

MINUTES
Bleckley County Commissioner Meeting
Bleckley County JC Building
Thursday, August 20, 2026 – 10:03 a.m.

PRESENT: Commissioner Mike Davis, Randy Thompson, Matt Kelley, Ken Land, Hannah McCranie, Coroner Michael Francis, Ronnie Smith, Lisa Eisele, Melody Brown, Ethan Norflect, Magistrate Judge Rob Grimsley, Sheriff Daniel Cape, Jeff Simpson, Johnny Holland, Carol Holland, Emily Bellflower, Chasity Wittington, Douglas Denmark, Nicholas Zachman, Brian Arnold, Wenelle Collins, Cindy Newman, David Arnold, Laurie Simpson, Bethany Newby, Victoria Villegas, Melissa Barker, Ronald Thomas, Freida Dykes

Matt Kelley opened in prayer.

Sheriff Cape led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Davis welcomed all to the meeting.

All attendees received the following:

Minutes - June 18, 2026

No meeting was held in July 2026

Topics discussed by Commissioner Davis

A Resolution was signed for the Heart of Georgia Regional Commission FY 2027 Community Development Block Grant.

A Proclamation was presented to Ms. Emmie Davis. She is the first female Eagle Scout, which is the highest honor.

Mrs. Lisa Chastain was appointed to the Tessie W. Norris Library Board. Her term started July 1, 2026, and will expire on June 30, 2030.

A Resolution Adopting an Ordinance was signed designating two Open Records Officers.

Commissioner Davis stated the Hidden Creek Farm lawsuit was dropped by Judge Kendall. They have until September 17, 2026 to appeal.

The 2026 LMIG Bid opening was held. The lowest bid was The Scruggs Company.

The County is currently accepting sealed bids for the TIA Project on Brodhead Road. The date of opening the sealed bids is scheduled September 4, 2026, at 1:00p.m.

Mr. Roger Bryant and Mrs. Dianne Lester was appointed to the Bleckley County Family and Children Services Board. Both of their terms will extend through June 30, 2030.

Topics discussed in todays' meeting

Sheriff Cape stated the office is fully staffed and he is now looking at promoting some of the officers. Car break-ins around the primary school area have been reported. He reminded all to lock their doors. The Officers assisted in the Warner Robins School shooting a few weeks ago. The traffic unit will be on the interstate monitoring traffic.

Ms. Laurie Simpson with the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission discussed the Community Development Block Grant. If approved, the grant will be used to replace the wooden windows and possibly some HVAC repair. She discussed the requirements and answered concerns and questions from those present.

County Attorney Brian Arnold addressed several Resolutions:

An open records request process was established, assigning County Clerk Freida Dykes to handle general county requests and Chief Jeff Simpson to handle the sheriff's office requests. A referendum in June was voted on and passed to allow restaurants located in the County to sell mixed drinks. The restaurants are required to provide more than 50% of profits in food sales, serve only during regular restaurant hours and the Ordinance will include a no sale on Sunday policy. A Resolution was discussed to close the remaining portion of Clyde Moore Road. This is a farm road owned by Tom Bradbury. A hearing is scheduled on September 9, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's office at the Courthouse.

Ronnie Smith stated road work will start on Berryhill Coody Road and Purser Braddy Road. More work is planned on Milledgeville Road and Coley Station Road. These roads are part of the LMIG and LRA Road Grants.

Magistrate Judge Rob Grimsley stated the Magistrate office is receiving a higher number of cases. The threshold for cases has been \$15,000 for the past 10 or 15 years and with the cost of inflation increasing, the legislator raised the threshold to \$25,000. If a claim is under \$25,000 it will come through the Magistrate Court. This will go in effect on January 1, 2027.

County Surveyor David Arnold discussed the closure of Clyde English Road. This road serves no purpose, and 80% has already been closed. He is also looking at the right-of-way for closing Colonial Road. The road is owned by the county.

Coroner Michael Francis stated there were 11 cases this month. He stated a Safety Grant was received and Hot Sticks to check for downed power lines were purchased. He was also able to purchase accountability tags and breakaway vests. A deep dive technical certification training will be held soon.

Matt Kelley updated everyone on the training center and discussed the \$ 2,500 safety grant. He went over the Fire Department Report with all present.

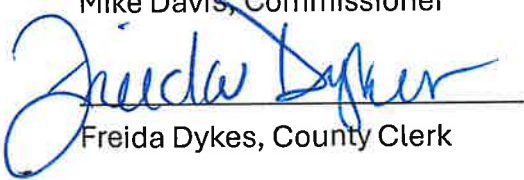
Lisa Eisele went over the Permit and Building Department Report for July 2026.

A few citizens attended the meeting to ask about updates on a Data Center. They asked if any land has been purchased or any progress been made on a data center being built. Commissioner Davis stated that, as of now, there has not been no land purchased or discussion of a data center.

A citizen asked about the Tax Assessments increasing. She stated her property value increased by \$100,000 again. She feels senior citizens need some type of tax relief.

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned.


Mike Davis, Commissioner


Freida Dykes, County Clerk

9/17/20
Date

Time ended: 11:16 a.m.