

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**August 4, 2026**  
**Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia. Chairman Perdue presided, and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton were present. Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, Director of Operations Brian Jones, and County Attorney Tom Hall were also present.

Commissioner Byrd gave the invocation.

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

CMSgt. Jorge Gonzales, 461st Air Control Wing Command Chief, spoke about his 20 years of service in the U.S. Air Force, where he has provided leadership to more than 1,500 personnel. He spoke about the importance of focusing on people, building them up, and giving them opportunities to learn and demonstrate leadership in order to develop future leaders. He thanked the Board for the service they provide to the residents of Houston County and for all they do. He concluded by saying he has felt welcome in the Houston County community.

Chairman Perdue and each Commissioner expressed appreciation to CMSgt. Gonzales for attending, speaking about his military career, and for his work and service at Robins Air Force Base. He was also recognized for his strong focus on developing others and preparing those who serve with him to become future leaders.

Senator Larry Walker III, President Pro Tempore of the Georgia Senate, was recognized at the Commissioners' meeting with a presentation by ACCG staff member Nathan Corbitt, who presented him with the Legislative Service Award. Mr. Corbitt spoke about the service, commitment, and dedication Senator Walker provides not only to his constituents in Houston County, but also to his colleagues in the Georgia Senate and General Assembly. Senator Walker, accompanied by his wife, Adrienne, expressed his appreciation for the award and recognized Mr. Corbitt and the ACCG staff for the valuable resources and support they continually provide. He concluded by thanking the Chairman and Commissioners for the outstanding job they do, stating that he and his family are blessed to live in Houston County, and thanking CMSgt. Gonzales for his military service.

Chairman Perdue and each Commissioner thanked Senator Walker for his service to Houston County and the State of Georgia, as well as for his friendship, leadership, and mentorship, and congratulated him on receiving this prestigious award.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2026, meeting. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Byrd voted yes. Motion carried.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications numbers 2946, 2947, 2948, 2949, and number 2954.

Chairman Perdue opened a Public Hearing on the Special Exceptions Applications.

Applicant #2946 was present; there was no opposition.  
Applicant #2947 was not present; there was no opposition.  
Applicant #2948 was present; there was no opposition.  
Applicant #2949 was not present; there was no opposition.  
Applicant #2954 was not present; there was no opposition.

There being no comments, Chairman Perdue closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

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 Ms. Robinson, 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:

|       |                 |                           |
|-------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| #2946 | Vicki Smith     | Interior Design           |
| #2948 | Jesse Tomlinson | Land Clearing & Dirt Work |

Also, to table the following Special Exception Applications:

|       |                        |                               |
|-------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| #2947 | Greg Blackmon          | Fraternity & Sorority Apparel |
| #2949 | Shawn Wilkenson        | Lawn Care                     |
| #2954 | Pedro & Diana Banuelas | Concrete Construction         |

Mr. Andrews informed the approved business license applicants that the next step in obtaining their business license was to apply at the Commissioner’s Office.

Mr. Andrews presented Rezoning Applications numbers 2950 and 2951.

Chairman Perdue opened a Public Hearing on the Rezoning Applications.

The applicant was not present; there was no opposition.

There being no comments, Chairman Perdue closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to table Rezoning Applications #2950 and #2951 as recommended by the Houston County Planning Commission.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to enter a service agreement to update the Comprehensive Land Development Regulations for Houston County.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve entering a service agreement with James, Bates, Brannan, and Groover, of Macon, Georgia, to update the Comprehensive Land Development Regulations for Houston County, bringing them in alignment with state requirements, reorganizing the regulations, making them more user-friendly, searchable, and streamlined. This agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$19,250, will have a timeline of no more than six weeks and will be funded by Professional Services.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to enter into an intergovernmental agreement for the relocation of underground City utilities associated with Phase 3 of the Elberta Road Widening Project.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve signing the agreement with the City of Centerville for payment of their utilities' relocation along the Elberta Rd, Phase 3 Project route.

Chairman Perdue thanked Mayor Evans for attending and discussed the agreement between the County and the cities regarding road projects. He explained that each municipal utility owner is responsible for paying the costs to relocate their own utilities, which allows the SPLOST funds designated for transportation improvements to be allocated to more projects.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of Change Order #1 to cover costs for additional grading to deepen ditches and dewater the subgrade on the Flournoy Road Paving project.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve change order #1 in the amount of \$11,297.62, bringing the total contract amount to \$1,925,301.84, with no change in time, for the Flournoy Road Paving project. This project is funded through the 2006 SPLOST. This is the final change order for this project.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a quote to replace the emergency backup generator at the 911 Center.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the quote from Anderson Power Services, of Perry, Georgia, in the amount of \$89,550 to replace the 911 Center emergency backup generator. This purchase is funded through the 2018 SPLOST.

