



Baldwin County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

June 17, 2025

1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220

6:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT

Andrew Strickland, Chair
Kendrick Butts, Vice Chair
Sammy Hall
Emily C. Davis
Scott Little

OTHERS

Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Brandon Palmer
Bo Danuser

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andrew Strickland called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION

Pastor Tony Fraley said the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Scott Little led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Little made a motion to adopt the May 20, 2025 regular Commission meeting minutes and the May 20, 2025 closed session meeting minutes. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and minutes were unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Presentations

Commissioner Davis presented Certificates of Recognition to Lottie Mae Stevens Harris in recognition of her 99th birthday; to Annie Bell Wright Milner for her 100th birthday and to Thelma Clemmons Huff in celebration of her 100th birthday.

Commissioner Strickland presented each member of the Baldwin County Recreation Department Girls 12-Year-Old Allstar Softball Team and coaches with Certificates of Recognition in celebration of their recent victory in the Allstar Championship.

Commissioner Butts read a proclamation declaring June 19, 2025 as Juneteenth Day of Celebration. He shared that he presented the proclamation in the Harrisburg Community had a community celebration over the past weekend.

Superior Court Budget Adoption

Chairman Strickland read the caption of Resolution R-2025-53 stating the resolution adopted the 2026 fiscal year annual operating budget for the Superior Court and Juvenile Court of the Ocmulgee Circuit in the Eighth Judicial Administrative District.

The resolution was presented as follows:

RESOLUTION R-2025-53

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2026 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE SUPERIOR COURT AND JUVENILE COURT OF THE OCMULGEE CIRCUIT IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners joins Greene, Hancock, Jasper, Jones, Morgan, Putnam and Wilkinson Counties in providing the annual funding to carry on the operations of the Superior and Juvenile Courts of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit;

WHEREAS, each county is mandated by the State of Georgia to provide a percentage of the cost of the annual operations of the Superior and Juvenile Courts in their respective circuit based on the population of each county; and

WHEREAS, Baldwin County is mandated to provide 26.48% of the Superior and Juvenile Courts in the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit operating cost totaling \$305,931; and

WHEREAS, the line items of the aforementioned budget are hereby attached and by reference duly incorporated and made a part of this resolution at "Exhibit A"; and

WHEREAS, each judge of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit has signed a statement signifying their approval and support of the budget line items as identified in "Exhibit A".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, that:

1. **Incorporation of Recitals.** The above stated recitals are true and correct and are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.
2. **Authorization of Superior Court Budget and the Juvenile Court Budget for the 2026 Fiscal Year.** The Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Superior Court Budget and the Juvenile Court Budget for the 2026 Fiscal Year totaling \$305,931.
3. **Authorization of Chairman.** The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Chairman of the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners to sign any documentation or take any other action necessary reasonably required to carry out, give effect to, and consummate the adoption of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit 2026 fiscal year annual operating budget.
4. **Severability.** In case any one or more of the provisions of this Resolution shall for any reason be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Resolution, but this Resolution shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provision had not been contained herein.
5. **Repeal of Conflicting Resolutions.** Any and all resolutions in conflict with this Resolution this day passed be and they are hereby repealed.
6. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

SO RESOLVED, this 17th day of June, 2025.

BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Andrew Strickland, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of
Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser, County Clerk
Baldwin County Georgia

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson stated the Superior Court budget followed the State's budget cycle and was consistent with the other counties in the district. She asked for the board to approve the resolution

Commission Davis made a motion to approve Resolution R-2025-53 approving the Superior Court Budget. Commissioner Little seconded the motion and the resolution was approved unanimously.

Oconee Heights Streetscape

Chairman Strickland reads the caption of Resolution R-2025-54 stating the resolution authorized an agreement with Watkins and Association, LLC to provide professional engineering services for the RAISE grant for Oconee Heights Streetscape and safety improvements.

The resolution was presented as follows:

RESOLUTION R-2025-54

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT WITH WATKINS AND ASSOCIATES, LLC TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE RAISE GRANT FOR OCONEE HIGHTS STREETSCAPE AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREASE, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners desire to continue making improvements to the quality of life for the residents of the Oconee Heights Neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, through a RAISE grant, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners have the opportunity to create a neighborhood streetscape with sidewalks, walking paths, solar lighting and replacement of failing culverts; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners desire to contract with Watkins and Associates, LLC to provide an engineering and design plan for the Oconee Heights streetscape and safety improvements; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned agreement is hereby attached and by reference duly incorporated and made a part of this resolution as "Exhibit A".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, that:

7. **Incorporation of Recitals.** The above stated recitals are true and correct and are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.

