

Board of Commissioners Wilkinson County

MEMBERS OF BOARD:
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WORK SESSION OUTLINE August 19,2025

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Call Meeting Session at 5:00 PM. The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Anthony Bentley, Commissioner Flint Shepherd, Commissioner James Hagins, Commissioner Robert Dame, and Commissioner Anderson Ford.

The following staff was present: County Manager Tracy Strange, Senior Account Tech 1 Lindsey Benefield and County Attorney Benjamin Vaughn.

Invocation

Chairman Anthony Bentley asked Commissioner Flint Shepherd to lead the invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Anthony Bentley asked County Manager Tracy Strange to lead the pledge

Visitors' Present

Ulyses B. Wilson, Gus Brooks, Clint Hardie, Tece Bloodworth, Chris Landrum, Brenda Broach, Lloyd Hatsfield, Beverly Clark, Yvette Boland, Chris Boland, Felton Swicord, Randy Moon, Nancy Moon, Jonathan Snow, Dusty Thomas, Marty Dominy, Lee Reynolds Jr., Mayor April Smith, and Joyce Denson

Action Items

- The Board looked more into Georgia Fund One Prime account before allocating funds there. Because of this they would need to rescind the previous motion. Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford to resend the original motion regarding movement of CD funds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Flint Shepherd. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford to place the CD funds with Morris Bank in a 7-month CD at 4.16% rate. Motion seconded by Commissioner Flint Shepherd. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes,

Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

- Motion made by Commissioner Robert Dame of approval of SPLOST 2025 Referendum Resolution. Motion seconded by Commissioner James Hagins. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.
- Motion made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd to approve County Manager Purchase Approval Limit from \$5,000.00 to \$15,000.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner James Hagins. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.
- Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins to approve The Scruggs Company Paving on Gordon McIntyre Road and Turkey Creek Road. Motion seconded by Commissioner Flint Shepherd. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.
- Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins to approve Reeves Construction paving on Old Balls Ferry Road. Motion seconded by Commissioner Flint Shepherd. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.
- Motion made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd to re-appoint members James Hagins, Roger Smith, Bryan Sappe to the Joint Development Authority Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Anderson Ford. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Topics of Discussion:

- The board discussed the application process, details of application, any applicable fees and permit structure. They will discuss these items at a future meeting.
- The board also discussed the ordinance pertaining to Short Term Rentals. They gave examples of different cities that have implemented Short Term Rentals in their city and all the details that it entails. They discussed about the possibility of a motel tax.
- The board discussed Room Excise Tax and after further discussion the commissioners found that a Hotel Motel Tax is not needed right now.

- The board discussed a funding request from the East Wilkinson Library because of a short fall in requested budget funds they are now short \$3,000.00 dollars to finish out their budget year. A portion of their funds was allocated to come from the Wilkinson County Recreation Department. County Manager Tracy Strange advised the board that there are funds remaining in the recreation bank account that could be used to full-fill the recreations budgeted donation of \$2,000.00 and the additional \$1,000.00 dollars that is needed. Motion made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd to give \$3,000.00 to the Library. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Dame. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.
- The board asked for a Fire Department update. EMA Director Chris Landrum discussed some things that they have accomplished such as hiring fifteen part time firefighters, staffed four stations twelve hours a day 7 days a week, certified over thirty responders in First Aid and CPR, created a Fire Explorer Program with Boy Scouts of America and many other accomplishments that they have done.

Executive Session

Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford to enter executive session to discuss Pending Litigation and Real Estate and Personnel. Motion seconded by Commissioner Flint Shepherd. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford to continue participation in the Opioid Settlement Litigation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Flint Shepherd. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion to exit Executive Session made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd. Seconded by Commissioner James Hagins. Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes and Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

County Manager Tracy Strange informed the board that Mrs. Valerie Chatman reached out to her regarding the Irwinton Christmas Parade. They asked if the board would allow children to take pictures with Santa in front of the Christmas tree at the Courthouse. They

also asked if kids could take pictures with Santa in front of the Christmas Tree. The board had no issues with the arrangement. For documentation purposes County Manager Tracy Strange asked Commissioners to approve it by a motion.

Motion made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd to allow to have children to take pictures with Santa at the Courthouse. Motion seconded by Commissioner Anderson Ford. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Adjournment

Chairman Anthony Bentley asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Anderson Ford to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Notice to Visitors

The Board of Commissioners welcomes you to our meeting. We ask that you do not talk during the meeting to allow us to hear all discussion between Commissioners. If you would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact the Board of Commissioners Office at 946-2236 no later than the Thursday prior to meeting.