Chairman Perdue stated that backup generators at the 911 Center are vital. Based on previous experience with other vendors, Anderson Power has become the County's preferred generator vendor, and its equipment and service support the backup power needs of many of the County's buildings.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to replace two firewalls for the Warner Robins Annex and Perry Courthouse.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the quote from CDW-Government, under the State of Georgia contract, in the amount of \$28,887.20 each for a total cost of \$57,774.40. Funding will be through the 2018 SPLOST, and this project is included in the County's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request from Tax Commissioner Mark Kushinka to restructure his office's leadership to align it with current operations.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the restructuring of the Tax Commissioner's Office by eliminating one Tax/Tag Supervisor position (Pos. #0045) and adding one Deputy Tax Commissioner position (Pos. #0047). Due to the vacancies within the department, this restructuring will have no impact on the FY2027 budget.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the restructuring of the following positions in the Public Works Department:

General Fund Positions

- Eliminate one Laborer position in Roads and Bridges (-\$52,823.53).
- Eliminate one Senior HVAC Technician position (Pos. #3026) and add one Building Engineer Technician position (Pos. #3088) in Public Buildings (+\$6,152.33).
- Reclassify the Engineer positions as follows (+\$32,552.97):
  - County Engineer from Grade 30 to Grade 32.
  - Senior Civil Engineer from Grade 29 to Grade 31.
  - Civil Engineer from Grade 25 to Grade 27.
- Eliminate the Office Manager position (Pos. #0015) and add one Public Works Senior Administrative Coordinator position (Pos. #3016) (+\$6,339.26).
- Net savings: \$7,778.98. The Laborer position will be removed from position control.

Solid Waste Fund

- Eliminate the Crew Supervisor position (Pos. #3027) in Solid Waste Collections. This position is funded at 50% for FY 2027 (-\$32,804.45).
- Convert the part-time Clerk position (Pos. #0005) in Solid Waste Collections to a full-time Clerk position (Pos. #0008) (+\$29,307.18).
- Net savings: \$3,497.28. The Crew Supervisor position will remain in position control but will be unfunded.

This proposal accomplishes the requested personnel changes while producing an overall budget savings of \$11,276.26. Personnel has reviewed and verified the projected net savings and recommends approval retroactive to August 3, 2026, to coincide with the beginning of the current pay period.

Chairman Perdue complimented Director of Operations Brian Jones for identifying ways to reclassify these positions, increasing employee compensation while saving County funds. He added that recruiting engineering personnel for the Public Works Department is challenging and that this change will help attract and retain qualified employees.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant Equipment Operator position in the Roads and Bridges Department, as well as the vacant Equipment Operator position at the Landfill.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Darrie Rumph to fill the vacant Equipment Operator position in the Roads and Bridges Department and the hiring of De'Exter Bawn to fill the vacant Equipment Operator position at the Landfill, effective August 5, 2026. Both will be hired at Grade 10, Step B. Personnel has reviewed both applicants' qualifications and confirmed they meet the requirements for the grade and step.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of a bid for a Police Pursuit Vehicle for use in the Sheriff's Office.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid from Brannen Motors of Unadilla, Georgia, for the purchase of one 2024 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab 4WD one-half ton Police Pursuit Vehicle pickup truck in the amount of \$49,330. This vehicle will replace a high-mileage 2019 Dodge Ram 1500. This is a 2018 SPLOST purchase.

Mr. Talton presented a request to ratify the new Health Services Agreement at the Detention Center.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the Health Services Agreement with Southern Health Partners, Inc., of Chattanooga, Tennessee, to provide health care, dental care, and basic mental health services at the Houston County Detention Center for a term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Chairman Perdue thanked Sheriff Moulton for securing a new healthcare provider that will reduce costs within the detention center while improving efficiency. He noted that the previous provider outsourced much of the detainees' medical care, resulting in higher costs.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve reappointment of Katie Barrs to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Region 6 Board for the term of August 4, 2026, to November 3, 2028.

Mr. Talton thanked Katie Barrs for her continued willingness to serve on the Board.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$4,989,660.74.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

Director of Operations Brian Jones expressed his appreciation to the Board and the Chairman for approving the merit salary increase for County employees and wished Commissioner Byrd and Chairman Perdue a happy birthday.

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

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending and recognized CMSgt. Gonzales and Mayor Evans. She concluded by wishing both Commissioner Byrd and Chairman Perdue a happy birthday.

Mr. Byrd thanked his fellow Commissioners, the Chairman, and County employees for their leadership and work on the agenda. He recognized Houston County Fire Chief Chris Stoner for the positive WMAZ news article highlighting the reduction in fire response times from 20–30 minutes to 7–10 minutes, thanks to all stations now being fully staffed with full-time personnel. He cited information from the article and expressed appreciation for the firefighters and the enhanced safety they provide to both citizens and fellow firefighters. He commented that school is back in session, prayed for a safe school year, and encouraged everyone to slow down during the morning and afternoon commute. He concluded by wishing Chairman Perdue a happy birthday.

Mr. Talton thanked Mr. Jones for his comments regarding the merit increase. He recognized Senator Walker for his continued support of Houston County and CMSgt. Gonzales for his service in the Air Force and his leadership at Robins Air Force Base.

Mr. Gottwals wished Chairman Perdue and his brother, Jason Gottwals, a happy birthday. He commented that after missing two meetings while traveling with his family, he realized there truly is no place like home and expressed gratitude to be back.

Chairman Perdue thanked Centerville Mayor Michael Evans for attending the meeting. He wished Commissioner Byrd a happy upcoming birthday. He thanked the Board and County employees for their work on the agenda and day-to-day operations and commented on the diversity of the agenda items considered. He announced that because of international travel, the September 15 meeting would be rescheduled to September 22. He concluded by thanking everyone for attending and stated that he is honored to serve the citizens of Houston County.

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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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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