

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**June 16, 2026**  
**Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 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 and County Attorney Tom Hall were also present.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Chairman Perdue reminded those in attendance that it was Election Day and noted that the polls remained open for anyone who had not yet had an opportunity to vote.

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

Pastor Stephen Wood of Sandy Valley Baptist Church delivered the invocation. He briefly shared the history of the church, noting that it is celebrating its 60th anniversary and that his wife's parents were also charter members. Pastor Wood stated that he has served in ministry for 40 years and that Sandy Valley Baptist Church was the first church he pastored. He later served for many years in the Atlanta area before returning to Houston County. He concluded by discussing the church's future plans to construct a family life center to better serve the community.

Each Commissioner expressed appreciation to Pastor Wood for his service to the congregation and the community. Several Commissioners also shared personal connections to either Pastor Wood or Sandy Valley Baptist Church.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2026, meeting.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the appointment of Mr. Tony Wagoner to the Board of Tax Assessors for a term of 06/17/2026 through 12/31/2028.

Chairman Perdue thanked Mr. Wagoner for being present at the Commissioners' meeting and for his willingness to serve on the Tax Assessors Board.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding that would authorize the County to provide a loan to the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority for the funds necessary to complete a new hangar currently underway at the Perry-Houston County Airport.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority, authorizing the loan of \$445,000.00 from the General Fund for the purpose of completing the construction of a new hangar at the Perry-Houston County Airport. These funds will be repaid in semiannual payments over 15 years.

Chairman Perdue explained that, due to unforeseen issues involving the engineering and contracting firms engaged for the project, and pending resolution of a settlement among the parties, the Airport Authority has requested a loan from the County to allow construction of the new hangar to continue. He stated that the loan terms are structured to provide the County with interest earnings equivalent to those it would receive if the funds remained invested in the Georgia Fund One account, resulting in no financial loss to the County. Chairman Perdue further noted that the County has previously supported the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority through both operational and capital funding.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of the final adjusting change order for the HEMA Warehouse Construction project.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve signing the final adjusting change order with Parrish Construction of Perry, Georgia, decreasing the HEMA Warehouse Construction contract amount by \$113,957.96, bringing the final contract amount from \$886,233.00 to \$772,275.04, and decreasing the contract time by 7 days.

Chairman Perdue stated that this is the final change order on the project and that he was glad to see it was a decreasing change order. He added that the final work to be completed will be paving the parking lot and driveway, which Reames and Sons will handle when weather permits.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of the final adjusting change order for the HEMA Warehouse Design project.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve signing the final adjusting change order with Parrish Construction of Perry, Georgia, decreasing the HEMA Warehouse Design contract amount by \$17,770.00, bringing the final contract amount from \$125,000.00 to \$107,230.00.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval to renew four contracts for the Accountability Court.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve signing the renewal of four professional services contracts for the Accountability Court: one with Robins Pharmacy, one with Empowered Living Counseling and Life Coaching, LLC, and one with Infinite Health Wellness LLC, all located in Warner Robins, Georgia, and one with Christopher Gray of Bonaire, Georgia. The contracts have been reviewed and approved by the Accountability Court, the respective contractors, and the County Attorney's Office.

Chairman Perdue expressed appreciation for the work of the Accountability Court and for the leadership provided by Judge Lumsden.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to renew four independent contractor agreements to provide defense of certain indigent persons pursuant to constitutional and statutory requirements, as well as the requirements of Uniform Superior Court Rule 29, for the Public Defender's Office.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve signing independent contractor agreements with Jeffrey L. Grube, Sasha Riedel Knight, Matthew Pollard, and Jonathan Perry Waters for a term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Each agreement is in the amount of \$90,000 and will be paid at a rate of \$7,500 per month for 12 months. The contracts have been reviewed and approved by Judge Lumsden, the Contractor, and the County Attorney's Office.

Chairman Perdue expressed appreciation to the contract attorneys in the Public Defender's Office for their service.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant System Administrator I position in the MIS Department.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring Mr. Navar Bryant to fill the vacant System Administrator I position in the MIS Department at a grade 22, step D effective June 17, 2026. Personnel have reviewed his qualifications and confirm that he meets the criteria for the D step.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$5,159,718.43.

Chairman Perdue gave an overview of the proposed FY27 budget, the first presentation and Public Hearing were held at the June 2, 2026, meeting.

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.

