

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
July 21, 2026
Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia. Chairman Perdue presided, and Commissioners Byrd, Robinson, and Talton were present. Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, Director of Operations Brian Jones, and County Attorney Tom Hall were also present. Commissioner Gottwals was not in attendance.

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

Reverend Jon Brown of First United Methodist Church, Warner Robins, spoke about the concept of Shalom, or unity, togetherness, and cooperation, and referenced a verse from the Book of Jeremiah on the subject. He equated that to the work of the Board and community leaders. He then spoke about his church, which is celebrating 85 years, and gave details about the church's ministries to the community through its food pantry, soup kitchen, and serving others. Following his message and remarks about First United Methodist Church of Warner Robins, he gave the invocation.

Each Commissioner expressed appreciation to Reverend Brown for the encouraging message, the church's ministry and service in the community, and recognition of the long history that the church has in Warner Robins. Commissioner Byrd mentioned that his grandparents were among the first members of the church after it was organized.

Chairman Perdue explained that, before the Commissioners meeting, several employees were recognized for their longevity of service. He asked that George Felder come forward and be recognized for his 30 years of service to the County, currently serving as the supervisor over the custodial staff. Mr. Felder's family was also in attendance and recognized.

Chairman Perdue recognized County Attorney Tom Hall on his 70th birthday and recognized his wife, Marsha, and family members in attendance.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2026, meeting. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Mr. Byrd, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar gave the 2nd reading for a new Alcohol License for Keyur Patel, owner of 96 Market Inc., for the sale of beer and wine for use off-premises at 295 Old Highway 96, Suite B, Bonaire, Georgia, 31005. The first reading was held at the July 7, 2026, Commissioner's Meeting.

Chairman Perdue opened a Public Hearing on the application for an alcohol license at 295 Old Highway 96, Suite B.

There being no comments, Chairman Perdue closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the meeting.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, to approve the alcohol license for the retail sale of beer and wine for use off premises at 295 Old Highway 96, Suite B, Bonaire, Georgia 31005. Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Byrd, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Robinson presented a request from the City of Perry for the annexation of eight parcels on Highway 127.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

There being no comments, the meeting continued.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, to concur with the City of Perry's request to annex 20.01 acres on Highway 127, known as Tax Parcels 000560 030000; 000560 060000; 000560 056000; 000560 055000; 000560 054000; 000560 053000; 000560 031000; and 000560 32A000, with a zoning change from County R-AG and County C-2 to Perry C-2. Upon voting, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Talton, and Mr. Byrd voted yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Robinson presented a request from the City of Warner Robins for annexation of property located on S. Amanda Place.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

Kimberly Pritchard, Rhonda Moore, Lynn Johnson, and Chris Pritchard all spoke against the rezoning of 104 S. Amanda Place.

With no further comments, the meeting continued.

Chairman Perdue, Commissioner Byrd, Commissioner Talton, Commissioner Robinson, and County Attorney Tom Hall made comments on the annexation.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, to concur with the City of Warner Robins's request for annexation of property located at 100 and 104 S. Amanda Place, containing 4.53 acres known as Tax Parcels 00074E 099000 and 00074E 172000, with a zoning change of County R1 to City C2, with the following stipulation:

- No access to S. Amanda Place; access only at the traffic light on Houston Lake Road.
- The existing natural buffer to be enhanced wherever needed to provide year-round opaque screening from the residential properties adjacent to the site.

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

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of a grant for the Accountability Court to assist in addressing offenders arrested for drug charges or mental health disorders.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve grant number AW-ACFP-27-071 for \$311,095, with required matching funds of \$54,899 to be provided from the D.A.T.E. Fund, totaling \$365,994. The grant period is from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Byrd voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of a bid on the Elberta Road Widening Phase 3 project.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, to approve the bid from C.W. Matthews Contracting Company, of Marietta, Georgia, in the amount of \$2,801,454.70 for the Elberta Road Widening Phase 3 project. The City of Centerville is responsible for the water main and sewer relocations or adjustments totaling \$345,777.50, bringing the County's portion to \$2,455,677.20. This is a 2018 SPLOST project and will be completed in 17 months. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Mr. Byrd, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Byrd commented that the County's bidding process attracted six companies, which saved over \$400,000.

