the weekend and had attended the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. parade, commenting on how festive and inspiring it was to witness and participate in the event.

Ms. Robinson spoke about the employees recognized for their long service to the County and their combined 430 years of service, noting that one employee had served 30 years and two had served 40 years. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for expressing their opinions and ideas. She concluded her remarks by referencing the debate and the respectful manner in which it was conducted, stating that positive debate is essential to learning and understanding.

Mr. Gottwals spoke about a recent discussion with his children regarding being thankful, using lessons and scriptures from the second chapter of Colossians that emphasize abundant thankfulness. He stated that he is abundantly thankful for Houston County, for the civil debate held during the meeting, and, above all, for the opportunity to work with the other members of the Board.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, 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