

MINUTES
Bleckley County Commissioner Meeting
Bleckley County JC Building
Thursday, March 19, 2026
10:00 A.M.

PRESENT: County Commissioner Mike Davis, County Attorney Brian Arnold, Matt Kelley, Sheriff Daniel Cape, Jeff Simpson, Derrick Bowen, Tax Commissioner Paige Baggs, Ken Land, Camryn Bishop, Cheryl Ates, Candace Summerall, Melissa Barker, Allen Yawn, Magistrate Judge Rob Grimsley, Douglas Denmark, Nick Zachman, Caroline Weathersby, Randy Thompson, Cale Rycroft, Kirby Smith, Harlie Corner, Stephanie Smith, Ronnie Smith, Cindy Newman

Randy Thompson opened in prayer.

Paige Baggs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Davis welcomed all to the meeting.

All attendees received the following:

Minutes - February 19, 2026 – There were no questions or concerns. Minutes were approved.

Topics discussed by Commissioner Davis

The roof was replaced on the 4-H and the Bleckley Senior Center building. Three bids were received in the amounts of \$65,000, \$61,000, and \$41,000. Justin Stewart Construction was awarded the job at \$41,000.

Bid packages for the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) 2026 are currently being accepted, There are several road projects planned. Some of these roads are connected to City roads, and hopefully, the City will help complete the project.

A homecoming event was held at the courthouse to kick off Middle Georgia State University Homecoming week. Randy Thompson did a great job organizing the event.

Topics discussed in today's meeting

Ronnie Smith listed old, unused items from the Road Department for sale on GOV deals. There were 19 items sold including the trailer behind the courthouse, and approximately \$30,000 was received. The 2026 LMIG project is open and accepting bids for several roads to be repaired or paved. GDOT will provide a permit to close Colonial Road due to safety

concerns. The road department will start mowing the sides of the roads in a couple of weeks.

Tax Commissioner Paige Baggs stated 99.9% of the taxes are collected.

Sheriff Cape said the office is running full speed and doing a great job. There is one investigator attending school. The canine handler is in the process of obtaining his certification. The Bleckley County Sheriff's Office assisted Twiggs County Sheriff's Office with the Wrong Exit Operation. Sheriff Cape and other elected officials spoke to the Junior Board about County operations.

Chief Kelley went over the Fire Department Report for the month of February. The department responded to structure fires, fire alarms, 7 brush fires, 1 vehicle fire, 12 motor vehicle accidents, 3 trees down, 4 helicopter landings, 2 mutual aid calls with Dodge County, and 30 mutual aid medical calls with Heartland EMS. The department was awarded a \$25,000 fireworks tax grant, which will be used to replace outdated fire hoses. The Congressional District spending grant was awarded, and the money will be utilized to replace the station on Porter Road.

Cheryl Ates states her office continues to prepare for the May 19, 2026, election. Qualifying for the school board districts was completed. They are as follows: Heather McDaniel, District 1; Phillip Lester, District 2; Janie Cahill and Chad Brown, District 4; and Shanna Evans and Kandace Lucas, District 5. The Governor and Lt. Governor will be on the ballot as well as others. Early voting starts April 27, 2026, through May 15, 2026; two Saturday voting days are scheduled on May 2, 2026, and May 9, 2026. The last day to register to vote or change an address is April 20, 2026. There is a total of 8,734 registered voters as of now.

Cameron Bishop went over the Building Report with all present. There was a total of 21 permits last month.

The County Extension Program is busy with research and planting, and has just concluded all of the production meetings. All of the farmers were recertified for pesticide credits, and all the meetings were well attended. The 4-H Program is busy preparing for Cloverleaf DPA and hosting an after-school STEM club.

Allen Yawn stated that four pads are installed for the new bleachers. The Spring soccer season is over and the baseball/softball season will begin on March 30, 2026. The county purchased a new truck for the department.

Melissa Barker went over the planned activities through the Chamber and reminded all about the upcoming Chamber of Commerce Banquet on March 28, 2026.

Randy Thompson thanked everyone for their support for the Middle Georgia State University's Homecoming week. Dr. Blake will host a lecture on Ukraine on April 8th. Dr. Greg George will serve as the spokesperson for the monthly lunch-and-learn. He stated that things are going well at the airport.

Candace Summerall announced this will be her last County Commissioner Meeting. She will be leaving the city for a new job. The City Manager position remains open.

Ken Land was accepted into the Archway Program, and on April 25, 2026, a Downtown Family Fun Day is scheduled.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned

Mike Davis, Commissioner

Date

Freida Dykes, County Clerk

10:39 a.m.
Time