Mr. Talton presented a request to fill the vacant Heavy Equipment Operator position in the Roads and Bridges Department.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve hiring Timothy Rogers to fill the vacant Heavy Equipment Operator position in the Roads and Bridges Department at a Grade 13 Step E, effective July 22, 2026. Personnel has reviewed his qualifications and confirmed he meets the criteria for the Step E placement. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Byrd voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of a bid on a vehicle for use by the Sheriff's Office.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, to approve the bid from Jeff Smith Ford of Byron, Georgia, in the amount of \$48,363.12 for one Ford F-150 4WD truck. This truck will replace a 2019 Dodge Ram with high mileage and needed maintenance at the Ed Dunbar Law Enforcement Training Center. This purchase will be reimbursed by the Drug Fund. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Mr. Byrd, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue expressed his appreciation to Sheriff Matt Moulton for using drug funds to assist in the purchase of this vehicle.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for the write-off of bad debt in the Water Fund and Solid Waste Fund for FY26.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve the write-off of \$27,615.64 of bad debt in the Water Fund and \$16,242.52 of bad debt in the Solid Waste Fund (\$15,173.33 for Collections and \$1,069.19 for Disposal) for FY26. These amounts are less than 1% of all revenues collected in these departments, and efforts will continue to collect this bad debt. Upon voting, Mr. Byrd, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue explained that this action is needed to help close out Fiscal Year 2026 and that the County would continue working to collect these outstanding debts. He further commented that this debt amount is less than last year's amount.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to approve the FY27 Work Detail Agreement with the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, to approve signing a Work Detail Agreement with the Georgia Department of Corrections for 5 work details at a cost not to exceed \$284,811.45. This agreement will be funded as follows: 2 crews from Solid Waste Collections; 2 crews from the Water Department; and 1 crew from Solid Waste Disposal. Upon voting, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Talton, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$3,079,496.00. Upon voting, Mr. Byrd, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

Mr. Tim Andrews spoke about George Felder, who was recognized earlier in the meeting for his 30 years of service with the County, commenting on his work, efforts, and dedication. He also noted that George is a veteran.

John Schwendler spoke about his concerns with rapid development, Flock cameras, data centers, and early public meeting times. He concluded his comments by saying he was happy to live in Houston County.

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

Mr. Talton thanked everyone for attending the meeting and recognized Tom Hall on his 70th birthday. He thanked him for being a strong man of faith, giving sound advice, and being someone he can lean on for assistance. He concluded by recognizing George Felder for his many years of dedicated service to the County.

Mr. Byrd commented on how the meeting began with Reverend Brown's message of faith, family, and service to the community. He recognized both Tom Hall and George Felder and their families in attendance at the meeting. He concluded by commenting on the 18 employees recognized earlier for their combined 340 years of service to the County and on Kellye Moore being appointed by Governor Kemp as the new Superior Court Judge to replace Judge Lukemire, who retired.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 677

Ms. Robinson recognized County Attorney Tom Hall for his many years of service to the County and commented on the great advice he always gives and that she can always count on him. She concluded her comments by recognizing George Felder for his 30 years of service and his family being in attendance.

Chairman Perdue thanked everyone for being in attendance and commented that the well and water treatment facility on SR 127 was almost ready to come online and is currently undergoing pump tests. He expressed his appreciation to those living nearby for their patience, as these tests temporarily cause water to fill the ditches. He stated that when this well comes online, it will pump 2.5 million gallons of water daily. He stated that the tax digest came in last week and that a full millage rate rollback appears possible in conjunction with the floating homestead exemption. He further commented that, with the FLOST (Floating Local Option Sales Tax) being included next year, an even larger rollback of the millage rate could be realized. Before ending his comments, Chairman Perdue wished County Attorney Tom Hall a happy birthday.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, to approve adjourning the meeting. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Mr. Byrd, and Ms. Robinson voted yes. Meeting adjourned.

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Not present for the meeting does
not sign

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner