



FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 13, 2026

Floyd County Administration Building

Caucus - Suite 204 **4:00 pm**
Regular Meeting - Suite 206 **6:00 pm**

CAUCUS

Present: Commissioners: Allison Watters, Rhonda Wallace, Mike Burnes, Scotty Hancock, and David Thornton; County Manager Jamie McCord, County Clerk Lauren Chumbler, County Attorney Chris Jackson, Brice Wood, John Bailey, Jerry Lee, Mike Bell, Dianne Graham, Ron Swinford, Bob Henderson, Adam Carey, Samantha Bishop, Jenni Harper, Todd Wofford, Tom Ewing, Tim Burkhalter, Robert Mills and Barbara Penson.

Commissioner Watters called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Watters and Mr. McCord began a review of the agenda.

Mr. Wood presented the planning items on for first reading.

Commissioner Watters and Mr. McCord continued the review of the agenda.

Mr. McCord reviewed the budget and said there is a surplus of \$102,495, which will probably go to fund the special election.

At 5:06 p.m. Commissioner Burnes motioned to enter executive session to discuss property and litigation, seconded by Commissioner Wallace. The commission exited executive session with a motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Commissioner Burnes at 5:23 p.m. No action was taken.

I. CALL TO ORDER

County Attorney Chris Jackson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

Commissioner Wallace led the invocation and pledge.

III. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2026

County Attorney Chris Jackson called for the election of the commission chair for 2026. Allison Watters motioned to nominate Rhonda Wallace as chair, seconded by Scotty Hancock. The motion carried 5-0. Chair Wallace then called for a motion to nominate the vice chair. Mike Burnes motioned to nominate Scotty Hancock, seconded by David Thornton. The motion carried 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Wallace noted there had been a citizen request to add a resolution to the agenda and asked the commission if there was a motion to add the resolution to the agenda. Seeing none, the proposed resolution was not added to the agenda. Wallace noted that the proposed resolution was a complaint regarding the 2024 election and referred that complaint to the Floyd County Board of Elections and said the citizen could seek to have the State Elections Board handle their complaint.

Chair Wallace then called for a motion to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Hancock motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Burnes. The motion carried 5-0.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Adopt minutes of Caucus, Executive Session and Regular meeting of December 9, 2025.

The commission approved the minutes through common consent.

VI. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

1. Recognition for the service of Ralph Davis on the Floyd County Board of Elections.

Elections Board Chair Jerry Lee recognized Ralph Davis for his work and accomplishments during his service on the Board of Elections.

2. Recognition for the 2025 Floyd County Prison Officer and Warden's Award.

Warden Mike Long recognized Jason Broome as the 2025 Floyd County Prison Officer of the Year and Yanci Davis as the recipient of the 2025 Warden's Award.

VII. PROCLAMATION

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REGARDING MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Mark Swanson, 224 Rollingwood Circle, spoke regarding his request to add a complaint regarding elections to the agenda, his arrest and the appointment of MSP as the county law firm.

IX. FIRST READING

Mr. Wood presented the items for first reading from the Planning Commission.

1. File SUP25-10-04 for the property at 870 Woods Road and 0 Woods Road, Rome, GA 30165, Floyd County Tax Parcels G12Y016A and G12Y016, requests a Special Use Permit for an Industrial/Recycling Center, including concrete/asphalt recycling, tandem/roll off hauling, grading, crusher/screening services.

