



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

Meeting Minutes of the Special Called Meeting
Walker County Board of Commissioners
June 26, 2026 - 8:30 A.M.

1. Invocation & Pledge

2. Chairwoman Teems will Call to Order the Special Called Meeting

Chairwoman Angie Teems called to order the Special Called Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held at the Commissioners Office, 101 S. Duke Street, LaFayette, Georgia at 8:30 AM on June 26, 2026.

3. Deputy Clerk to Establish Attendance of Board Members

The following were present: Chairwoman Teems, Commissioner Mark Askew, Commissioner Brian Hart, Chief Financial Officer Christian Roach, Deputy CFO, Aneta Barton, Chief of Staff Dakiya Porter. Other guests signed in at the meeting as well. Please see the attached sign in sheet.

4. New Business: CFO Christian Roach presenting

- 4.1. Presentation and discussion of the FY2027 Budget
- 4.2. FY2027 Budget Presentation
- 4.3. FY2027 In Progress Budget Book for 26JUN26 Special Called Meeting

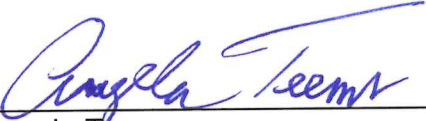
5. Executive Session

The Board of Commissioners convened an Executive Session to discuss litigation, personnel matters, and cybersecurity.

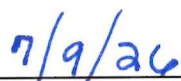
- 5.1. The motion to leave the Special Called Meeting and go into Executive session was made by Commissioner Askew.
- 5.2. Seconded by Commissioner Wilson
- 5.3. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays to go into Executive Session.
- 5.4. Executive Session Called in session at 9:10 a.m.
- 5.5. Executive Session Adjourned at 9:16 a.m. with no action taken.

6. Adjourn

- 6.1. Chairperson Teems adjourned the meeting at 9:16 a.m.



Angela Teems
Chairwoman/CEO
Walker County Georgia



Date

Minutes prepared by: Walker County Deputy County Clerk, Dakiya Porter

As set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992, Walker County does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and will assist citizens with special needs, given proper notice. Please contact the Office of the County Clerk for assistance prior to each meeting. We can be reached at 706-638-1453.



Sign In Sheet

Special Called Board of Commissioners Meeting

June 26, 2026

8:30 AM

Name

Address

Steve Wilson

WCSO

Marc Veazey

Chickamauga

Susan Veazey

Chickamauga

Ramanda Sneed

Rossville

Randy Pittman

Rossville.

Special Called Board of Commissioners Meeting

Walker County Commissioners Office
101 South Duke Street, LaFayette, GA. 30728

June 26, 2026

8:30 AM

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Present/Absent</u>
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Commissioner Blakemore	Present ✓
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Commissioner Askew	Present ✓
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Chairwoman Teems	Present ✓
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Commissioner Hart	Present ✓
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Commissioner Wilson	Absent Present ✓
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ARREST REPORTS

Walker County arrests: Friday, June 12, to Thursday, June 18

The Walker County Sheriff's Office provided this information on those booked into the county jail.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, TO SUNDAY, JUNE 14

- ♦ Antonio Dejon Espey Jr., 33, 1217 Gadd Rd., Hixson. Criminal damage to property second degree private property; driving while license suspended or revoked first offense; tag light required.
- ♦ Tanya Lynette Mitchell, 50, 240 Hamilton Dr., Chickamauga. Hold for other agency; giving false name address or birthdate to law enforcement officer.
- ♦ Ricky Lynn Hawkins, 48, 623 Jacksboro Ave., Rocky Top. Violation probation felony.
- ♦ Julie Renee Tipton, 48, 152 Ashlyn Woods Dr. NE, Cleveland. Driving while license suspended or revoked first offense.
- ♦ Max Alberto Garcia, 32, 63 S Lake Terrace, Rossville. Violation of probation misdemeanor.
- ♦ Yony Ramirez-Vasquez, 20, 3500 Clio Ave., Chattanooga. Window tint violation; driving without a valid license misdemeanor.
- ♦ Jim Franklin Miller, 30, 118 Bush Rod Johnson, Chickamauga. Willful obstruction of law enforcement officers felony.
- ♦ Dustin Owen Hayes, 49, 601 James St., Rossville. Failure to register vehicle; driving while license suspended or revoked first offense.
- ♦ Jeremy Brian Cross, 37, 82 Pineridge Cir., Rossville. Failure to appear for fingerprintable charge misdemeanor.
- ♦ Matthew Leroy Stokes, 42, 57 Dixie Spur, Chickamauga. Violation of probation misdemeanor.
- ♦ Amber Lasha Penson, 34, 103 Laminack Cir., Lafayette.

