

Minutes
Taylor County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
May 6, 2025

The Taylor County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p. m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, in the County Commissioners Meeting Room of the Taylor County Government Complex at 7 Ivy St., Butler, GA. Present were Chairman Tameka Harris, Vice-Chairman Cicero Latimore, Commissioner Jeff Watson, Commissioner Randy Nelson, Commissioner Dianne Renfroe, County Manager Amanda Queen, and County Attorney Eddie Davis.

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, Commissioner Jeff Watson gave the invocation. Commissioner Latimore led the Pledge to the United States Flag and Commissioner Nelson led the Pledge to the Georgia Flag.

Agenda approved without change on motion of Commissioner Latimore, seconded by Commissioner Latimore, and carried with all in favor.

The Minutes of the April 1, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved as distributed on motion by Commissioner Renfroe, seconded by Commissioner Watson and carried by voice vote with all voting in favor and none opposed.

Citizens scheduled to appear:

1. Marsha Starling (EMS Service) – Ms. Starling lives at 335 Starling Rd, her husband has early dementia, she called EMS on 4/24, and after 30 minutes the Ambulance driver called and stated that the could not cross their bridge to get to their house due to weight concerns over their personal bridge at their driveway. Ms. Starling stated that that bridge was built prior to 1989 when they moved out to their house, propane trucks, etc have travelled that bridge without issue. Mr. Abb Preston stated that the weight of an ambulance is about 5500 lbs. Ms. Starling stated that there is no reason why it can't cross, and if she calls 911 for an ambulance, she expects to get one.
2. Adrian Van Leeuwen (Barfield Rd) – Mr. Adrian came before the Board, he lives on Barfield Rd, which connects Highway 137 and Highway 128, there used to be No Through Trucks signs at both ends, but now the Hwy 137 end no longer has the sign, and log trucks are taking it as a shortcut. The road is already in poor condition and fears that this will make it worse. Commissioner Nelson stated that we will make sure there is a sign put back up.

3. Larry Heinz (Animal Control) – Mr. Heinz came before the Board this evening to urge the Commissioners to look into Animal Control. The increased amount of strays and people abandoning animals is concerning for a lot of citizens. Whether we partner with a surrounding county, even partner with the recovery center on rehabilitation with dogs, most of these dogs are neglected and it is animal abuse that nothing is being done to these people. Mr. Hoffman spoke up and stated that his family did have the Tri-County Rescue in Mauk, but without the time and funds, its very hard to keep it running. Commissioner Nelson stated that if something were to open, then surrounding counties would treat this like the garbage and we would get overcrowding from outside Taylor County. Commissioner Watson stated that as former Sheriff, he knows that you have to have someone willing to prosecute the offenders that are abusing and abandoning the animals. Without that nothing will change.

Reports:

Planning and Zoning – No report.

Abb Preston, Taylor County EMS – Mr. Preston reported that during April, there were 174 Emergency calls, with 111 transports. The ambulances used 178 gallons of gasoline. There are 2 EMT's that are finishing their certification classes in May.

Jamason Byrd, Taylor County Fire Department – Mr. Thomas Hoffman filled in for Chief Byrd, for the month of April there were 8 calls, no report available.

Garrett Bosely, Project Manager – Mr. Bosely reported on a few updates on some of our projects. First, the LMIG funds are increasing by \$645,225.66 and this will add 1 more mile to Pebble Rd and Feagin Rd to the paving/resurfacing, Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve receiving additional funds and allocating to the named roads, seconded by Commissioner Latimore and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed. The Second item is upon inspection at the Senior Center, it is in need of a new fire alarm system, it doesn't work properly, going off at random times, this has needed replacing for a long time, we received a quote from Fuller to replace the system for \$7,648. Commissioner Latimore made a motion to replace the fire alarm system at the Senior Center, seconded by Commissioner Renfroe, carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

River Valley Regional Commission – Chairman Harris shared that the Regional Luncheon will be May 22, 10am at SGTC.

Unfinished business:

Naming the Bridge – Ms. Queen stated that this is the bridge on Turner Rd, it will be named the Tim Trussell Bridge, waiting on signs and then will plan a dedication.

New business:

Budget Hearings – Ms. Queen stated that the Budget Hearing will be on May 19 at 10am and we will approve the budget in June.

Jail Food Service – Ms. Queen stated that we have received two quotes for food for the Jail inmates, Ms. Julie and Ms. Betty's are both over \$400,000 for the year. So we have found Kellwell Food Management, Mr. Chris Davis was in attendance to answer any questions regarding the contract details. Since we have a unfurnished kitchen in the jail, we would only need equipment, to purchase is \$165k to lease is \$292k. so after purchasing the equipment, the yearly cost will be about 199k to 200k on average. We can also contract with surrounding counties that do not have food service and we can 'sell the services' so that we would make about 50 cents a meal. It gets deducted as credit on our bill. Commissioner Latimore made a motion to approve the Kellwell contract and purchase the equipment, seconded by Commissioner Watson and carried with a voice vote of all in favor.

Renaming the Fire Station – Ms. Queen stated Jamason Byrd's family has reached out and we are suggesting renaming the Panhandle Fire station to the Jamason F. Byrd Fire Station. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to rename the fire station, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

GICH Program / Housing – Ms. Queen stated that this is a program offers low income housing but not section 8. It is a subdivision style with ½ acre per home, these are built with contractors with no cost to the county, applicants have incentives and they purchase the homes. This was tabled until next month in order to have more information.

Commissioner Renfro made a motion to move the meeting into Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Watson. The meeting was moved into Executive Session at 7:40pm.

No further information provided

The meeting was adjourned at _____ (information not provided)

Work session followed for the Budget FYE 06.30.2025.

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