8. **Authorization of Agreement.** The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an agreement with Watkins and Associates, LLC for professional engineering services associated with the RAISE Grant for Oconee Heights Streetscape and safety improvements.
9. **Authorization of Chairman.** The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Chairman of the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners to sign any documentation or take any other action necessary reasonably required to carry out, give effect to, and consummate this agreement with Watkins and Associates, LLC and to take all action necessary in conformity therewith.
10. **Severability.** In case any one or more of the provisions of this Resolution shall for any reason be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Resolution, but this Resolution shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provision had not been contained herein.
11. **Repeal of Conflicting Resolutions.** Any and all resolutions in conflict with this Resolution this day passed be and they are hereby repealed.
12. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

SO RESOLVED, this 17th day of June, 2025.

BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Andrew Strickland, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of
Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser, County Clerk
Baldwin County Georgia

County Manager Carlos Tobar stated Watkins and Associates were GDOT qualified and were graded based on federal criteria and guidelines. Mr. Tobar discussed the grant stating the budget was \$100,000 for the environmental and \$388,184 for designed; that the environmentals would have to be completed before final design and engineering could begin; the project would include 3

bridge repairs, road rehabilitation, one-way streets, street lights, shared use paths and sidewalks. He further stated that he hoped the project would begin next year.

Commissioner Little made a motion to approve Resolution R-2025-54 to authorize an agreement with Watkins and Associates, LLC. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the resolution was approved unanimously.

Appointments

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented names for 9 appointments to the Airport Advisory Committee with one seat for a non-voting member that could be a commissioner. The names submitted by the Airport Advisor Committee were:

Pilot Ethan Carswell for an at large seat for 2025 and 2026;
Home Owner Chris Colwell for a seat for 2025 and 2026;
Pilot Roberto Hornung Filho for an Education Community seat for 2025 – 2027;
Pilot Curt Flournoy for an at large seat for 2025 – 2027;
Pilot Kalina Milani for an at large seat for 2025 and 2026;
Pilot Jessica Mitchell for an at large seat for 2025 and 2026;
Pilot Tara Parker for an at large seat for 2025 – 2027;
Pilot Kevin Pope for an at large seat for 2025-2027;
Pilot Ted Zarkowsky for an at large seat for 2005-2027.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve the appointments to the Baldwin County Airport Advisory Board as presented by the Airport Advisory Committee. Commissioner Little seconded the motion.

There was a discussion about how the appointments to the Airport Advisory Committee were chosen, making changes to the committee bylaws, and how vacancies were filled.

Chairman Strickland called for a vote and the appointments were unanimously confirmed.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Butts asked for an update on the road re-pavement. Manager Tobar responded that full depth reclamation would begin on Nelson Road June 30th and the resurface treatment would begin that same day.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Davis notified Mr. Tobar that the grass was high on Black Springs Road at Lake Laurel and asked him to reach out to the Georgia Department of Transportation to lower the speed limit on portions of Lake Laurel Road to 45.

Commissioner Butts asked Mr. Tobar to reach out to the Georgia Department of Transportation to review the speed limit on Allen Memorial Drive and there was a discussion about the speed along Allen Memorial Drive.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Carlos Tobar gave his Manager's Report updating the Commissioners on:

- The Collins P. Lee Memorial Library – proposals were being received and scored by the Middle Georgia Regional Library. For the entire library project, there was \$100,000 from the County, \$1.2 million grant from Senator Ossoff and \$900,000 from the State of Georgia. There was a discussion about reviewing the plans for the library and splash pad being opened, and fencing the retention pond.
- Ballfield Lights – electrical work was being done.
- Pickle Ball Courts – the courts would be completed soon and the county would schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Strickland read a statement regarding the Rules of Decorum.

There was a discussion about the rules of decorum, posting them where the public could review them, and not making inappropriate, personal, or offensive remarks. County Attorney Palmer read the rules of decorum for the commissioners and the discussion continued.

Cynthia Ransom addressed the commissioners regarding code enforcement and in particular there being an RV parked in her neighbor's backyard with someone living in it, a shipping container in their backyard, and their fence height. There was a discussion about the time limit for compliance and keeping Ms. Ransom informed.

Desiree Liggins addressed the commissioners stating she earned the right to speak and would continue to speak for others. Ms. Liggins discussed resurfacing and prioritizing Sydney Butts Road, making, submitting requests in

the citizen report and putting in parameters, the roads being resurfaced, reading the decorum rules.

Maurice Liggins addressed the commissioner regarding the road resurfacing, resurfacing all the gravel roads. He asked for a resurfacing schedule, resurfacing only the streets on the list, and providing the list of streets.

There was a discussion about the list of streets being resurfaced and being published to the website and the contractor providing an order the streets would be resurfaced.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Little made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss property matters and litigation. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and the Commissioners went into closed session at 7:02 PM.

Commissioner Little made a motion to return to open session at 8:34 PM. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion and the commissioners unanimously returned to open session at 8:34 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Little made a motion to adjourn the June 17, 2025 commission meeting at 8:34 PM. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

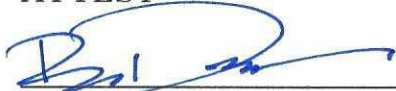
The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Submitted,



Andrew Strickland, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Bo Danuser, County Clerk
Baldwin County, Georgia