

MEMBERS OF BOARD:  
ANTHONY BENTLEY, CHAIRMAN  
FLINT SHEPHERD  
ANDERSON FORD  
JAMES HAGINS  
ROBERT DAME

# Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners

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## COMMISSION MEETING July 1, 2025

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 9:00 A.M. The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Anthony Bentley, Commissioner Anderson Ford, Commissioner Flint Shepherd, Commissioner Robert Dame, and Commissioner James Hagins via telephone.

The following staff were present: County Manager Tracy Strange, County Attorney Natalie Sundeen, & Account Payable Rakita Sinkfield.

The invocation was led by Commissioner Anderson Ford.

The pledge was led by Commissioner Robert Dame.

### Agenda:

Chairman Anthony Bentley entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford and seconded by Commissioner Flint Shepherd to approve the agenda. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

### Minutes:

Chairman Anthony Bentley entertained a motion to approve the regular session minutes from June 3, 2025, and June 17, 2025. Motion made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd and second by Commissioner Anderson Ford. Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, and Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

### Visitors Present:

Graham Thompson, Ulysses B. Wilson, Felton Swicord, Donna Asbell, Chris Landrum, Amanda Panther, John Wilson, Joy Moten-Thomas, Marty Dominy, Romona Vaifale, & Kim Bentley.

### Recognition of Visitors/Presentations

None

## Old Business

County Attorney Natalie Sundeen presented a drafted resolution to make the Bloodworth Whipple Road a county road. Commissioner Flint Shepherd approved the resolution created by Attorney Natalie Sundeen, and Commissioner Anderson Ford seconded the motion. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

## New Business

a. Tax Commissioner Amanda Panther addressed the board requesting that Wilkinson County stop issuing Mobile Home decals. She stated that not issuing the decals would not change anything for either the county or the citizens. Commissioner Anderson Ford made a motion to approve the resolution that states the county would no longer be issuing mobile home decals. Commissioner Flint Shepherd seconded the motion. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition

b. Consideration of approval of the UGA Salary Study was tabled.

c. The board agreed to reappoint DAWC members Bryan Sappe, Jonathan Snow, Roger Smith, Keith Gundy, Anthony Bentley, and Danny Starley. Commissioner Flint Shepherd motioned to reappoint Bryan Sappe, Jonathan Snow, Roger Smith Keith Gundy, Anthony Bentley, and Danny Starley. Commissioner Anderson Ford seconded the motion. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, and Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes; Commissioner James Hagins voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

The Board of Commissioners also agreed to purge the DAWC board to a 7-member board instead of a 9-member board. Commissioner Flint Shepherd motioned to approve purge the DAWC board to a 7-member board. Commissioner Anderson Ford seconded the motion. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, and Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes; Commissioner James Hagins voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

d. County Manager Tracy Strange stated that Mayor Smith of Gordon sent an email asking if the county would submit a support letter for the Planning and Demo grant. The county manager stated that the letter of support would not hold the county to any obligation other than just stating that the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioner's supports the city applying for the grant. Commissioner Flint Shepherd motioned that the county would submit a letter in support of the grant. Commissioner Anderson Ford seconded the motion. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition

## Commissioner's District Report

1. Commissioner Flint Shepherd said district 1 had nothing to report.
2. Commissioner James Hagins said district 2 had nothing to report.

3. Commissioner Robert Dames said that within district 3 JR Sims Road is reopened. He also said that the Balls Ferry Committee Duck Race will be held on Saturday, August 9. Commissioner Robert Dame also stated that we should be looking forward to DOT installing a roundabout at the intersection of Ga Hwy 441 and Ga Hwy 112. They are also converting the intersection of Ga Hwy 112 and GA Hwy 80 into a four way stop. 4. Commissioner Anderson Ford stated that district 4 had nothing to report.

#### Chairman's Report:

Chairman Anthony Bentley stated that he had some citizens contact him out concerns of loggers on EH Snow and Dent Road. Chairman stated that we will make sure the roads get repaired.

#### County Manager's Report

County Manager Tracy Strange reminded everyone that the courthouse will be closed Friday July 4, 2025, for Independence Day and will reopen on Monday July 7, 2025.

#### Comments from the Public

Randy Moon stated there's still a problem on Long Branch and Ball Ferry with the big trucks traveling through. Although there are no big truck signs

Felton Swicord expressed his concerns about the meeting being live streamed to Facebook. Commissioner Dame replied to Mr. Swicord by stating that we are working with some high school students to get Facebook live back. Mr. Swicord also mentioned to the board that the same guidelines that the Board of Commissioners used to replace him were not the same guidelines they used for the board members of DAWC.

#### Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

#### Adjournment

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