Criminal trespass damage to property under five hundred dollars; terroristic acts.

- ♦ Donald Michael Coley, 52, 2182 Halls Valley Rd., Trion. Public indecency first or second conviction misdemeanor.
- ♦ Bradley Allen Riddle, 24, 1367 Headrick Rd., Ringgold. Willful obstruction of law enforcement officers felony; willful obstruction of law enforcement officers felony; cruelty to children third degree or third subsequent offense; aggravated assault.
- ♦ Dennis James Garrett, 47, 210 Rowland Ave., Rossville. Hold for other agency.
- ♦ Mark Alan Thomas, 69, 1300 McFarland Ave. A202 93, Rossville. Driving while license suspended or revoked first offense.
- ♦ Chad Gregory Gilley, 39, 727 Luwana Dr., Rossville. Simple battery family violence; simple battery family violence; criminal attempt to commit a felony.
- ♦ Brian Ottoniel Choc Xol, 19, 1078 11th St. NE, Cleveland. Driving without a valid license misdemeanor; speeding.

MONDAY, JUNE 15

- ♦ Hannah Ashley McClure, 29, 126 Jenkins Rd., Rossville. Unlawful conduct during 911 calls or otherwise contacts 911 and makes a false report.
- ♦ Kayla Renee Bross, 25, 3824 Chattanooga Valley Rd., Flintstone. Simple battery.
- ♦ Aaron Ellis Grasty, 32, 1003 W Lewis St., Rossville. Willful obstruction of law enforcement officers — misdemeanor.
- ♦ Robert Lee Moore Jr., 44. Violation probation — felony.
- ♦ William Lee Davis, 47, 1200 Foster St., Rossville. Violation probation — felony.
- ♦ Danny Ray Chambers, 61, 3904 Memphis Dr., Chattanooga. Violation of proba-

- tion — misdemeanor.
- ♦ Jeffery Edwin Sharp Jr., 33, 164 Triple S Dr., LaFayette. Violation probation — felony.
- ♦ Penny Darlene Herndon, 58, 621 Boss Rd., Chickamauga. Violation probation — felony.
- ♦ John Robert Clem Jr., 59, 650 Burning Bush Rd., Ringgold. Violation probation — felony.
- ♦ Skyler Crawford Rodgers, 31, 8816 Forest Pond Dr., Harrison. Driving while license suspended or revoked — 1st offense.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

- ♦ Eli Cooper Alexander, 17, 4042 County 126 Rd., Henagar. Pedestrian under the influence.
- ♦ Rickey Kenneth Smith Jr., 36, 804 Henderson Ave., Rossville. Failure to appear for fingerprintable charge — misdemeanor.
- ♦ Brandon Garrett Snow, 43, 7049 Hwy. 95, Lafayette. Theft by shoplifting — misdemeanor.
- ♦ Derek Albert Elam, 35, 1300 Rush Chapel Rd., Rome. Hold for other agency.
- ♦ Steven Thomas Simpson, 35, 6135 Blue Ash, Ooltewah. Contempt of court civil.
- ♦ Juan Lopez-Jose, 38, 2311 36th Ave., Chattanooga. Failure to appear for fingerprintable charge — misdemeanor.
- ♦ Daniel Jose Perez-Mercado, 32, 105 Fawn Dr., Chattanooga. Speeding; driving without a valid license — misdemeanor.
- ♦ Eric Emanuel Raymundo-Rafael, 20, 1123 Cranbrook Dr., Hixson. Glass windshield/window required; seat belts violation (adults); driving without a valid license — misdemeanor.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

- ♦ Barron Antonio Farmer, 48, 79 Hardin Rd., Chickamauga. Contempt of court civil;

sale of methamphetamine.