Chairman Perdue expressed his appreciation to Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, Chief Financial Officer Danyelle George, MIS Director Will Davis, county department heads, constitutional officers, and elected officials for their work on the budget.

Mr. Gottwals stated that he was proud of the efforts of everyone who worked on the budget and noted that it focuses on providing county services and employee merit increases while putting reserves to work. He further commented that recent information comparing Houston County to the next five larger and next five smaller counties showed that Houston County has lower revenue per capita than the comparison counties while still providing a high level of service through careful expense management and trust in department heads.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve signing A Resolution Adopting The Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for Houston County as follows:

WHEREAS, the Houston County Board of Commissioners has prepared a line-item budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Houston County Board of Commissioners has adhered to the provisions of O.C.G.A. Section 36-81-3, as amended; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on June 2nd, 2026, and it is now in the best interest of the County that the budget be adopted,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Houston County Board of Commissioners that the annual budget for Houston County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, attached hereto and made a part hereof, is hereby approved and adopted in the amount of:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>2027</b>
General	\$87,626,525
DATE	\$308,439
Emergency 911	\$6,467,198
Fire District	\$7,129,924
Water & Revenue	\$24,576,525
Solid Waste	\$24,301,701
Internal Services	\$16,291,750
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$1,385,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$168,089,089</b>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, the General Fund shall appropriate \$1,989,800 from previously assigned fund balance for personnel adjustments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, the General Fund shall appropriate \$1,000,000 from unassigned fund balance to fund the records retention and renovation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any increase in appropriation for any department or salary line-item in excess of the approved budget shall require approval by the Board of Commissioners authorizing said funds to be expended.

This 16th day of June 2026.

Mr. Byrd expressed appreciation to all who participated in and worked on the budget. He thanked Chairman Perdue for his clear summary and commented on the conservative, disciplined budget process the Board has maintained year after year. He noted the importance of funding the merit system for employee retention and recognized the strategic use of reserves.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 669

Mr. Jay and Ms. Veronica Westbrook of Kings Chapel Road spoke about an issue involving standing water on their property.

Chairman Perdue advised that he would follow up with Director of Operations Jones regarding the matter.

With no further comments, Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Commissioners' comments.

Chairman Perdue thanked everyone for attending and commented on the productive meeting. He reminded everyone that Friday is the Juneteenth holiday and that County offices will be closed, although the landfill will remain open and garbage collection will occur as normal. He also noted the Independence Day celebrations being held by the Cities of Centerville, Warner Robins, and Perry and encouraged residents to attend one or more events as the nation celebrates its 250th birthday. He stated the Development Authority has commemorative 250th Anniversary T-shirts available for purchase on its website. He concluded by reflecting on the funeral of Larry Walker Jr. and the impact Mr. Walker had on him personally, Houston County, and the State of Georgia.

Ms. Robinson seconded Chairman Perdue's comments on Mr. Walker's passing and said he would be greatly missed. She thanked everyone who worked on the FY27 budget and expressed appreciation that employee merit increases were funded. She also thanked Chairman Perdue, department heads, and Mr. Dunbar for their work on the budget.

Mr. Byrd echoed the comments regarding Larry Walker and reflected on his years of service to Perry, Houston County, and Georgia, as well as the friendship his family shared with Mr. Walker. He stated that the funeral service highlighted Larry's core values of faith, family, law, and the outdoors. He also offered condolences to the family of Eddie Walker, who recently passed away, and mentioned his time serving on the Zoning and Appeals Board. He encouraged everyone to vote and thanked those employed by and serving on the Board of Elections, as well as Debra Presswood, for their excellent work.

Mr. Talton expressed condolences to the Walker family and reinforced the sentiments that were shared. He stated that Mr. Walker's vision and efforts to bring the Agricultural Center and Fairgrounds to reality were a tremendous blessing to Houston County. He concluded by wishing everyone an early Happy Fourth of July, expressing appreciation to military personnel for their service and sacrifice, and thanking those responsible for developing the FY27 budget, as well as the taxpayers of Houston County for placing their trust in the Board.

Mr. Gottwals reported on a recent trip he, Larry Walker, and another representative from Houston County made to Oxford, Mississippi, to visit Square Books, a well-known bookstore. He also noted that Mr. Walker's funeral was a meaningful service and that Mr. Walker's family remains in the thoughts and prayers of those present.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, 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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Chairman

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Commissioner

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