

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
June 2, 2026
Perry, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia. Chairman Perdue presided, and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton were present. County Attorney Tom Hall and Director of Operations Brian Jones were also present.

Commissioner Robinson gave the invocation.

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

MSgt. Dustin Seney, of the 472nd Electronic Combat Squadron, spoke about his military career in the Air Force, stating that he joined the Air Force 12 years ago and for the first 10 years of his career was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base before being transferred to Robins Air Force Base less than two years ago. MSgt. Seney then gave details about the 472nd's work at Robins, along with his career as a Payload Operator on the E-11 aircraft.

Each Commissioner and Chairman Perdue expressed their appreciation to MSgt. Seney for attending, for speaking about his military career, and for his service. They welcomed his wife, Rachel, who accompanied him. They expressed appreciation for his sacrifice, protection of our way of life, and partnership with the Houston County community.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2026, meeting.

Chairman Perdue provided remarks regarding the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary celebration and the County's sponsorship of the Cities' commemorative activities. He announced that the County had commissioned commemorative artwork by Patrick Lewis in honor of the occasion. Mr. Byrd and Ms. Robinson unveiled the artwork for presentation to the Board. Chairman Perdue then presented each of the mayors a framed print of the artwork.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications numbers 2934 through 2938, 2941, 2942, and 2944.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for a Public Hearing.

Applicant #2934 was present; there was no opposition.
Applicant #2935 was present; there was no opposition.
Applicant #2936 was not present; there was no opposition.
Applicant #2937 was present; there was no opposition.
Applicant #2938 was present; there was no opposition.
Applicant #2941 was not present; there was no opposition.
Applicant #2942 was present; there was no opposition.
Applicant #2944 was present; there was no opposition.

There being no comments, the Public Hearing was closed, and the regular portion of the meeting continued.

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.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all 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:

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#2934	Rachael Knight	Lawn Care
#2935	Laura Faith & Hugo Santos	Real Estate Holding & Development
#2937	Russell Youngblood	Home Inspection
#2938	Jacob Rogers & Dylan Langston	Estate Sales
#2942	Adam & Sheila Pike	Coffee Truck
#2944	Cynthia Malone	Heart Health Awareness

and to table the following Special Exception Applications:

#2936	Anitra Pratt-Smith	Non-Medical Home Care
#2941	Donald Faith	Construction Business

Mr. Andrews gave instructions to the approved applicants about their next step in obtaining their license, which is to complete a business license application in the Commissioner's Office at the County Annex.

Chairman Perdue invited Cynthia Malone to speak about her non-profit organization, Chippin' Away at Heart Disease, which was one of the businesses considered for approval by the Board.

Ms. Malone spoke about the history of the non-profit, its focus and work, and gave details, statistics, and information about heart disease and the disease's impact on society.

Chairman Perdue thanked Ms. Malone for her work, efforts, and help in the community.

County Attorney Tom Hall gave the second reading of an ordinance change regarding restrictions on vape shops in unincorporated Houston County. These changes would restrict new vape shop applications and would allow existing shops to remain in business. Should those existing vape shops close for 90 days or longer or let their business license lapse, they would no longer be allowed to open or reopen as a vape shop. The first reading of this amendment to the Houston County Code of Ordinances was held at the May 19, 2026, Houston County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Chairman Perdue opened a Public Hearing on this ordinance change.

There being no comments, the Public Hearing was closed, and the regular portion of the meeting continued.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the addition of Article IV titled Vape Shops to Chapter 19 of the Houston County Code of Ordinances attached to this motion as Exhibit "A".

County Attorney Tom Hall read an amendment to the County's Code of Ordinances regarding alcoholic beverages. This amendment listed changes that addressed the distance that a new liquor store had to be located away from an existing liquor store in unincorporated Houston County (at least 5 miles by public road and certified by a surveyor) and fee changes for licensing. The first reading of these proposed amendments to the Houston County Code of Ordinances was held May 19, 2026, at the Houston County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Chairman Perdue opened a Public Hearing on this ordinance change.

There being no comments, the Public Hearing was closed, and the regular portion of the meeting continued.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the proposed amendments to the Houston County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6 Alcoholic Beverages, attached to this motion as Exhibit "A".

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to hire election day workers for the June 16, 2026, General Primary Runoff Election.

