

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**March 17, 2026**  
**Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia. Chairman Perdue presided, and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton were present. Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, County Attorney Tom Hall, and Director of Operations Brian Jones were also present.

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

Rev. Tom Carruth of Perry Methodist Church delivered the invocation and spoke on the importance of truthfulness and straightforwardness in one's words, referencing Matthew 5:37. He encouraged those in attendance to "let your yes be yes and your no be no," emphasizing honesty and integrity in all answers, discussions, and interactions.

The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Reverend Carruth for his presence, his timely message, and for the ongoing contributions he and his church make in support of the Houston County community.

Representatives from Emory Hospital Warner Robins—Kevin Splaine, CEO; Melissa Phagan, VP of Operations; Kendra Brown, Director of Imaging; Geoff Engle, Manager of Imaging; and Christie Lawrence, Stroke Coordinator—attended the meeting and presented a plaque expressing their appreciation to the Commissioners for the \$2 million in ARPA grant funding. These funds were used to purchase three new CT scanners, enhancing patient care and diagnostic capabilities. The representatives noted the significant impact of this investment and shared a specific example in which the advanced technology of the new scanners contributed to saving the life of a Houston County resident who suffered a stroke.

The Commissioners, in turn, expressed their gratitude to the Emory Hospital Warner Robins team for their continued investment, innovation, and high-quality care provided to the residents of Houston County and the surrounding region, and commended the hospital's rapid progress and expansion.

Chairman Perdue presented a resolution designating April as Safe Digging Month to Director of Operations Brian Jones and Utility Superintendent Terry Dietsch. He thanked County staff, contractors, and the public for contacting 811 before any digging, especially in the right-of-way, to ensure underground utilities or electrical lines are not damaged or cut.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2026 meeting.

Ms. Robinson presented a proposed amendment to an MOU that revises the distribution of funds to support efforts related to opioid addiction awareness, promotion of available opioid treatment resources, and the development of opioid harm education strategies. This amendment does not alter the total funding amount of the agreement.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the amendment to the May 6, 2025 Memorandum of Agreement between the Houston County Board of Commissioners and Mental Health Matters of Middle Georgia, changing the distribution of funds.

Chairman Perdue commented that this MOU between the County and Mental Health Matters of Middle Georgia redirects existing opioid settlement funds to address gaps in services identified by judicial staff.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a rate adjustment based on the consumer price index for trash collection and landfill tipping fees.

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Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the following rate adjustments effective July 1, 2026, or the first billing cycle after:

Solid Waste Collection	Current Rate	New Rate
Cart	\$13.77	\$14.42
Extra Cart	\$8.07	\$8.45
Yard Waste	\$8.00	\$8.38
Recycling	\$8.00	\$8.38
<b>Landfill Tipping</b>		
MSW Residential Curbside	\$26.97	\$28.24
MSW Gate Rate	\$30.97	\$32.43
C&D	\$20.54	\$21.51

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid to replace the HVAC unit that serves the Annex lobby. The current unit is inoperable and beyond repair due to the age of the unit.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid submitted by Conditioned Air, Inc., of Macon, Georgia, in the amount of \$32,909 for the replacement of the HVAC unit in the Annex lobby. This project is funded through the 2018 SPLOST and has an anticipated completion timeline of four weeks following receipt of materials.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid to replace the HVAC unit that serves the Commissioner's Boardroom at the Annex.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid submitted by Conditioned Air, Inc., of Macon, Georgia, in the amount of \$48,968 for the replacement of the HVAC unit in the Commissioner's Boardroom at the Annex. This project is funded through the 2018 SPLOST and has an anticipated completion timeline of four weeks following receipt of materials.

Mr. Talton presented a request to enter into a Professional Service Agreement to redesign the County's website.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve entering a Professional Service Agreement with Third Wave Digital, of Macon, Georgia, in the amount of \$15,300, to redesign and update the County's website to comply with WCAG 2.1 accessibility standards by the April 24, 2026 deadline.

Chairman Perdue thanked MIS personnel for their work in making these improvements.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of a bid for the Feagin Mill Water Treatment Facility Remodel.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid submitted by ICB Construction Group of Macon, Georgia, in the amount of \$98,311 for the remodeling of the Feagin Mill Water Treatment Facility. This project is funded through the Water Department Repairs and Maintenance Fund and has an anticipated completion timeline of 2 months following signing of a Notice to Proceed.

Mr. Talton presented a request to replace the flooring in the Water Department at the Annex.