- ♦ Terry Chase Massey, 38, 1414 McFarland Ave., Rossville. Exploitation and intimidation of disabled adults, elder persons, and residents; willful obstruction of law enforcement officers — misdemeanor; theft by taking — misdemeanor; false imprisonment; battery — family violence (1st offense) misdemeanor.
- ♦ Travis Amos Wellborn, 36, 457 Center Grove Rd., LaFayette. Failure to appear non-fingerprintable.
- ♦ Theresa Kim Esposito, 40, 3131 Mountain Creek Rd. Willful obstruction of law enforcement officers — misdemeanor; improper lane change/failure to maintain lane; driving under the influence of alcohol.
- ♦ Douglas Adonay Escamilla-Zavaleta, 36, 601 James St., Rossville. Window tint violation; driving without valid license fourth or subsequent offense within 5 years.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

- ♦ Hannah Ashley McClure, 29, 126 Jenkins Rd., Rossville. Simple battery — family violence.
- ♦ Perry Jamah Ramsey, 35, 1156 Bronco Rd., Lafayette. Contempt of court civil.
- ♦ Misti Gann Brown, 56, 128 Flintstone Rd., Flintstone. Criminal trespass — damage to property under \$500.
- ♦ Malachai D'Angelo Wheeler, 25, 704 S Cherokee St., LaFayette. Possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute.
- ♦ Spencer Gene Fowler, 22, 801 Clairmont Springs Rd., Lineville. Theft by taking — felony.
- ♦ Malik Rashawn Davis, 25, 7576 W Hwy. 136, Chickamauga. Violation probation — felony.
- ♦ John Travis Price, 45, 633 Carrol Dr., Ringgold. Violation probation — felony.

LIBRARIES

From A1

For adults, there are also many options: book clubs, writing workshops, knitting and gardening clubs and more. A library is a great place to hang out in the summer, reading, listening to audio books, watching movies, even helping out. Many libraries have family movie times. Parents will want to exercise some caution, just as they would in a bookstore. Libraries carry adult-content books, as well as sexually explicit books and books containing crude and obscene language marketed for children and teens. But with proper adult supervision, public libraries can be enriching and fun places for children.

Tamara Wolk is a reporter for The Catoosa County News in Ringgold, Ga., and Walker County Messenger in LaFayette, Ga.

CATOOSA, WALKER LIBRARIES

- Catoosa County Public Library**
108 Catoosa Circle, Ringgold
Phone: 706-965-3600
facebook.com/catoosacountylibrary
- LaFayette-Walker County Public Library**
305 S. Duke St., LaFayette
Phone: 706-638-2992
facebook.com/lafayettewalkerlibrary
- Chickamauga Public Library**
306 Cove Road, Chickamauga
Phone: 706-996-2231
facebook.com/chickamaugalibrary
- Rossville Public Library**
504 McFarland Ave., Rossville
Phone: 706-866-1368
facebook.com/rossvillepubliclibrary

STUDY

From A1

avoid congestion on Interstate 24 and local roads. Traffic on Battlefield Parkway is expected to increase by about 842 trips on an average weekday, primarily during midday hours. The study evaluated existing peak-season conditions, projected 2028 conditions and 2033 horizon-build conditions. Researchers analyzed traffic volumes, trip generation, roadway capacity, turn lanes, intersection improvements, sight distances and overall vehicular network performance. Doug Chapin, president and CEO of Rock City Enterprises, said the company sought expert analysis to understand the project's transportation impacts. "As we plan for the future, we want to carefully consider the best options not only for our business but also for our community. We relied heavily on the expertise of one of the best traffic engineering firms in the country to provide us with detailed factual information regarding traf-

fic impacts from the project." Chapin said the traffic assessment has been posted online and that additional reports will be released as planning progresses. The company is also planning a series of open house-style meetings in the coming weeks to gather feedback from residents and share more information about the project. "As the fourth-generation owner of Rock City, each decision made about our small business is done with careful consideration and professional expertise to guide our efforts. However, our team is also guided by the vision of the original owners, Garnet and Freida Carter. Our goal is to pay respect to that vision by being great stewards of the gift left for us to enjoy so that it can be passed on to future generations." Rock City, which opened to the public in 1932 during the Great Depression, remains owned by descendants of founders Garnet and Freida Carter. The attraction is known for features including Lover's Leap, the Swing-A-Long Bridge, Fairyland Caverns and the Seven States View.

