

County Commissioner Meeting – Regular Meeting
Traverse Jury Room
November 21, 2024

Present: *County Commissioner Mike Davis, Brian Arnold, Andy Lucas, Melissa Barker, Ronnie Smith, Cheryl Ates, Randy Thompson, Richard Newbern, Jeff Simpson, Cindy Newman, Todd Bishop, Lisa Eisele, Freida Dykes*

Todd Bishop opened in prayer.

Commissioner Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance, and welcomed all to the meeting.

All attendees received the following:

Minutes – October 17, 2024, County Commissioner Meeting
Bleckley County Digest and Millage Rate Hearing

There were no questions or concerns. The Minutes were approved.

Topics discussed from Commissioner Davis

The County Thanksgiving Dinner is being held on November 25, 2024, at the County Extension building.

The 2025 Holiday Schedule was approved.

The Solar Farm Ordinance was signed.

The ordinance creating the Board of Elections and Registrars was signed. The board will consist of three members and an election supervisor.

Officials, Directors, Citizen Input

Chief Simpson stated a mandated First Responders PTSD application was signed and will be forwarded to the appropriate office. A K-9 was purchased for the Sheriff's Office. Chief Simpson is working on paperwork to submit to GDOT for the purchase of five flock cameras.

Cheryl Ates stated there were no problems during the 2024 elections. The total number of registered voters is 8,606 and there was a total of 6,081 votes.

Ronnie Smith stated Rebie Road will open temporarily until paving begins and Porter Road is completed. A tire amnesty is scheduled to start on December 10th and go through December 21, 2024.

Andy Lucas stated the IDA Board has received prices on land for sale at the industrial park and they continue to seek prospects. They are also working on submitting a Rural South Development Industry grant.

Randy Thompson said he appreciates all that attended the ribbon cutting held at the airport. The airport houses a fleet of 54 airplanes, and they continue to work on possibly building more hanger space. A few new programs will begin in the College of Education. One is the Parapro to Teach Tract Program and the other is the Teacher Apprenticeship Program. New "Welcome to Bleckley County Home of Middle Georgia State University" signs will be place throughout the county.

Melissa Barker announced some upcoming activities sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.
December 4th – Caffeinated Connections - The Citizens Bank
December 4th – Ribbon Cutting - Lucky Lady Liquor Store
December 6th – Cochran Christmas Parade
December 16th – BINGO

Derek Bowen said harvest season is wrapping up and the 4-H program continues to be busy with multiple activities.

Richard Newburn is following up on the PTSD funding required by the state for the City of Cochran. He introduced Lisa Eisele, the new administrative assistant who will replace Julie Peche when she retires.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Mike Davis, County Commissioner

Date