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Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve buying supplies and hiring the following election day workers for the June 16, 2026, General Primary Runoff Election:

		AMOUNT	TOTAL
17	Managers (Precinct)	175.00	2,975.00
34	Assistant Managers (Precinct)	125.00	4,250.00
90	Clerks	115.00	10,350.00
0	Training	25.00	0
0	Training (Backup Workers)	25.00	0
3	Janitors -Schools	15.50	46.50
1	Janitors	25.00	25.00
125	BMD (Ballot Marking Device)	2.00	250.00
1	Election Supply Load Out Help	75.00	75.00
3	Election Night Equipment Return Help	75.00	225.00
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
1	Ballot Scan Clerk	100.00	100.00
	TOTAL		\$18,786.50

Chairman Perdue thanked the Board of Elections for their service and expressed his appreciation to Elections Supervisor Ms. Debra Presswood and her staff.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for the donation of County-owned property located at 10111 Hawkinsville Road to the Georgia Department of Transportation for roadway improvements under Project PI No. 0017221.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the donation of 8,341.95 square feet of County-owned property located at 10111 Hawkinsville Road for right-of-way and 1,365.86 square feet for a temporary construction easement to the Georgia Department of Transportation. Also, to authorize Chairman Perdue to execute the Letter of Acknowledgment for Donation Request, and all necessary conveyance documents associated with this donation.

Chairman Perdue explained this donation of land was in support of the Georgia DOT's project to replace or improve the bridge over the Echeconnee Creek, that this action is part of their planning phase, and there was no date set for when construction would begin on this project.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a one-month extension to the Employment Contract between the Houston County Board of Commissioners and Court Reporter Wendy Nelson.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve a one-month extension of the Employment Contract between the Houston County Board of Commissioners and Court Reporter Wendy Nelson, extending the contract through July 31, 2026, with the final monthly payment of \$5,791.66 to be made on August 1, 2026, with all other terms of the contract to be unchanged.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to renew three independent contractor agreements for court reporters in the Superior Court.

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Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve renewing the independent contractor agreements with Ms. Joy Malone, Ms. Connie Montgomery, and Ms. Emery Sims. These contracts will be for the term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, with compensation of \$69,500 annually paid in monthly installments of \$5,791.66 with a final monthly payment of \$5,791.74.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of a bid on repairs for the roof at the Detention Center.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Detention Center Roof Repair project to Skyline Construction Services, Inc. of Milledgeville, Georgia, in the amount of \$99,320 and authorization of a \$15,000 contingency for a total project authorization of \$114,320. This is a 2018 SPLOST-funded project. Completion of the project will be 90 days from approval.

Chairman Perdue stated that there is a 2024 SPLOST project to replace the entire jail roof, but this project is only to repair a specific area of the roof to extend its lifespan for a few more years and is recommended by the County's roof consultant.

Mr. Talton presented a request for financial assistance to support Houston County Family Connection in reinstating its nonprofit status through professional CPA services and required reinstatement fees, and to provide support for the 2026 Back to School Bash to be held on July 24, 2026.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the support in the amount of \$7,500 from HOST fees for Houston County Family Connection to assist with the reinstatement of the organization's 501 (c) (3) status and to support the 2026 Back to School Bash event.

Chairman Perdue recognized Houston County Family Connection Executive Director Valkyrie Anderson, who was present at the meeting, and thanked her and the organization for their work in the community.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$3,045,248.72.

Chairman Perdue gave an overview of the proposed FY27 budget. The Board is scheduled to formally adopt the FY27 Budget at the Commissioners' Meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom at the County Annex, 200 Carl Vinson Parkway, Warner Robins, Georgia.

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

There being no comments, the Public Hearing was closed, and the regular portion of the meeting continued.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Commissioners' comments.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending and commented on the great budget presentation given by Chairman Perdue. She thanked Chairman Perdue and all of the department heads for their work on the budget and spoke about fiscal responsibility being one of the Board's primary responsibilities.

Mr. Byrd thanked Chairman Perdue and senior County leadership for their work on the budget. He commented that providing services in the most cost-efficient manner possible, with a high level of expertise and customer service, is reflected in this budget. He commented that including the merit raise for employees with only 1% growth in the budget is commendable. He concluded by saying that with the majority of the budget being focused on public safety, courts, and public works, the focus of the budget is on providing services to the public in an effective manner.

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Mr. Talton commented that it was great seeing the mayors, support staff, and our military speaker at the meeting. He stated that the Bonaire water tank was operating, online, and full. He concluded by thanking Chairman Perdue and senior staff for their work producing the FY27 budget and for the time, work, and conservative nature of the budget and thanked the taxpayers of Houston County.

Mr. Gottwals commented on the 250th Anniversary of the United States with a Mark Twain quote: *"Patriotism is supporting your country all of the time and your government when it deserves it."* He said here in this country we vote and let our voices be heard and commented about all of the upcoming celebrations of our nation's 250th birthday.

Chairman Perdue reminded everyone of the Liberty Tree dedication to be held right after the Commissioners' Meeting in the courtyard of the Courthouse. He stated that the Sons of the American Revolution cannons were to be fired after a brief service. He thanked the mayors and their staff for attending the Commissioners' Meeting and Councilman Armijo of Centerville for attending. He concluded his comments with condolences to the family and friends of Terry Wood on his recent passing and praised his dedicated civil service to the City of Warner Robins and the community.

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

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner