



BALDWIN COUNTY REGULAR MEETING

January 20, 2026

1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220

6:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Carlos Tobar
Brandon Palmer
Dana Lleras
Bo Danuser

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kendrick Butts called the January 20, 2026 Baldwin County Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION

Minister Andrew Jenkins, owner of Slaters Funeral Home, said the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Little made a motion to approve the January 6, 2026 regular meeting minutes and executive session minutes. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Middle Georgia Elite Bulldogs

Chairman Butts present a Certificate of Recognition to the coaches and team members of the Middle Georgia Elite Bulldogs Football Team in honor of their victory in the 2025 Midsouth Atlanta Youth Football League Championship and the 2025 National Championships. The Commissioners joined the

coaches, team members, and parents at the podium for the presentation. The commissioners and participants took pictures on the government center steps.

Baldwin County Fire Rescue

Chairman Butts recognized Fire Rescue Chief Phillip Adams to present certificates to the volunteer in the Christmas toy drive.

Chief Adams stated that this past Christmas was the 16th year the Baldwin County Fire Rescue had participated in the Kids Yule Love program and they were able to provide 410 children with three individually wrapped presents each. He thanked the businesses and churches that allowed them to place Kids Yule Love collection boxes.

Chief Adams recognized Deputy Fire Chief Sheri Kniep for keeping the project moving, for getting the names of children most in need, and for matching the gift with the child. He also acknowledged Lt. Law and his wife for their efforts. Deputy Chief Kniep thanked Commissioner Davis for bringing Kids Yule Love to Baldwin County. Commissioner Davis thank DC Kniep for keeping it going.

Chief Adams presented Certificates to Deputy Chief Kniep, Nelaine McAfee, Gaynell Singletary, Renee Morgan, Debbie Sand, Asher Lybsger, Kierra Birt, and Eden Chase and acknowledged their work over the years in collecting gifts for Kids Yule Love.

The Commissioners joined Chief Adams at the podium for the presentation and pictures.

Commissioner members thanked the participants for their efforts in getting toys to children throughout the community.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Qualifying Fees

Chairman Butts read the caption for Resolution R-2026-03 setting the qualifying fees for 2026 elections.

The resolution was presented as follows:

RESOLUTION R-2026-03

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BALDWIN COUNTY
SETTING QUALIFYING FEES FOR THE 2026 ELECTION AND
AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF SAME**

WITNESSTH:

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131(a) requires the governing authority of each county, not later than February 1 of any year in which a general primary, nonpartisan election, or general election is to be held, to fix and publish a qualifying fee for each county office to be filled in the upcoming primary or election; and

WHEREAS, a general primary, nonpartisan election, and general election are scheduled to be held in 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Baldwin County, as the governing authority of Baldwin County, does hereby set qualifying fees for candidates for the county offices to be elected in 2026 as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is authorized and directed to publish the list of qualifying fees in accordance with the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131 no later than February 1, 2026.

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted and made effective this 20th day of January, 2026.

BALDWIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Kendrick Butts, Chairman,
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners
(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser, County Clerk
Baldwin County, Georgia
DATE ADOPTED _____

EXHIBIT A
2026 QUALIFYING FEES

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>QUALIFYING FEE</u>
COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICTS 3, 4, 5	\$180.00
STATE COURT JUDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$1,971.42
DISTRICTS 1, 5	\$180.00

County Attorney Brandon Palmer stated that the commission had to set the qualifying fees for the offices up for election this year. he presented the positions and the fees.

Commissioner Little made a motion to approve the qualifying fees. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

2026 LMIG

Chairman Butts read the caption for Resolution R-2026-04 authorizing the 2026 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant application be submitted to the Georgia Department of Transportation.

County Manager Carlos Tobar stated this was a formality, there was no road list; the road list would come out later in the year.

Commissioner Little made a motion to approve the LMIG application. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hall stated that for clarification, this did not commit the county to paving any particular roads, this was applying for a lump sum. Mr. Tobar responded that Commissioner Hall was correct, the commission would vote on the road list later.

Chairman Butts called the question with the motion passing unanimously.

WIOA Grant Applications

Chairman Butts read the caption for Resolution R-2026-05 authorizing a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant AFR31-23-06-011 for the Dislocated Worker Program.

County Manager Tobar stated that the contract to administer the Georgia Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Grant ended June 30, 2026 and suggested another fiscal agent manage the grant after the contract expired. Mr. Tobar stated that the commissioners would have to make the decision to notify the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Grant people that Baldwin County would cancel the contract at the end of June 30th; it was important for the county staff focus on Baldwin County.