2. File SUP26-01-01 for the property at 0 Morton Bend Rd. (6948 Morton Bend Road as listed on the Parcel Viewer), Rome, GA 30165, Floyd County Tax Parcel C15028, being zoned Agricultural Residential (A-R), requests a Special Use Permit for an outdoor gun range.
 - Staff recommended denial but encourages the following conditions should the commission choose to approve the SUP: (1) that the SUP will become void if no progress is made upon establishing the proposed use within 365 calendar days after issuance, or if the proposed use ceases to exist for more than 365 calendar days once established (2) a more reasonable setback/buffer and/or site layout, (3) pre-development conference with formal development plans will be required, to ensure compliance with ULDC plan requirements in Article 2.4.1b and any/all applicable Parking/Project standards in Article 6 (4) police department to inspect berms prior to opening (5) any/all federal, state, and local licensing/permits required be obtained/maintained by the applicant (6) that the proposed development adhere to any/all EPA/EPD requirements for shooting sports (7) any/all activities cease by 11:00 pm.
 - Planning Commission voted to deny by a vote of 7-1.
3. File SUP26-01-02 for the property 3770 Kingston Hwy., Rome, GA 30161, Floyd County Tax Parcel M14331A, being zoned Agricultural Residential (A-R), requests a Special Use Permit for a Day Care/Group Home.
 - Staff recommended approval on the following conditions: (1) that the SUP will become void if no progress is made upon establishing the proposed use within 365 calendar days after issuance, or if the proposed use ceases to exist for more than 365 calendar days once established (2) that any/all local, state, federal licenses be maintained.
 - Planning Commission voted to approve on the following conditions: (1) that the SUP will become void if no progress is made upon establishing the proposed use within 365 calendar days after issuance, or if the proposed use ceases to exist for more than 365 calendar days once established (2) that any/all local, state, federal licenses be maintained by a vote of 7-0.
4. File Z26-01-03 for the property at 0 Rockmart Road (0 Rockmart Highway as listed on the Parcel Viewer), Silver Creek, GA 30173, Floyd County Tax Parcel K17030, requests to rezone from Suburban Residential (S-R) to Community Commercial (C-C).
 - Staff recommended denial.
 - Planning Commission voted to deny by a vote of 3-5. Since the motion to deny failed, it is being forwarded to the Floyd County Commission as a recommendation of approval.
5. File Z26-01-04 for the property at 4334 Martha Berry Highway, Rome, GA 30165, Floyd County Tax Parcel J10Y074, requests to rezone from Suburban Residential (S-R) to Community Commercial (C-C) as shown on the provided site plan.
 - Staff recommended approval as submitted in accordance with the site plan provided.
 - Planning Commission voted to approve as submitted in accordance with the site plan provided by a vote of 8-0.
6. Amendment of Article 3 and Article 4 of the ULDC regarding convenience stores and gas stations.
 - Staff recommended approval.
 - Planning Commission voted to approve by a vote of 8-0.
7. Re-adoption of the ULDC and accompanying zoning maps. Planning Commission voted to approve by a vote of 9-0.

X. SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

XI. PUBLIC HEARING

1. To receive input on exemption of County Manager's vehicle from the requirements of O.C.G.A. 36-80-20, related to the placement of a decal or seal containing the name of or otherwise identify the county on said vehicle.

Carrie Jones, of a Rome, requested to ask commissioners a question regarding the exemption and was called to the podium.

Jones: I just had a question. When have we ever had a decal on the county manager's car, out of curiosity. I'm just curious.

Manager McCord said the hearing is a matter of state law and that county owned vehicles, with the exemption of law enforcement, must have a decal unless an exemption hearing is held.

Jones: Are we talking about the tag on the back? Again, I'm just asking?

Commissioners replied that the vehicle still has a government tag, this hearing is only concerning a decal or seal on the vehicle.

Jones: Okay, I was just making sure. I wasn't the only one. I've never ever heard of this.

Commissioner Watters replied that the hearing is a process the commission repeats annually.

Seeing no other requests for input, Chair Wallace closed the public hearing. Vice Chair Hancock motioned to approve the exemption, seconded by Commissioner Burnes. The motion carried 5-0.

XII. RESOLUTIONS

1. Adopt a resolution setting the qualifying fees for 2026.

Mr. McCord presented the resolution to the Commission.

Commissioner Watters motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Burnes. The motion carried 5-0.

2. Adopt a resolution to designate one or more solvent banks, insured federal savings and loan associations, or insured stated chartered building and loan associations as depositories of county funds.

Mr. McCord presented the resolution to the Commission.

Commissioner Thornton motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.

3. Adopt a resolution to matters related to the collection of taxes.

Mr. McCord presented the resolution to the Commission.

Commissioner Burnes motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice Chair Hancock. The motion carried 5-0.

4. Adopt a resolution to appoint McRae, Smith, Peek, Harman, & Monroe LLP to serve as County Attorney of Floyd County, for the year 2026.

Mr. McCord presented the resolution to the Commission.

Commissioner Watters motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice Chair Hancock. The motion carried 5-0.

5. Adopt a resolution to appoint Jamie McCord as the County Manager of Floyd County.

Chair Wallace presented the resolution to the Commission.

