

MINUTES
Bleckley County Commissioner Meeting
Bleckley County JC Building
Thursday, June 18, 2026

PRESENT: County Commissioner Mike Davis, John Roland, Ken Land, Randy Thompson, Lynne Raley, Douglas Denmark, Allen Yawn, Ronnie Smith, Lisa Eisele, Derrick Bowen, Courtney Orange, Magistrate Judge Rob Grimsley, Ronald Thomas, Caroline Weathersby, Matt Kelly, Coroner Michael Francis, Hannah McCranie, Cheryl Ates, Cindy Newman

Matt Kelley opened in prayer.

Andy Lucas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Davis welcomed all to the meeting.

All attendees received the following:

Minutes - May 21, 2026

Special Called Meeting Minutes June 12, 2026 - LHOST

There were no questions or concerns. Minutes were approved.

Topics discussed by Commissioner Davis

Friday, June 19, 2026, is Juneteenth. The courthouse will be closed.

The County Commissioner Meeting on July 16, 2026, is cancelled, and the next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2026.

The contract between Heart of Georgia Action Agency on Aging and the County of Bleckley regarding the meals at the Senior Center was signed. The contract terms are for July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

A Special Called Meeting regarding Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST) was held on June 12, 2026 in regards of imposing a local homestead exemption from Bleckley County ad valorem taxes.

Mrs. Mary Brooks was re-appointed to the IDA Board. Her new term is July 19, 2026, through July 19, 2028.

Topics discussed in today's meeting

Lynne Raley said the Chamber staff has been busy with the many planned activities, with the biggest being the 4th of July and the Celebration of America's 250th Anniversary. She invited all to attend.

Magistrate Judge Rob Grimsley stated that Sheila Brantley has attended Magistrate Clerk's training, and more training is scheduled in October for both of them. He continues to seek new software for the office and is evaluating many options before making a decision.

Coroner Michael Francis cleared up false information about the recent drowning of a three year old child. He stated the life vest was correctly fastened but it was loose fitting and did not have the strap that secured the vest down. He educated all about life vest and car seat safety.

Matt Kelley went over the May 2026 Fire Report. There was a total of 103 calls. Progress continues on the training facility. He recently purchased aqua eyes and a dive trailer with a grant the department was awarded.

Cheryl Ates states that the Board of Elections continues to be busy with the May and June elections. There are currently 8,755 registered voters in the County.

Andy Lucas mentioned a new Federal Opportunity Zone 2.0 grant that, if approved, will greatly benefit the county. He also stated the LHOST community consumption tax would be beneficial to homestead tax relief for property owners.

Lisa Eisele submitted the Building Report for May 2026. There were 12 permits issued.

Ronnie Smith stated that Abney, Linda, Cathy and Alderman Drive have been completed with the LMIG 2026 grant funds. Coody-Berryhill Road is still under construction. The LRA 2026 funds will be used on Red Dog Farm Road and Purser Braddy Road.

Allen Yawn stated that 5 teams are signed up for the DYB State Tournament this weekend. There are 5 softball teams and 3 baseball teams heading for state tournaments in other counties.

Derrick Bowen has been busy with crop trial research around the county. 70 kids attended the Rock Eagle camp last week and had a great time. Health Rocks Day Camp will be held June 22nd – June 24th.

Randy Thompson stated that the college hosted several kids' camps last week, with women's basketball hosting a camp for the first time in a long time. Becky Holland will feature a story in The Ledger. Student move-in day is scheduled for August 8th – 9th.

Ken Land updated all on the Archway Program through UGA to help the city with three projects. This will take 12 – 18 months to complete.

John Roland stated that Dr. Easterly from Hawkinsville will be coming to the area. Also, Alaina Dykes will be retiring after 39 years of healthcare.

Brian Arnold stated that as soon as the last right-of-way project on Broadhead Road is completed, paving will begin.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Mike Davis, County Commissioner

Date

Freida Dykes, County Clerk

10:44 a.m.
Time