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Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid submitted by Parrish Construction Group of Perry, Georgia, in the amount of \$12,971 for the replacement of flooring in the Water Department at the Annex. This project is funded through the Water Department Repairs and Maintenance Fund and has an anticipated completion timeline of 4 weeks from receipt of materials.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for approval of a bid on a new Sheriff's Office vehicle.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid from Donohoo Chevrolet of Fort Payne, AL in the amount of \$51,635 for the purchase of one in-stock 2026 Chevy Tahoe PPV for use in the Patrol Division of the Sheriff's Department. This purchase will be funded from the 2018 SPLOST.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for the approval of a bid on one 15-passenger van for use predominantly by the Extension Office, but available for use by other County departments.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry, Georgia in the amount of \$57,047 for the purchase of one new Ford Transit Passenger Van. This purchase will be funded by the 2018 SPLOST.

Chairman Perdue stated that participation in Houston County Extension Office programs continues to grow, particularly among youth, and that this new van will help transport students to summer camps and activities.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant Equipment Operator position at the Landfill.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Mr. Antwon Solomon to fill the vacant Equipment Operator position at the Landfill at a Grade 10 Step B effective March 18, 2026. Personnel staff have reviewed his qualifications and confirm he meets the criteria for the B Step.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant Network/Systems Engineer position in the MIS Department.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Mr. Jason Allen to fill the vacant Network/Systems Engineer position in the MIS Department at a Grade 25 Step B effective March 18, 2026. Personnel staff have reviewed his qualifications and confirm he meets the criteria for the B Step.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to declare items surplus and sell them on GovDeals.

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

- One 2008 Ford F-350
- One 2018 Kubota M5-091 Cab Tractor 76 PTO HP

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$9,049,774.52.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve entering into Executive Session regarding O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1) - Attorney/Client.

Chairman Perdue closed the regular portion of the meeting and the Board entered an Executive Session.

Chairman Perdue reopened the regular portion of the meeting and turned the meeting over to County Attorney Tom Hall for a summary of the item discussed.

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Mr. Hall reported on discussions regarding a 2021 condemnation case involving property along Lake Joy Road, which was originally acquired for \$3,129 based on appraisal. The Commissioners agreed to a settlement in the amount of \$28,000, consisting of \$25,000 for driveway repairs and \$3,000 for related matters, to be paid from County-Wide SPLOST funds. Mr. Hall stated that a motion was needed to approve the consent order and final judgment in Civil Action File No. 2021 V 125087A, and to authorize payment of \$28,000 into the registry of the court from County-Wide SPLOST funds, as the project was SPLOST-funded.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve a settlement on the 2021 condemnation case for property located on Lake Joy Road in the amount of \$28,000.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

Ms. Valkyrie Anderson, Executive Director of Houston County Family Connection, provided an update on the organization's ongoing work in Houston County and expressed appreciation to Chairman Perdue and the Commissioners for the \$10,000 ARPA fund donation supporting the 2025 Back to School Bash. She also thanked the Board for its continued support in allowing Jake Cox, Houston County Community Planner, to serve as Chairman of the Family Connection Board, and recognized Commissioner Gottwals for his support of the organization's literacy initiative through the provision of gift cards to Gottwals' Books.

Mr. Thomas Reynolds spoke on his views about removing school taxes for senior citizens. He commented about the high level of service he received from Emory Warner Robins staff when his mother was in the hospital there, and requested information regarding a 100-year-old cemetery being moved for a construction project.

With no further comments, Chairman Perdue closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting and opened the floor for Commissioner's Comments.

Mr. Talton thanked everyone for attending, spoke about the community involvement through the Family Connection organization and Emory Warner Robins that were on display at the meeting.

Mr. Byrd expressed his appreciation to all in attendance and recognized the team from Emory Hospital Warner Robins for their ongoing service to the community. He thanked Reverend Carruth for his encouraging message and for his remarks honoring those serving in the military. He concluded by commending Chief Chris Stoner and the members of the Houston County Fire Department for their preparedness, collaboration, and swift response during the recent storms that impacted Houston County and the Middle Georgia region.

Mr. Gottwals commented about the recent storms that impacted Houston County. He thanked Chief Stoner and members of the Houston County Fire Department and Public Works crews for their efforts during those intense winds and storms. He concluded by thanking everyone for attending the meeting and their interest in local government administrative processes.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and spoke at length about the need for there to be more kindness in our world, saying we need to express kindness to others. She gave a quote from her late father who said "*kindness is taught, not inherited.*" She concluded her comments encouraging everyone to be kind.

Chairman Perdue recognized and thanked the County's MIS, Water, and Accounting Departments for their collaboration and efforts in implementing the new water billing system and encouraged patience and understanding by citizens as the transition will undoubtedly encounter problems. He also congratulated County staff and the Middle Georgia Regional Commission team, specifically Cammi Sanchez and Greg Boike, for their work on the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Grant application for Echeconnee Creek Park, which was selected for funding by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Chairman Perdue further noted the observance of St. Patrick's Day and concluded his remarks by reading St. Patrick's Breastplate.

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

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Robbie Dunbar  
Director of Administration

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