Chair Wallace motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.

6. Adopt a resolution to appoint the firm of Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC as the county auditor.

Mr. McCord presented the resolution to the Commission.

Commissioner Burnes motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.

7. Adopt a resolution appointing Floyd County Leadership / Unclassified Employees:
Administrative Services Division Director / Finance Director / Comptroller - Susie Gass
Community Services Division Director - Erin Elrod
Public Safety Division Director - John Blalock
Public Utilities & Transportation Division Director / Special Projects Manager - Bruce Ivey
E-911 Director - Sommer Robinson
County Clerk - Lauren Chumbler
Communications Manager - Amy Dawkins
Human Resources Director - Darryl Bowie
Animal Control Director – Katheryn Walters
Warden - Michael Long
Parks & Recreation Director - Todd Wofford
Facilities Manager - Ryan Davis
Purchasing Director - Randy Self
Airport Manager - John Carroll
Chief of Police - Mark Wallace
Public Works Director - Michael Skeen
Chief Tax Appraiser - Danny Womack
County Engineer - Mark Welsh
Information Technology Director - Kevin Brown
EMA Director - Tim Herrington
Utilities Administrator - Steve Hulsey
Chief Administrator of the Floyd County Court System - Davlon Ezell
Elections Supervisor - Akyne Beck
Agricultural Center Director - Kate Harman
Development Liaison / Design Engineer - Brian Roberts
Victim Witness Director - Sandy Kunneman
Animal Shelter Veterinarian - Dr. Daniel Nepp
Assistant Police Chief - Tom Ewing
Assistant Public Works Director - Ben Brooks
Assistant Utilities Director - Distribution - Tim Shuler
Assistant Utilities Director - Operations - Troy Atkins
Water Operations Supervisor/Master Electrician - Bradley Cagle
Assistant Director - Budget/Cash Management - Amanda Tierce

Assistant Human Resources Director - Amy Burns
Assistant EMA Director - Chris Fincher
Drug Court Coordinator - Cam Parks
Mental Health Court Coordinator - Amy Bergstrom
County Paid Assistant District Attorneys
County Paid District Attorney Investigators
County Paid Public Defender Investigators

Mr. McCord presented the resolution to the Commission.

Commissioner Thornton motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.

- 8.** Adopt a resolution appointing county records custodian and open records clerk and adopting records retention policy.

Mr. McCord presented the resolution to the Commission.

Commissioner Watters motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice Chair Hancock. The motion carried 5-0.

- 9.** Adopt a resolution supporting an application from the Rome-Floyd County Land Bank Authority seeking approximately \$1.5 million in 2026 CHIP funds for new housing.

Mr. McCord presented the resolution to the Commission.

Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.

XIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 1.** Consider appointing Lynn Whatley to the Airport Commission to fill an unexpired term. This term will expire on June 30, 2026.

Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the appointment, seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.

- 2.** Consider appointing Julie Smith to the Airport Commission to fill an unexpired term. This term will expire on June 30, 2028.

Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the appointment, seconded by Commissioner Thornton. The motion carried 5-0.

XIV. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

1. Public Safety Committee

a. Next Meeting, Thursday, February 19, 10:00 AM, 2026

DDS Building Ribbon Cutting - Monday, January 26, 11:00 AM

2. Administrative Services Committee

a. Next Meeting, Thursday, January 22, 10:00 AM, 2026

3. Elected Officials Committee

a. Next Meeting, Friday, February 6, 2:00 PM, 2026

4. Public Utilities & Transportation Committee

a. Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 18, 8:00 AM, 2026

5. Special Committee Reports

a. Fire Overview Committee

- i. Next Meeting, Monday, February 9, 10:30 AM, 2026

b. Joint Services Committee

- i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, February 3, 9:00 AM, 2026

c. Rome-Floyd Planning Commission

- i. Next Meeting, Thursday, February 5, 2:30 PM, 2026

d. Joint Development Oversight Committee

- i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, February 3, 10:30 AM, 2026

e. Joint Solid Waste Commission

- i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, January 27, 8:30 AM, 2026

f. Transportation Policy Committee

- i. Next Meeting, Wednesday, January 21, 10:00 AM, 2026

g. Airport Commission

- i. Next Meeting, Wednesday, January 21, 4:00 PM, 2026

h. SPLOST Project Overview Committee

- i. Next Meeting, TBD

i. RFPR Advisory Committee

- i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, February 17, 12:00 PM, 2026

j. Floyd County Library Board

- i. Next Meeting, Thursday, January 15, 4:00 PM, 2026

Commissioner Hancock spoke about the DDS building ribbon cutting and noted that the building is already open to the public.

