



Walker County Governmental Authority
101 South Duke Street, P.O. Box 445
LaFayette, GA 30728

**Minutes of the Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street
Lafayette, Georgia 30728 of the Board of Commissioners**

December 4, 2025 - 6:00 PM

- 1. Invocation & Pledge**
- 2. Chairwoman Teems will Call to Order the Regular Meeting**
- 3. Clerk to Establish a Quorum is present**
- 4. Approve Agenda**
 - 4.1. Approve Agenda for 04DEC2025
Chairwoman Teems moved to amend the wording of item 14.1, R-081-25. The motion was to change the item's title to "Choose a Vendor for Mowing, Litter Pick-up and Weed Control."
- 5. Approve Minutes**
 - 5.1. Approve minutes from the Regular Scheduled Meeting held on November 6, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.
- 6. Public Hearing - Planning & Zoning**
 - 6.1. Planning Minutes 16OCT25 Minutes
 - 6.2. Planning Minutes 20NOV25 Meeting
 - 6.3. Martin Variance Request Submission
Ronnie Martin: Requests a variance to build a second house on 2.84 acres in an A-1 (Agricultural) zone for property located at 610 Townsend Road, Rocky Face, GA. 30740. Tax map & parcel number 0-587-033
 - a. Ronnie Martin was in attendance and stated he would like to build a sm:

retirement home on his property. He currently lives in an apartment located in his shop/garage and would like to transition to a small home.

- b. No one spoke in opposition.
- c. No questions proposed by Commissioners

6.4. Poteet Rezone Request Submission

Clarence Lowell Poteet: Requests a rezone from A-1 (Agricultural) to RA (Residential/Agricultural) for property located at 29 Poteet Drive, Chickamauga, GA. 30707. 30707. Tax map & parcel number 0-307-029.

- a. Clarence Poteet was present at the meeting, but did not speak.
- b. No one spoke against Rezone.
- c. No further questions proposed by commissioners

7. Chairwoman's Report

Chairwoman Teems noted that she is in her 12th month and acknowledged the first year-end is approaching, reflecting on the accomplishments during this timeframe.

Ms. Teems discussed the approximately 400 residents of the Battle Bluff subdivision. While geographically within Walker County, this area is associated with Fort Oglethorpe. The unique situation dates back to the 1946 decommissioning of the original military fort. Although the city of Fort Oglethorpe was incorporated in 1949, the county boundaries remained unchanged, leaving this portion of land as part of Walker County. Consequently, Battle Bluff residents are under Walker County's jurisdiction for zoning, taxing, governance, and other county benefits.

The City of Fort Oglethorpe does provide certain benefits, including lighting, sidewalks, the sewer system, and alternative services. For these services, Fort Oglethorpe receives a small allocation (.39%) of the Walker County SPLOST funds.

Chairwoman Teems announced significant cost savings in the County's insurance premiums, achieved by the County Clerk and HR Director. For Fiscal Year 2026, the county secured a 7.5% discount on workers' compensation premiums and a 5% discount on liability insurance.

These discounts will result in a total savings of \$91,553.62 for FY 2026. Additionally, the county qualified for a \$40,000.00 safety grant from its insurance provider, which will be used to purchase safety equipment and gear for employees.

The necessary materials and equipment have been secured in advance for a swift response to winter weather events. In the event of a high-alert emergency, our 911 and fire and rescue personnel are prepared to follow established mutual aid procedures with adjacent counties for both receiving and providing assistance.

Chairwoman Teems recognized Melba Powell, a truly special member of our community, on her retirement. Melba is retiring this month from the Board of Assessors after an

incredible 60-year career serving our government in various important capacities. Her long tenure began with Walker County in 1961, where she worked under J.M. Pickle and Ralph Aken. In 1984, she successfully ran for and was elected as Tax Commissioner, a role she held from 1985 until her initial retirement in 2000. The following year, Mrs. Powell was appointed to the Walker County Board of Assessors and was continually re-appointed by the Board due to her invaluable experience and deep knowledge of the county's history. Melba Powell has dutifully served Walker County and its community for many years with remarkable devotion and selflessness. Her joyful smile, unwavering support, and valuable input will be deeply missed.

Chair Teems recognized Joel Westbrook, an 18-year-old student at Georgia Northwestern Technical College, for his impressive athletic achievement. Joel made national history by becoming the first male wheelchair athlete named to the United States Para-Karate Team, competing at the 2025 Karate World Championships in Cairo, Egypt. His giving nature and willingness to try anything will serve him well in his successful career. He will graduate this month with a degree in social work assistance. Mr. Westbrook is invited to a future board meeting to share more about his accomplishments in person.

8. Financial Report

8.1. Financial Presentation by Chief Financial Officer, Christian Roach
No Financial Report for 04December, 2025 Meeting

9. Committee Reports

9.1. Director of Solid Waste & Environmental Management will give an update on the Litter Committee and the positive feedback from Tire Amnesty Day.
Paine Gily, the Director of Solid Waste & Environmental Management, presented a report on the 7th annual Tire Amnesty Day held on November 8, 2025. This year's event successfully collected 3,100 tires at the Marbletop landfill and an additional 255 tires at the Rossville location. Cumulatively, across all seven events, approximately 33,343 tires have been collected, a successful effort that prevents an estimated 143 tons of carbon monoxide from being released into the atmosphere.

Litter Committee Task Force

Paine Gily, the Director of Solid Waste & Environmental Management advised that a mission statement has been developed for the Litter Task Force.

The Walker County Litter Task Force partners with local residents and organizations to build a cleaner, healthier, and more beautiful community by preventing litter across the county. Through education, partnerships, and consistent enforcement, we empower residents to take pride in our shared environment, protect natural resources and enhance the quality of life in Walker County for current and future generations.

This is felt to be a strong message that everyone can work with moving into 2026. Mr.

Gilt also wanted to acknowledge the litter detail over at the road department, Public Works & Bobby Snider and his crew. Since January of 2025, these individuals have collected 32.57 tons of waste off of county roadways. The rapid response team under Dalen Daniels' leadership has picked up 1,000lbs of waste. December 30th, 2025 is the Annual Recycling Day for the County.

10. Department Reports

No Department Reports for 04December, 2025

11. Public Comment

Beverly Foster - A request was brought before the Commissioners regarding the pallet company on Wallace School Road. Ms. Foster voiced concerns that the property's poor upkeep is an eyesore and is negatively impacting nearby property values. Furthermore, she stated that pallets are placed in a manner that obstructs drivers' vision, creating a road hazard that the County needs to address.

Chairwoman Teems reported on the County's actions regarding the property owner and code enforcement. She stated that the County is issuing citations to the owner for the pallets and that the matter has already been in court. The County is also collaborating with the State. While code enforcement is taking the owner to court, Chair Teems expressed a need for a stronger penalty.

Ned Yates - Concerns over sub-contracting a vendor for mowing services

Jamie Hulsey - Inquired on RFP's for mowing vendors and asked how the notifications were published

Randy Pittman - Historic Preservation Commission - 1000 wreaths for Ga TN Memorial Park. Veterans Appreciation Dinner had over 300 attendees and was the largest to date. Dress for success - cap and gown program - starting alumni group for the leadership team and making this an annual program

Melissa Hulsey -Expressed concerns regarding ARCNET, a County vendor, noting the absence of a contract or signed agreement for their services. Recommended initiating an RFP process to re-bid for the service, thereby correcting this oversight.

Gary Williams - A question was raised regarding the vote on R-082-25, the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Walker Rocks Park resurfacing, and the justification for the chosen vendor.

12. Consent Agenda

- 12.1. Resolution R-076-25 to Convey Property Approved at the November 6th Meeting
Chairwoman Teems confirmed with the Commission that all items would remain on the agenda
- 12.2. Resolution R-077-25 Acceptance and Administration of the District Hill Historic Cemetery Project Grant of \$75,000.00
Chairwoman Teems confirmed with the Commission that all items would remain on the agenda
- 12.3. Resolution R-078-25 to Reappoint members and Appoint a Chair for the Walker County Historic Preservation Commission
Chairwoman Teems confirmed with the Commission that all items would remain on the agenda
- 12.4. Resolution R-079-25 to Appoint Harold Hughes as Chairperson for the Walker County Alcoholic Beverage Commission for the year 2026
Chairwoman Teems confirmed with the Commission that all items would remain on the agenda
- 12.5. Resolution R-080-25 to Appoint Dale McCurdy to the Walker County Board of Assessors
Chairwoman Teems confirmed with the Commission that all items would remain on the agenda
- 12.6. Memorandum of Understanding between The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and Walker County for the provision of Cooperative Extension Services and Personnel in Walker County, Georgia.
Chairwoman Teems confirmed with the Commission that all items would remain on the agenda
- 12.7. Supplemental Agreement between Georgia Department of Transportation and Walker County for Transit Trust Fund Program Allocation
Chairwoman Teems confirmed with the Commission that all items would remain on the agenda
- 12.8. Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) Coordinated Transportation System Subcontractor Agreement
Chairwoman Teems confirmed with the Commission that all items would remain on the agenda

13. New Business

13.1. Resolution R-081-25 to Award a Contract for Mowing, Litter Pick-up and Weed Control

Motion to approve by Commissioner Hart

Seconded by Commissioner Askew

Commissioner Wilson wanted to verify the contract was on the State procurement website for 30 days, this was confirmed.

