

AGENDA
WALKER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WALKER COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX III, 201 S MAIN STREET
LAFAYETTE, GEORGIA 30728

The following constitutes the agenda for the regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Walker County, Georgia to be held on June 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING

- **Invocation & Pledges**
- **Chairman Whitfield will Call to Order the Regular Meeting**
- **Clerk establishes a Quorum is present**
- **Approve Agenda**
- **Approve Minutes**
Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Scheduled Meeting Held on May 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Public Comment**
- **New Business**
No Items for Action at this time
- **Commissioner Comments**
- **Executive Session** (if necessary)
- **Adjourn**

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - Thursday, June 22, 2023



**Walker County Governmental Authority
101 South Duke Street, P.O. Box 445
LaFayette, GA 30728
706-638-1437**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

June 8, 2023

7:00 PM

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Shannon Whitfield called to order the Regular Scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting held at Annex III, 201 S. Main Street, LaFayette, Georgia at 7:00 PM on June 8, 2023.

II. Attendees:

The following were present: Chairman Whitfield, Commissioner Robert Blakemore, Commissioner Mark Askew, Commissioner Brian Hart, Commissioner Robert Stultz, Legal and Policy Director David Gottlieb, Communications Specialist Dakiya Porter and Board Clerk Whitney Summey. Other guests signed in at the meeting as well. Please see the attached sign in sheet.

III. Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Stultz, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried to approve the agenda.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Blakemore made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting held May 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Askew, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion was approved.

V. Public Comment:

- I. Nathan Gibson asked about the status of the ADA accessible park at the Civic Center. Chairman Whitfield said there are SPLOST funds set aside for the project and the county was submitting an application for a state grant to make enhancements. He said matching funds will be needed for the grant if it is received. Mr. Gibson asked if the county would be using Playcore for the design and construction. Chairman Whitfield said they are working with a firm on a proposed master plan. Mr. Gibson asked about previous money that was raised. Chairman Whitfield said the money was being held with a local nonprofit church and the funds were still available. Mr. Gibson said this project will benefit many citizens throughout the county.
- II. Angie Teems said she is presenting a memo on behalf of the Animal Services Department. She said they are on vet runs and could not attend the meeting. She said they are requesting that Animal Control Officers attend training to become mandated officers so they would not need the assistance of the police department in some cases. She presented the Board with a memo from Animal Services Director Jeff Mitchell and thanked them for their time and consideration.

VI. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Blakemore thanked Angie Teems for speaking on behalf of the Animal Services Department. He encouraged anyone to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Commissioner Askew thanked everyone for coming out and being involved. He said everyone's participation helps the Board better serve the county.

Commissioner Hart thanked all county employees for their hard work and dedication to the county. He said the Honeybee Festival had a great turnout and he was happy to see everyone there. He gave information about a Female Veterans Event coming up.

Commissioner Stultz thanked all of the county employees for their hard work. He thanked everyone for coming out and being involved in county government.

Chairman Whitfield said there are two murals under construction and the artists are doing a phenomenal job. He said the murals are part of the City of LaFayette's master plan. He said they hope to have both completed by the end of the summer.

VII. Executive Session:

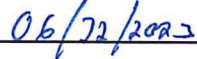
Chairman Whitfield made a motion to go into executive session for personnel, real estate, and litigation, seconded by Commissioner Stultz, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried. Executive session began at 7:18 PM. Chairman Whitfield called the regular meeting back to order at 8:11 PM with no further action from the executive session.

VIII. Adjournment:

Commissioner Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Askew seconded the motion. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.



Shannon K. Whitfield
Chairman/CEO
Walker County Georgia



Date

Minutes prepared by: Walker County Board Clerk, Whitney Summey

Regular Scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting

Walker County Annex III

June 8, 2023

7:00 PM

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Present/Absent</u>
-------------------------	------------------------------

Commissioner Blakemore	Present
------------------------	---------

Commissioner Askew	Present
--------------------	---------

Chairman Whitfield	Present
--------------------	---------

Commissioner Hart	Present
-------------------	---------

Commissioner Stultz	Present
---------------------	---------



INTERNAL MEMO

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Angie Teems, Human Resources Director
Date: June 8, 2023
Re: Mandating Animal Control Officers (ACOs)

This memo is a request from the Animal Control Department for their Officers to become mandated through a certified training program. The following details the benefits and requirements of this basic law enforcement curriculum.

Benefits

Officers that are mandated will be able to handle investigations without requiring county and city officers to be pulled from their duties, to issue charges on our behalf. We are currently having these struggles:

- having the Policy Department assist with warrants for missing court for repeat offenders;
- having to hold incoming calls to wait on the Police Department to assist us with warrants, witnessing, and pressing further charges.
- currently have 3 felony cases that we will have to present to the Policy Department to issue felony charges;
- This year we have 9 magistrate cases that are repeat offenders.

It is costing time and efficiency to take the Policy Department from their responsibilities thus stalling the performance of our ACOs. Furthermore, if our ACOs were mandated it would allow repeat offender cases to be escalated from a fine-only ordinance violations to state violations i.e. misdemeanors and felonies. This is especially notable because of the 2019 PACT act that deemed certain animal-related crimes to now be considered federal offenses.

Requirements

The Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) is the issuing authority and who administers the curriculum. The cost would be tuition-free under the sponsorship of our Police Department.

Conclusion

Please consider the request for additional training to allow the Animal Control Officers to become mandated. This will strengthen the authority of the ACOs, as well as, ensure process effectiveness. This is good step forward to show support for the Animal Services Department.

Reference Source:

<https://www.gpstc.org/training-at-gpstc/office-of-the-registrar/student-eligibility/>

_____ **Other:** (describe exemption of the open meeting law) _____

_____ as provided in O.C.G.A. _____.

Skwix No other matters were discussed during the executive session.

_____ Discussion occurred on a topic not authorized by law. The meeting was declared out of order, immediately ceased and was adjourned.

This 8th day of June, 2023.

Shannon K. Whitfield

Print Name: Shannon K. Whitfield

Print Title: Commission Chairman

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
8th day of June, 2023.

David D. Gottlieb

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