PARK

From A1

Neighborhood Outcomes federal grant, with the required local match provided through the city's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds. City officials have highlighted the project as a centerpiece of LaFayette's efforts to expand connectivity and recreational opportunities throughout the community, linking key areas of the city such as the Ross Abney Complex and

the Mars Theater District. "I believe in this community. I believe in the people, and I think that the community is really hungry for new activities and programming," said Jason Shattuck, director of LaFayette Parks & Recreation. Whether you are a seasoned climber, a disc golf enthusiast, a skater, or simply looking for a beautiful place to walk, Traverse Park offers something for every member of the community. Residents are encouraged to arrive early, bring the whole family, and join in celebrating this milestone for LaFayette.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Governing Authority of Walker County, Georgia proposes to update its code of ordinances. O-01-26 proposes to amend Chapter 22 (Land Development) to provide clarity regarding zoning pertaining to professional services and offices. A public hearing on the proposed ordinance amendment will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2026 at Walker County Courthouse Annex IV, 201 S Duke Street in LaFayette. A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for review at the County Administrative Office (101 S Duke St, LaFayette) and online at walkercountyga.gov.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The proposed FY2027 budget of the Governing Authority of Walker County, Georgia will be submitted on June 26, 2026, at a special called meeting of the Board of Commissioners at 8:30 a.m. at Walker County Courthouse Annex I, 101 S Duke Street in LaFayette, GA. The budget will then be available for public review at the county administration building and online at walkercountyga.gov in the Government section. Public hearings on the proposed FY2027 budget will take place:

- 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2026 at Walker County Courthouse Annex IV, 201 S Duke Street in LaFayette, GA
- 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2026 at Walker County Courthouse Annex IV, 201 S Duke Street in LaFayette, GA

Walker County Messenger archive opens window to past

Digital collection gives newspaper readers access to more than 7,400 issues dating back to 1880

By Tamara Wolk
TWolk@CatoosaNews.com

Ready for a trip through local history? Now you can explore more than 7,400 issues of the Walker County Messenger, from 1880 through 2025, and see everything from hometown headlines to vintage ads with prices that might make you do a double take. Looking back at old newspapers can be fun for a variety of people — those interested in history, researchers, those who like to see old ads (and prices). Now folks can peruse archives of 7,459 issues of the Walker County Messenger, ranging from Sept. 16, 1880, through 2025. The Digital Library of Georgia is a project of the University of Georgia. The newspapers on the site are images that include every page of each paper when available. The site contains images of more than 500,000 pages of 1,156 Georgia newspapers from 1763 onward, as well as other content related to

governments and events. A visit to the issue of the Walker County Messenger celebrating the bicentennial (200th) anniversary of the United States in 1976, just 50 years ago, is enlightening. There are some articles focusing on local news and the nation's birthday, and there is lots of trivia-type and "did you know" information, but the ads may be equally interesting. A Shop Rite ad announced ground beef for 59 cents a pound. Also for 59 cents: a jumbo cantaloupe, a 32-ounce bottle of Hunt's Ketchup, and a 12-ounce pack of hot dogs. Six 15.5-ounce cans of Newport green beans could be purchased for \$1. Parents of babies, read and weep — a 24-pack of Pampers diapers was \$2.21. To see for yourself, visit gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu.

Tamara Wolk is a reporter for The Catoosa County News in Ringgold, Ga., and Walker County Messenger in LaFayette, Ga.



The June 30, 1976, issue of The Walker County Messenger celebrated the 200th anniversary of the United States of America.



Some history and a "Happy Birthday" message to the USA appeared in a 1976 edition of The Walker County Messenger.



This page from the June 30, 1976, edition of The Walker County Messenger offered local news, opinion, fun facts, historical facts and advertising.