

MINUTES
Bleckley County Commissioner Meeting
Bleckley County JC Building
Thursday, March 20, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Commissioner Mike Davis, Kenneth Widner, Chasity Goss, Makensie Taylor, Kinley Horne, Candace Summerall, Chief Magistrate Rob Grimsley, Derrick Bowen, Tax Commissioner Paige Baggs, Ronnie Smith, Randy Thompson, Allen Yawn, Cindy Newman, Russell Davidson, Sheriff Daniel Cape, Jeff Simpson, Nick Zachman, Cheryl Ates, County Attorney Brian Arnold, Jamie Kelley, Coroner Michael Francis, Richard Newbern, Freida Dykes

Commissioner Davis opened in prayer.

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

All attendees received the following:

Minutes – February 20, 2025 - County Commissioner Meeting
2025 LMIG Bid Opening

Topics discussed from Commissioner Davis

The 2025 LMIG bid opening for Antioch Road was held. The plan is to pave Antioch Road from the beginning to the end.

A proclamation was signed designating April 2025 as National Donate Life Month.

There were 5.6 acres of land at the Sunset Pines RV Living Park annexed into the city.

The County will host a Russell “Whit” Davidson Day on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Join us to celebrate Russell for all the time he has volunteered to the county.

Topics discussed in today’s meeting

Cheryl Ates stated the special election on the education SPLOST passed. The election went well, and her office is preparing for a statewide election to be held in June.

Sheriff Cape said a golf tournament to help support the children’s home is scheduled on July 31, 2025, in Pulaski County at the Southern Hills Country Club. The sheriff’s office conducted a traffic stop, which led to a search and arrest of a large amount of contraband.

Michael Francis stated there have been 16 total coroner calls for the year and numerous fire department calls for the past month.

Rob Grimsley attended his first 40 hours of Chief Magistrate training. He was able to hire Dennis Mullis as a part-time Magistrate Judge. He is requesting bids for core management software for his office.

Brian Arnold presented the resolution to amend Bleckley County Code Sections 58-22 and 58-28 to improve the quality and cost efficiency of roads turned over to the county.

Derrick Bowen said the extension office has just wrapped up production meeting season. David Hall is now serving as a liaison to the Central Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District. Mackensie Taylor and Kinley Horne, Bleckley County 4-Hers attended the meeting and gave an update on the 4-H program.

Jayme Kelley submitted the Building, Permit and Transfer (Landfill) Station Report.

CBRD Recreation Director Allen Yawn stated the registration numbers for baseball/softball season are lower than last year and the department is currently taking registration for soccer. The road department is working on rerouting the underground piping to help manage the sinkholes.

Randy Thompson updated all regarding the college activities and reminded all about the Chamber of Commerce Banquet this Saturday night.

Ronnie Smith said his road crew will install the new Welcome to Bleckley County, Home of Middle Georgia State University sign tomorrow. There were a few strong storms last weekend, but all the roads looked good and there was no damage reported. The TIA funds will be used to pave Broadhead Road.

Candace Summerall said the City of Cochran held the special election, which ended up in a tie in District 1. A runoff election will be held on April 15, 2025 at the Peyton Williams building and early voting will be held at City Hall, April 1st – 11th.

Richard Newbern stated the Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the city to help with the Cochran Clean-up Day on April 26th. He went over some activities scheduled by the Downtown Development Authority, and he is working with Jellystone RV Park with utilities. The resurfacing of Mac Thompson Road is complete.

Paige Baggs reported all taxes have been collected for the year. This is the first year the county collected the city property taxes.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39.

Mike Davis, County Commissioner

Date

Freida Dykes, County Clerk

Date