There was a discussion about Baldwin County administering the grant for 25 years, that there were 11 counties in the group, focusing account staff on Baldwin County, voting on these grants first and then voting on whether or not to continue with administering the grant, the county was contracted until June 30th, 2026 and discontinue and giving notice of cancelling the agreement.

Commissioner Hall made a motion for the county to service the four grants on the agenda through June 30, 2026 and discontinue the contract on June 30th for these four grants.

Commissioner Little seconded the motion.

The discussion continued about other grants under the WIOA grant program and which grants would not be renewed. Commissioner Hall clarified that his motion was for the four grants that were on this agenda and would continue to serve those until June 30th. Commissioner Little stated that he understood that the motion was to end the contact – to not renew it as of June and that would call for any of the grants, not just these four.

Commissioner Little withdrew his second because he thought the motion was to not renew in June.

Commissioner Strickland seconded Commissioner Hall's motion.

The grant applications were as follows:

WIOA Dislocated Worker Program Grant

Resolution R-2026-05 authorizing Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant AFR31-23-06-011 for the Dislocated Worker Program

RESOLUTION R-2026-05

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN APPLICATION BE SUBMITTED FOR THE GEORGIA WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) GRANT AFR31-23-06-011 FOR FUNDING THE DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM FOR THE OF PERIOD OF DECEMBER 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners desire to continue to receive funding from the Georgia Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant Number AFR31-23-06-011 FAIN 23A55AW000013; and

WHEREAS, the Grant provides funding of \$260,000 for the period of December 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

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

1. Incorporation of Recitals. The above stated recitals are true and correct and are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.
2. Authorization of Grant Application. The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the preparation and submission of a Georgia Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant.
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 or reasonably required to carry out, give effect to, and consummate the application and administration of the Grant and to take all action necessary in conformity therewith.
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 20th day of January, 2026.

BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Kendrick Butts, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser, County Clerk
Baldwin County Georgia
DATE ADOPTED _____

(SEAL)

WIOA Dislocated Worker Program Grant

Resolution R-2026-06 authorizing Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant AFR31-24-25-06-011 for the Dislocated Worker Program.

RESOLUTION R 2026-06

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN APPLICATION BE SUBMITTED FOR THE GEORGIA WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) GRANT AFR31-24-25-06-011 FOR FUNDING THE DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM FOR THE OF PERIOD OF DECEMBER 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners desire to continue to receive funding from the Georgia Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant Number AFR31-24-25-06-011 FAIN 24A55AW000059; and

WHEREAS, the Grant provides funding of \$260,000 for the period of December 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

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

1. Incorporation of Recitals. The above stated recitals are true and correct and are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.
2. Authorization of Grant Application. The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the preparation and submission of a Georgia Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant.
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 or reasonably required to carry out, give effect to, and consummate the application and administration of the Grant and to take all action necessary in conformity therewith.
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BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Kendrick Butts, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser, County Clerk
Baldwin County Georgia
DATE ADOPTED _____

(SEAL)

WIOA Dislocated Worker Program Grant

Resolution R-2026-07 authorizing Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant 44-24-2606-011 for the Dislocated Worker Program.

RESOLUTION R 2026-07

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN APPLICATION BE SUBMITTED FOR THE GEORGIA WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) GRANT 44-25-26-06-011 FOR FUNDING THE DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM FOR THE OF PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DRCEMBER 31, 2026; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners desire to continue to receive funding from the Georgia Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant Number 44-25-26-06-011 FAIN 25A55AW000130; and

WHEREAS, the Grant provides funding of \$45,000 for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

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

1. Incorporation of Recitals. The above stated recitals are true and correct and are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.
2. Authorization of Grant Application. The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the preparation and submission of a Georgia Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant.
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 or reasonably required to carry out, give effect to, and consummate the application and administration of the Grant and to take all action necessary in conformity therewith.
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.
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6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

SO RESOLVED, this 20th day of January, 2026.

BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Kendrick Butts, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser, County Clerk
Baldwin County Georgia
DATE ADOPTED _____

(SEAL)

WIOA Apprenticeship Expansion Fund Program Grant

Resolution R-2026-08 authorizing Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant SAEF-25-26-06-011 for the apprenticeship Expansion Fund Program Grant.

