

MINUTES
Bleckley County Commissioner Meeting
Bleckley County JC Building
Thursday, April 16, 2026

PRESENT: Commissioner Mike Davis, Melissa Barker, Danny Smith, Randy Thompson, Camaryn Bishop, Jeff Simpson, Vickie Tomlinson, Magistrate Judge Rob Grimsley, Matt Kelley, Lisa Eisele, John Roland, Ken Land, Angela Redding, Tax Commissioner Paige Baggs, Ronnie Smith, Chery Ates, Brian Arnold, Sheriff Daniel Cape, Cindy Newman, Ronald Thomas, Freida Dykes

Matt Kelley opened in prayer.

Camryn Bishop led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Davis welcomed all to the meeting.

All attendees received the following:

Minutes - March 19, 2026

There were no questions or concerns. Minutes were approved.

Topics discussed by Commissioner Davis

The bid opening for the 2026 LMIG is scheduled today at 11:30 a.m.

The Savannah ACCG Conference will be held next week.

Mr. Bill Martin was appointed to the Airport Authority Board. He will replace Mr. William Coody.

The County Attorney is looking into possibly charging for an Open Records Request.

Topics discussed in today's meeting

Magistrate Judge Rob Grimsley will attend training next week in St. Simmons. He is still implementing a court management program for his office.

Tax Commissioner Paige Baggs will attend the annual training located in Athens in May.

Chief Matt Kelley went over the March fire report for all present. There were 15 Brush Fires, 2 Vehicle/Equipment Fires, 12 Motor Vehicle Accidents, and 7 Down Trees on Powerlines.

Sheriff Cape stated the BC Crime post on Facebook has no affiliation with the Sheriff's office. This information is obtained through an open record request. K-9 Officer Kevin Brown received his certification in tracking and narcotics. Deputy Caleb Brown graduated from the Academy. The Sheriff's office is now full-staffed. Sheriff Cape announced this week is National Dispatcher Week, and he is very appreciative of his staff at the 911 Center.

County Attorney Brian Arnold is attending the ACCG Attorneys Conference next week. One of the main discussions will be the Open Records Request.

Randy Thompson stated that Field Day will be tomorrow at the college.

Andy Lucas stated the Legislative meetings wrapped up on April 2nd. The IDA has 9 members who will evaluate the decision regarding the data centers. One of the requirements for the IDA board is to attend training. All 9 members have completed training.

Ken Land stated the Downtown Family Day will be on Saturday, April 25th, and he invited everyone to come enjoy. The DDA has been accepted by the initial Archway Committee.

John Roland updated everyone on the hospital's progress. He said the Pulmonary department is complete, and IV infusions are now being offered through outpatient services. He attended a conference for hometown health care, and Danny Mathis was the spokesperson. It is an honor to be included in this conference.

Melissa Barker stated there is a lot going on through the Chamber of Commerce, including Ribbon Cuttings, the Golf Tournament, Business After Hours, and more.

Vickie Tomlinson said EMS week is coming up soon. There are several activities planned.

Camryn Bishop stated the City of Cochran took over their permits on March 1st. 19 permits were completed this month.

Ronnie Smith stated that the LMIG bid opening is today, and that there may be another road grant coming soon. He spoke about several road/yard signs being moved because the road crew is mowing the right-of-way. When the crew comes across these signs, they are taken to the road department, and whoever owns them can pick them up from there. The signs are better placed on private property.

Cheryl Ates encouraged all voters to come by the office and pick up a sample ballot. She went over key election dates for the election. She continues to prepare for the upcoming General Primary/Non-Partisan Election. There are 8,742 registered voters as of today.

Lisa Eisele introduced Interim City Manager Angela Redding. The lights at the Cochran Community Park have been installed. Construction at the Willie Basby Park has begun.

Mike Davis, Commissioner

Date

Freida Dykes, County Clerk

10:44 a.m.

Time