

Board of Commissioners Wilkinson County

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

PO BOX 161
IRWINTON GA 31042
(478) 946-2236
FAX 946-3767

TRACY STRANGE, County Manager
BENJAMIN VAUGHN, County Attorney

E-mail:
bdofcomm@wilkinsoncounty.net
Website: www.wilkinsoncounty.net

COMMISSION MEETING April 7,2026

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

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

Invocation

Chairman Anthony Bentley asked Commissioner Flint Shepherd to lead the invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Anthony Bentley asked Commissioner Robert Dame to lead the pledge

Agenda

Chairman Anthony Bentley entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford and second by Commissioner Robert Dame to approve the agenda. Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Flint Shepherd 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 March 3,2026 and Work Session Meeting Minutes for March 17,2026. Motion made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd and second by Commissioner James Hagins. Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Visitors' Present

John Wilson, Chris Landrum, William Thompson, Graham Thompson, Vincent Smith, Joyce Denson, Clint Terry, Kody Berta, Jay Moten- Thomas, and Marty Dominy

Recognition of Visitors / Presentations

Old Business

New Business

- a. Chairman Anthony Bentley entertained the motion of approval of Mid-State Striping Parking Lot Resurfacing. Motion made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd and second by Commissioner Anderson Ford. Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.
- b. Commissioners spoke about a possible Convenience center ramp. They discussed some of the maintenance that would be needed to fix some items. The board decided to come back to the subject at another time.
- c. County Manager Tracy Strange told the commissioners that there is a new law and how the board needs to certify a millage rate before it's actually time to set a millage rate, last year we certified to keep it the same.
Chairman Anthony Bentley entertained the motion of approval of Certification of Mileage rate for Tax Assessors to keep it the same. Motion made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd and second by Commissioner James Hagins. Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.
- d. The board discussed various roads for consideration of LMIG funds. Some of the roads that were mentioned were Laurel Branch, Brewer, Hayward Smith Road, Parker Hill Church Road, and Long Branch, Hayward Smith Road. The board will finalize specific roads at a later time.
- e. The board talked about the consideration of permit fees and items for fees resolution. County Manager Tracy Strange said that County Attorney Benjamin Vaughn should have the resolution at the next meeting to solidify what we will do for fees.
- f. The board discussed a consideration of approval of quotes for roll off cans. The board looked over a few quotes. Commissioner Anderson Ford talked about the board discussing it more at budget time and signing off on the decision then.
- g. The board discussed about the consideration of purchasing of a skid steer and asphalt grinder. Commissioner Flint Shepherd talked about possibly purchasing some pieces at auction. The board decided to look into this a little later.
- h. Chairman Anthony Bentley entertained the motion of approval of opening 2025 SPLOST bank account. Motion made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd and second by Commissioner James Hagins. Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Flint Shepherd 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 stated that there was a good turn out for the Annual Banana Pudding Festival said that there were around 10 to 12 thousand people in attendance. He stated also that every food vendor at the event sold completely out of food.
2. Commissioner James Hagins discussed Balls Church Road and how there has been dirt left in that area. Road Superintendent Abraham Crockett mentioned that they were going to put a stop to that.
3. Nothing to Report
4. Commissioner Anderson Ford talked about how he is out campaigning. He also talked about Council McCranie Road and how it may need to be restriped.

Chairman's Report:

Nothing to Report

County Managers Report:

County Manager Tracy Strange reminded the commissioners about the ACCG conference going on April 23-25th, 2026. She also talked about a visit from John Legget and Brian Wright in a future meeting. She and the board talked about health insurance for employees. County Manager Tracy Strange mentioned that her recommendation is to stay with Cigna.

Comments from the Public

- Joyce Denson talked about Oconee Rivers Edge meeting next month and how they will be merging working on mental health services to serve this area.

Executive Session

Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford to enter executive session to discuss litigation, 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 to exit Executive Session made by Commissioner Anderson Ford. Seconded by Commissioner Flint Shepherd. 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 Taken

Chairman Anthony Bentley entertained the motion of approval of salary adjustments. Motion made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd and second by Commissioner James Hagins. Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins 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 James Hagins to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Anthony Bentley voted yes, Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins 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.