

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

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
January 09, 2025 - 6:30 PM**

I. Call to Order:

Chairwoman Angie Teems called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held at Courthouse Annex III, 201 S. Main Street, LaFayette, Georgia at 6:30 PM on January 9, 2025.

II. Attendees:

The following were present: Chairwoman Angie Teems, Commissioner Robert Blakemore, Commissioner Mark Askew, Commissioner Brian Hart, Commissioner Gene Wilson, Deputy Clerk Jessica Staton, Public Relations Director Joe Legge. Other guests signed in at the meeting as well. Please see the attached sign in sheet.

III. Approval of Agenda:

Chairwoman Teems stated that there was a need to amend the agenda to remove the restatement of the pension plan, and add a member for appointment on Resolution R-007-25. Chairwoman Teems made a motion to approve the modifications of the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Askew, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried. Chairwoman Teems made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hart, 4 ayes, 0 nays. The agenda was approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting held December 19, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Wilson, 4 ayes and 0 nays, minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Public Hearing (Ordinance Amendments):

- A. Ordinance O-01-25 to Amend Chapter 34 (Utilities) of the Code of Walker County to adopt Broadband Ready Community Standards
 - 1. No one came forward to speak on Ordinance O-01-25

VII. Public Comment:

- A. Jim Pope expressed his opposition to changing the number of required monthly commissioner meetings to one per month. He stated the pay of district commissioners is going up and the public comments would go down if there was only one meeting a month. Chairwoman Teems replied that her office has an open door policy and that if anyone needed to speak with anyone, her staff would be happy to help them. She stated that she believes we need to try one meeting a month.
- B. Jen and Don Testa came forward to let the public know that Pie Slingers recently had a closing due to the owner having to care for a family member out of state. The Testas have reopened the restaurant and plan to open a free arcade for children at the restaurant.
- C. Beverly Foster announced this is the 60th year anniversary of racial integration in Walker County. Foster mentioned several racial integration events happening in Walker County throughout the year.
- D. Karen Deck expressed her gratitude for all the positive attitudes at the first meeting of the year and stated she would like for the board to focus on new business and growth.
- E. Tina Groce spoke about the 2024 Veterans banquet. She also spoke about a Vietnam Veterans wall that the inmates at Walker State Prison built. They are planning to transport the wall on February 21 to the Rossville Gym for a drop in exhibit on that Friday February 21 4-7, or Saturday February 22, 10-2. Ms. Groce also mentioned there will be a Desert Storm Veterans Dinner on February 28 to honor the veterans.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- 1. Resolution R-045-24 / R-001-25 to Amend the Enabling Act of Walker County
 - a. Commissioner Askew stated he thinks that this will bring clarity and help the board better prepare for the meeting. Changing to one meeting a month will give

the board time to get the facts that are needed to make decisions. He stated that there is an open door at the commissioners office and if one meeting does not work for the county, it can be changed back.

- b. Commissioner Wilson stated he has spoken with other commissioners from other counties and learned that most counties only have one meeting a month with work sessions between the meetings if needed.
- c. Commissioner Blakemore motioned to approve resolution R-045-24/R-001-25, Commissioner Askew seconded the motion, 3 ayes, 1 nay (Commissioner Hart). Resolution approved.

IX. New Business

1. Ordinance O-01-25 to Amend Chapter 34 (Utilities) of the Code of Walker County to adopt Broadband Ready Community Standards
 - a. Commissioner Hart motioned to approve the amendment of the ordinance, Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion to approve the ordinance amendment unanimously approved.
2. Resolution R-002-25 to Elect a Vice Chair
 - a. Commissioner Blakemore motioned to elect Commissioner Askew as Vice Chair, Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion unanimously approved.
3. Resolution R-003-25 to establish a meeting calendar for 2025
 - a. Chairwoman Teems made a motion to set the meeting to the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M. Commissioner Blakemore 2nd the motion.
 - b. During discussion, Commissioner Wilson asked if we could change the time from 6:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
 - c. Chairwoman Teems amended her motion to set the meeting to the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00 P.M., Commissioner Askew seconded the motion.
 - d. During discussion, Commissioner Hart expressed his concerns in regards to the Planning Commission, which meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month.
 - e. Jon Pursley was requested to come to the podium to give his recommendations on what would best suit the approval processes for rezoning.
 - f. Chairwoman Teems then amended her original motion to set the meeting to the 1st Thursday of each month at 6:00 P.M., Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion approved.
4. Resolution R-004-25 to appoint a County Clerk
 - a. Chairwoman Teems motioned to appoint Lisa Richardson as County Clerk, Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Appointment approved.
5. Resolution R-005-25 to Appoint a County Attorney
 - a. Commissioner Hart motioned to table the Resolution until a contract is in place, Commissioner Askew seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays, Resolution tabled.
6. Resolution R-006-25 to Amend the 2025 County Holiday Schedule
 - a. Chairwoman Teems motioned to amend the 2025 county holiday schedule and add Thursday, June 19, 2025 as Juneteenth. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Resolution approved.
7. Resolution R-007-25 to Appoint a Member of the Walker County Water and Sewage Authority
 - a. Chairwoman Teems made a motion to reappoint Scott Abston to remain in his seat and also appoint Courtney Johnson to fill the vacant seat on the Authority. Commissioner Askew seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Appointments approved.
8. Resolution R-008-25 to Appoint a Member of the Walker County Alcoholic Beverage Commission
 - a. Commissioner Hart made a motion to reappoint Dean Kelly, appoint Harold Hughes as the Chair of the Walker County Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and appoint Don Richie to serve a 3 year term expiring December 31st, 2027. Commissioner Blakemore seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Appointments unanimously approved.
9. Resolution R-009-25 to Appoint a Member of the Walker County Historic Preservation Commission
 - a. Commissioner Wilson motioned to approve the reappointment of Teresa Dorsey to the Walker County Historic Preservation Commission and John Culpepper to serve as chair for 2025. Commissioner Blakemore seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Appointments approved.
10. Resolution R-010-25 to Award a Contract for a Historical Resources Survey
 - a. John Culperr, Chairman of the Walker County Historic Preservation Commission, discussed the need for the survey. The last historical survey was done in 2009.
 - b. Commissioner Blakemore motioned to approve the contract, Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Contract awarded.
11. Resolution R-011-25 to Appoint Trustees for the Walker County Pension Plan.

