

**MINUTES**  
**Bleckley County Commissioner Meeting**  
**Bleckley County JC Building**  
**Thursday, July 17, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Mike Davis, Randy Thompson, Magistrate Judge Rob Grimsley, Candace Summerall, Melissa Barker, Jeff Simpson, Cheryl Ates, Matt Carey, Matt Kelley, Jaymie Kelley, Ronald Thomas, Vickie Tomlinson, Tax Commissioner Paige Baggs, Sheriff Daniel Cape, Ken Land, Cindy Newman, Richard Newbern, Karen Young, Gregory Chapman, Andy Lucas, Freida Dykes

Commissioner Mike Davis opened in prayer and welcomed all to the meeting.

Sheriff Daniel Cape led the Pledge of Allegiance.

All attendees received the following:

- Minutes – May 15, 2025 - County Commissioner Meeting Minutes
- May 22, 2025 Special Called Meeting – Sheriff Vehicles Purchase
- June 12, 2025 LMIG Supplement Antioch Road – Bid Opening
- June 19, 2025 Holiday – No Meeting

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

**Topics discussed from Commissioner Davis**

The Insurance Bond Letter was signed by Probate Judge Jonathan Fordham and returned to ACCG.

Ken Brooks was reappointed to the Bleckley County Family and Children Services Board. His term begins July 1, 2025 and ends June 30, 2029.

The County will continue the Department of Human Services Coordinated Transportation with the Heart of Georgia. The agreement will expire on June 30, 2026.

A Resolution was signed approving the purchase and financing of five patrol vehicles for the Sheriff's Office.

The Letter of Engagement and Understanding of Services Agreement was signed with the Nichols-Cauley Accounting and Advisory Firm.

The agreement between Bleckley County and Middle Flint Council on Aging, Inc. was signed for the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year.

The contract between Bleckley County and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commissioner as the Area Agency on Aging was signed for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The City is in the process of annexing islands located in Bleckley County to the City. There have been several phone calls and office visits from citizens that are not in approval of the annexation.

The Board of Tax Assessors was increased from three members to five members. Jonathan Powell and Danny Churchwell was appointed to the Board of Tax Assessors. Their term expires July 29, 2028.

The 2025 LMIG Supplement bid was awarded to the Scruggs Company. This is for the repaving of Antioch Road.

HB223 - This is a timber loss bill that will assist in financially supporting counties affected by the hurricane.

The County purchased the property located at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Cherry St. This property is directly behind the courthouse.

### **Topics discussed in today's meeting**

Gregory Chapman with Nichols, Cauley and Associates went over the recent audit with all present. The audit was filed on time.

Jayne Kelley stated the TPO for transit was chosen on July 13, 2025 and the county will continue to use RMS as their 3<sup>rd</sup> party operator for the transit system.

Cheryl Ates has been busy with the Special Primary Election for the Public Service Commission that was held on June 17, 2025. The Public Service Commission has the authority to regulate the pricing for most electric, natural gas, and landline telephone utilities in Georgia. There were 133 voters for this election. Bleckley County had a Runoff Election from the Special Primary Election. As of this meeting, Bleckley County has a total of 8,685 registered voters.

Matt Kelley went over the monthly fire report with all present. He is working on a grant to help rebuild the fire station on Porter Road and one for the purchase of safety equipment.

Tax Commissioner Paige Baggs stated there will be a Tax Levy in September and 96% of the 2024 taxes have been collected.

Vickie Tomlison with Heartland EMS said 17 students are attending the free EMA class.

Derrick Bowen continues to be busy in the Ag Program side of the Extension office, and David Hall continues to work with the farmers. There are three 4-H students representing Bleckley County in the State Congress event on July 22, 2025 – July 25, 2025.

Randy Thompson stated MGSU student move in day is August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. President Blake will have a Town Hall Meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Alderman Hall to discuss enrollment and initiatives. He said a ribbon cutting for the Barrs Outdoor Learning Pavilion is scheduled on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Ken Land stated he is working on grants for the revitalization to the downtown area.

Matt Carey said most right of way deeds to pave Broadhead Road are being signed by the property owners.

Melissa Barker said the Chamber of Commerce is busy with several activities. The grand opening of the new activity building downtown will be held on Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. and a Prayer Walk is scheduled on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. at the Middle school.

Andy Lucas continues to finish up on a grant and will be applying on another grant soon for the IDA Park.

Sheriff Cape commented on the audit and the reason the Sheriff's office receives 41% of the budget. The sheriff's office employs the most staff and serves the public 24 hours a day. The office is in the process of obtaining accreditation through the Georgia Sheriff's Association. Chief Jeff Simpson is the new Accreditation Manager. The Sheriff's Association golf tournament is scheduled on July 31<sup>st</sup> if anyone is interested in playing contact Investigator Zachman.

Candace Summerall stated qualifying for three City positions will begin August 18<sup>th</sup>. The city has received a proposal for a new sanitation service and the city workers will be completing a meter audit soon.

Judge Rob Grimsley provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Magistrate Court update for the past 6 months. There were 306 Civil/Dispossessory cases filed, 59 Civil Hearings, 815 Criminal Warrants issued and 126 Bond Hearings (67 City/59County).

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Mike Davis, County Commissioner

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Date

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Freida Dykes, County Clerk

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Time