Commissioner Hart asked if this vendors contract could be altered and next month the full contract will be voted on by Commission

Commissioner Wilson asked if the Road Department can give a quote on their per mile cost as a comparison to the vendor.

4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Approved

13.2. Resolution R-082-25 to Award a Contract for Walker Rocks Park Trail Resurfacing

A motion was made to award the contract to Talley Construction. The recommendation was based on two primary factors: Talley Construction submitted the lowest bid for asphalt, which is considered a better long-term solution, and the company is a local business.

Motion to Approve was made by Chairwoman Teems

Seconded by Commissioner Hart

4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Resolution Approved

13.3. Purchase Order 2026-00000564 for \$30,952.00 to Stewart Signs for a Digital Message Board for the new Elections Office building (SPLOST 2020 Funds)

13.4. Purchase Order 2026-00000573 for \$99,116.00 to NABCO Electric Company, Inc. for a traffic light replacement project at McFarland Avenue and N. Jenkins Road

13.5. Purchase Order 2026-00000591 for \$71,284.00 to Stowers CAT for the Walker County 911 UPS System Replacement (SPLOST)

13.6. Purchase Order 2026-00000593 for \$505,000.00 to TEC Tractor & Equipment Company for the purchase of a 2025 Gradall Excavator

Bobby Snyder reported that the road department is responsible for maintaining 650 miles of roadway, which includes mowing, clearing ditches, and removing trees. He noted that the department currently has only one unit to perform this maintenance. Snyder stated that he was able to negotiate a cost of \$505,000.00 for the necessary equipment, a price he considers comparable to older, used models.

Motion to Deny made by Commissioner Hart

Seconded by Commissioner Wilson

Discussion by Commissioner Hart addressed that the current equipment is used approximately 9 hours per week and does not validate the need for a second unit.

Commissioner Askew asked if the Road Department is currently fully staffed.

Commissioner Askew acknowledges the worth of Mr. Hart's opinions while also

recognizing the necessity of the new equipment for the Road Department.
Chairwoman Teems noted that \$114,000.00 in SPLOST funds was available for the purchase, with the remaining balance to be covered by the General Fund.
Vote was taken and 4 in favor of denying, 0 to approved
Purchase Order Denied

13.7. Ronnie Martin: Requests a variance to build a second house on 28.4 acres in an A-1 (Agricultural) zone for property located at 610 Townsend Road, Rocky Face, GA. 30740. Tax map & parcel number 0-587-033. (Planning Commission recommended this variance be Approved with Conditions).
Motion to approve with conditions was made by Commissioner Blakemore
Seconded by Commissioner Wilson
No Discussion
4 Ayes, 0 Nays
Variance Approved

13.8. Clarence Lowell Poteet: Requests a rezone from A-1 (Agricultural) to RA (Residential/Agricultural) for property located at 29 Poteet Drive, Chickamauga, GA. 30707. Tax map & parcel number 0-307-029. (Planning Commission recommended this rezone be Approved as Submitted).
Motion to approve made by Commissioner Askew
Seconded by Commissioner Blakemore
No Discussion
4 Ayes, 0 Nays
Rezone Approved

14. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Blakemore expressed his appreciation for everyone's attendance and involvement. He specifically thanked Bobby Snyder for his diligent work in preparing the proposals for the Road Department Equipment, and offered his assistance if needed.

Commissioner Askew noted that this was the last meeting of the year and that it had been a good one. He expressed appreciation for all the participation, mentioning that he saw many familiar, involved faces. He concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Hart expressed his appreciation for Melba Powell's many years of service to the County. He also thanked Chairwoman Teems for organizing the Team Appreciation Event for all County Employees.

Commissioner Wilson announced the upcoming Chattanooga Valley Lions Club Parade in Flintstone, scheduled for this Saturday at 3:00 PM. The event will benefit "Stocking Full of Love." He extended wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

15. Executive Session

No executive session was called

16. Adjourn

Angela Teems-
Chairwoman/CEO

Walker County Georgia

Minutes prepared by: Walker County County Clerk, Lisa Richardson

Date