Commissioner Watters spoke about a recent Rome Floyd County Development Authority meeting and that the Rome trail and downtown ambassadors are already out and visible in the community.

Commissioner Thornton spoke concerning the Rome Floyd Commission on Children and Youth as well as attending the DFCS Board.

XV. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager McCord spoke concerning inaccurate allegations regarding the hiring and performance of the Floyd County Elections Director. He said that the director is highly qualified and had her state certifications well before coming to work at Floyd County. The manager also said she has continued to perform in an exemplary fashion despite the unfounded criticism of a few people.

XVI. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

XVII. CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk Chumbler reported that the Consent Agenda was in order. Commissioner Watters motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Burnes. The motion carried 5-0.

1. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to ratify a sponsorship contract with Chick-Fil-A.
2. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to approve a sponsorship contract with Texas Roadhouse.
3. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to approve a sponsorship contract with Hi-Tech Signs.
4. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to ratify a sponsorship contract with Southern Pride.
5. Consider request from the Clerk's Office to approve a waiver of hearing and stipulations to sanctions regarding an amusement game room license for Fast Trip #2 located at 9522 Alabama Highway.
6. Consider request from the Clerk's Office to approve change of ownership for consumption off-premises beer and wine license and self-service fuel license to Mobin Sheikh for 5680 Evans Enterprise Inc dba Evans Truck Stop located at 5680 Alabama Highway. All fees and signatures have been obtained by the application.
7. Consider request from Finance to approve the Adult Drug Court Enhancement & Innovation Subgrant Award for the period 1/1/2026-6/30/2026. This grant will provide state funds in the amount of \$2,945 and require a local match of \$631. This will require an increase to the revenue budget of \$2,945 and an increase to the expense account of \$3,580.
8. Consider request from Finance to approve the Victim Witness VOCA grant Award for the period 10/1/2025-9/30/2026. This grant will provide federal funds in the amount of \$60,354 and has a waived match of \$15,089.

XVIII. OLD BUSINESS

XIX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider request by Purchasing to ratify funds in the amount of \$198,000.00 for payment of work completed by UWS, Inc. for the Utility Relocation Bore at the Bells Ferry Bridge project for GDOT. No change to the budget is needed at this time.

Mr. McCord presented the request to the Commission. Commissioner Watters motioned to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Burnes. The motion carried 5-0.

2. Consider request to approve ratification of Septic/Water Release for Parcel 31 (Parks and Recreation Main Building) in the amount of \$12,906.00 from Georgia Department of Transportation.

Mr. McCord presented the request to the Commission. Vice Chair Hancock motioned to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Thornton. The motion carried 5-0.

3. Consider request from Purchasing to approve awarding the Architectural Services for the Etowah Ball Fields to Tunnell, Spangler & Associates, Inc. d/b/a TSW in the amount of \$321,810.00 using 2023 SPLOST funds from GL Account # 320648 - 66150. This vendor supplied a responsive and responsible proposal.

Mr. McCord presented the request to the Commission. Commissioner Watters motioned to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Burnes. The motion carried 5-0.

4. Adopt FY26 Budget.

Mr. McCord presented the request to the Commission. Commissioner Watters motioned to approve the FY26 Budget, seconded by Vice Chair Hancock. The motion carried 5-0.

XX. OTHER BUSINESS

XXI. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Wallace stated the commission entered executive session during caucus. No action was taken. Chair Wallace also recognized recent Heart of the Community recipient Ghee Wilson, who was in attendance. Chair Wallace also thanked Commissioner Watters for serving as chair and supporting her as chair.

Vice Chair Hancock also thanked Commissioner Watters and stated that there was a small group of people spreading falsehoods and inaccurately accusing members of the county leadership of being unethical. Vice Chair Hancock said those illegitimate claims had very real consequences and frivolous open records requests and lawsuits cost the county a significant sum each year.

XXII. ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the commission adjourned at 6:47 p.m. by common consent.