RESOLUTION R-2026-08

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN APPLICATION BE SUBMITTED FOR THE GEORGIA WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) GRANT SAEF-25-26-06-011 FOR FUNDING THE STATE APPRENTICESHIP EXPANSION FUND PROGRAM FOR THE OF PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners desire to continue to receive funding from the Georgia Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant Number SAEF-25-26-06-011 FAIN 23A60AP000150; and

WHEREAS, the Grant provides funding of \$250,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.

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

1. **Incorporation of Recitals.** The above stated recitals are true and correct and are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.
2. **Authorization of Grant Application.** The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the preparation and submission of a Georgia Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant.
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 or reasonably required to carry out, give effect to, and consummate the application and administration of the Grant and to take all action necessary in conformity therewith.
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.
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6. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

SO RESOLVED, this 20th day of January, 2026.

BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Kendrick Butts, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser, County Clerk
Baldwin County Georgia
DATE ADOPTED _____

(SEAL)

Commissioners Little, Strickland, Hall and Davis voted aye. Chairman Butts voted no. The motion passed.

Golf Course Design and Construction

Chairman Butts read the caption for Resolution R-2026-09 authorizing an agreement with MYDgolf, LLC for the design and construction of Little Fishing Creek Golf Course improvements.

County Manager Tobar discussed the design and construction agreement with MYDgolf, LLC. stating the commission previously paid Mr. Young for the design of the improvement, last meeting the commission approved the purchase order for the irrigation, tonight they were voting for the contract for the design and construction management, and on February 3rd they would be voting to award a contract for the construction which would include installing the irrigation, shaping the bunkers and greens, and planting the grass.

Commissioner Little made a motion to approve the design and construction agreement with MYDgolf, LLC. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Habitat for Humanity

Chairman Butts stated that the next item on the agenda was to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter for Habitat for Humanity for a CHIP grant application.

County Manager Tobar stated that he would edit the letter to remove 1928 Irwinton Road, it would show the three Vinson Highway properties that were previously approve for the Congressionally directed spending request.

Commissioner Little made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support for Habitat for Humanity's application for a 2026 CHIP Grant application.

Commissioner Davis asked that the minutes reflect that the letter of support would not include the Irwinton Road address and only include the three Vinson Highway properties.

Commissioner Hall asked about the County's obligation from the grant. Mr. Tobar responded that the letter was for Habitat and the county would only pay for one title search.

Chairman Butts called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Middle Georgia Regional Library would have the plan reveal for the Collins P. Lee Memorial Library at their next board meeting, construction bids should go out in February
- the University of Georgia Extension Office was building a community garden at 311 Linda Drive to be named Unity Harvest Garden – they needed volunteers and would host classes on how to can.
- Galvanized water lines inventory continues
- SCADA was on hold
- The Smith-Sibley sewer extension was waiting for comments from the Army Corp of Engineers
- CDBG sewer line construction was under way
- 2025 CHIP demolition set to begin in February and Habitat would start construction on the new homes this winter and then the engineers would finalize the sewer lines.
- the 2026 CHIP target areas had been selected and a budget was being completed, there may be a third home assessed
- Road resurfacing had punch list items remaining
- Road entrance into Smith-Sibley would begin this week
- the Oconee Height Streetscape environmental would hopefully be done within 38 days
- Roberts Road Bridge replacement should be going out to bid within a week or so
- The terminal apron expansion and lower ramp expansion environmental assessment required an amendment to the handbook from the FAA and was required for all environmental assessments throughout the country. GDOT would have to review the revised environmental assessment and make a determination
- Harrisburg Park improvements were about three weeks away from the metal building being installed at the community center, then they would finish the concrete and pave the parking lot. The playground equipment would be ordered through a national bid. The park would be opened while the community center and the library were being done.
- 2024 CHIP grant construction began on the 5th house
- 2026 CHIP grant is almost submitted
- Rural Housing Initiative site visit had been planned for January 29th with the One Georgia Authority so two hurdles had been cleared
- Congressionally directed spending request was still being waited on
- the Recreation Policy and Personnel Handbook should be ready for vote on February 3rd
- the District Base Land Use draft was still under review
- Code Enforcement deadline was February 1st, anyone who had not made progress would be turned over to the District Attorney.

There was a discussion about the code enforcement violation notices and the commissioners requested that the Manager provide them with a status report on the cases as they were resolved.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Little made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and acquisition of real estate. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The commissioners move into executive session at 6:40 PM.

Commissioner Strickland made a motion to adjourn the closed session. Commissioner Little seconded the motion and the commissioners moved into open session at 7:55 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Little made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The January 20, 2025 commission meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Submitted,

Kendrick B. Butts

Kendrick Butts, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser

Bo Danuser, County Clerk
Baldwin County

