

Board of Commissioners Wilkinson County

MEMBERS OF BOARD:
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COMMISSION MEETING July 7,2026

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 9:00 AM. The following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Flint Shepherd, Commissioner James Hagins, Commissioner Robert Dame, Commissioner Anderson Ford. Chairman Anthony Bentley not present.

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

Invocation

Commissioner Flint Shepherd asked Commissioner Anderson Ford to lead the invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Flint Shepherd asked Commissioner Robert Dame to lead the pledge

Agenda

Commissioner Flint Shepherd entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford and second by Commissioner Robert Dame to approve the agenda. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. Chairman Anthony Bentley not present.

Minutes

Commissioner Flint Shepherd entertained a motion to approve the Regular Session minutes from June 2,2026 and Work Session Meeting Minutes for June 16,2026. Motion made by Commissioner Robert Dame and second by Commissioner Anderson Ford. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame Voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. Chairman Anthony Bentley not present.

Visitors' Present

Joyce Denson, John Wilson, Lakesha Carlyle, LaToya Kitchens, Kevin Lord, Joy Moten-Thomas, Johnathan Snow, Cass H., Lee Ann Cloud, Jareal Hicks, Clint Terry, Seth Daniels, Robbie Hooks, R.H, M.V, and Marty Dominy

Recognition of Visitors / Presentations

- Overview Inc. gave an update on available services. They discussed how some things they can help with are the weatherization of home for low income families. They passed out brochures with more information.
- Marty Dominy discussed the economic impact of Balls Ferry State Park. He talked about improvements that will be made to the park over time. He talked about how the park will bring economic development to the county. He discussed the possibility of a possible grant opportunity saying that sometime before August that the county could request to MGRC to apply on behalf of Balls Ferry State Park committee for the development of Balls Ferry State Park. He stated that the grants could be reimbursable grants where money is paid up front and have an 80/20 match. The board talked about getting together to discuss this more the board decided to table this for a future meeting.
- Robbie Hooks with Hooks Concrete talked about his technique with soil cement. He talked about wanting to do work for the county. He discussed the specifics of how his method is different than other methods. Some members of the board talked about how they like what Mr. Hooks described.

Old Business

New Business

- a. Commissioner Flint Shepherd entertained the motion of approval of vendor application and fee of \$25.00. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and second by Commissioner Anderson Ford. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. Chairman Anthony Bentley not present.
- b. Commissioner Flint Shepherd entertained the motion of approval of project proposal from Triple Point Engineering. Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford and second by Commissioner Robert Dame. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. Chairman Anthony Bentley not present.
- c. Commissioner Flint Shepherd entertained the motion of approval of pay request for Railroad Street and update on paving project. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and second by Commissioner Anderson Ford. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins

- voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. Chairman Anthony Bentley not present.
- d. Commissioner Flint Shepherd entertained the motion of approval of Freeport Tax Exemption. Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford and second by Commissioner Robert Dame. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. Chairman Anthony Bentley not present.
 - e. The board discussed asphalt vendors. County Manager Tracy Strange talked about how the road department has trouble getting asphalt, County Manager Tracy Strange stated that we are getting some today. The board talked about needing several vendors.

Commissioner's District Report

1. Nothing to report
2. Commissioner James Hagins talked about waiting on White Springs Church Road for some concrete.
3. Commissioner Robert Dame talked about the Duck race for Balls Ferry coming up.
4. Commissioner Anderson Ford talked about how everything is fine except for some roads needing patching.

Chairman's Report:

Commissioner Flint Shepherd gave chairman's report talking about shirts, hats, and ducks are available for the duck race and talked about sponsors money for awards.

County Managers Report:

Nothing to report

Comments from the Public

- Joyce Denson talked about a possible merger with Rivers Edge for Wilkinson County for mental health services.
- A gentleman thanked Commissioner Hagins and County Manager Tracy Strange about signs on White Springs.

Executive Session

Motion made by Commissioner Anderson Ford to enter executive session to discuss litigation, real estate, and personnel. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Dame. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, and Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. Chairman Anthony Bentley not present.

Motion to exit Executive Session made by Commissioner Flint Shepherd. Seconded by Commissioner Robert Dame. Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted

yes and Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes, Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. No action taken. Chairman Anthony Bentley not present.

Adjournment

Commissioner Flint Shepherd asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner Robert Dame to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Flint Shepherd voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Robert Dame voted yes, Commissioner Anderson Ford voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. Chairman Anthony Bentley not present.

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.