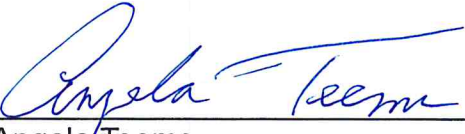
- a. Chairwoman Teems motioned to appoint Carter Brown and Steve Rogers, Jr. as Trustees for the Walker County Pension Plan. Commissioner Askew seconded the motion. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion unanimously approved.

X. Commissioner Comments:

1. Commissioner Blakemore stated he appreciates everyone coming out to the meeting. He emphasized that if we get bad weather to stay home, because it is dangerous to be on the roads.
2. Commissioner Askew welcomed everyone to the New Year. He stated that he appreciated all the positive comments tonight and thanked the citizens for their help.
3. Commissioner Hart welcomed Chairwoman Teems and District 4 Commissioner Wilson. He asked the citizens to be patient with the county workers, first responders and power companies during the expected bad weather coming. Hart noted that Sonny Scoggin, a farmer and W Armuchee resident, passed away last week.
4. Commissioner Wilson thanked the Historic Preservation Commission for all they do for the county. He thanked the county employees, first responders, 911 dispatchers.
5. Chairwoman Teems stated that she had a strong supportive staff and has exciting changes coming. She stated that she will be in the community very often and that if someone needs something to call the office or drop by. She stated that with the expected bad weather coming, the county 's emergency response team is ready to respond. She ended by thanking everyone for coming out.

XII. Adjournment:

With no further business on the agenda, Chairwoman Teems adjourned the meeting at 7:27 P.M.



Angela Teems
Chairwoman/CEO
Walker County Georgia



Date

Minutes prepared by: Walker County Deputy County Clerk, Jessica Staton

Regular Scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting

Walker County Annex III

January 9, 2025

6:30 PM

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Present/Absent</u>
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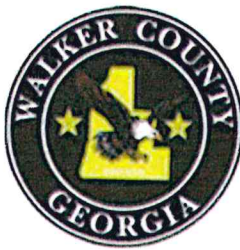
Commissioner Blakemore	Present
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Commissioner Askew	Present
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Chairwoman Teems	Present
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Commissioner Hart	Present
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Commissioner Wilson	Present
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Sign In Sheet

Regular Scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting

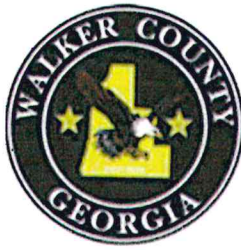
January 09, 2025

6:30PM

Name

Address

Cochran	Road
Alpks LHS	Kensington
Mark M.	La Grange
Travis Middleton	Flintstone
Sammy	Rossville
NED YATER	RISING FAWN
Jim Pope	Villanova
Dylan Bishop	Animal Control
Jimmy Hly	Chickamauga
Beverly Foster	Chickamauga
Jim & Don Testa	Rock Spring
Bobby L. Smith	Road Dept
Scott Teer	Chickamauga



Sign In Sheet

Regular Scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting

January 09, 2025

6:30PM

Name

Address

Randy & Gina Pittman

Johnny Noblitt

Buddy Chapman

Karen Deck

Jacob Deck

John H. Lee, Jr.

Larry Bain

Thomas Beusse

John Culpoper

PAINE GILY

LANSFILL

Billy Smith

William Davenport

Abi Kasper

Brandon Wilson

Lafayette