



BALDWIN COUNTY REGULAR MEETING

January 7, 2025
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
6:00 PM

Minutes

PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Carlos Tobar
Brandon Palmer
Dawn Hudson
Bo Danuser

CALL TO ORDER

Commission Vice Chair Kendrick Butts called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION

Commission Vice Chairman Butts said a prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Emily Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve the December 17, 2024 regular meeting and executive session minutes. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Little made a motion to approve January 2, 2025 called meeting and executive session minutes. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

AMEND AGENDA

Commissioner Little made a motion to amend the agenda to add comments from State Representative Elect Floyd Griffin. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The agenda was amended to allow Representative Elect Floyd Griffin to address the Commission.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to amend the agenda to move item 3 to select a commission Chairman and Vice Chairman to item number 10. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

State Representative Elect Floyd Griffin addressed the commission. He stated that he was honored to be there as the newly elected Representative and was dedicated to representing the commission. He encouraged the commission members to do the right thing and to contact him if they needed him. Rep. Griffin announced he planned a town hall meeting once a quarter after the completion of the session March. Rep. Griffin closed his presentation by asking the commission members to work with him.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson stated that the first three resolutions were housekeeping matters and previously adopted resolutions assigning responsibility of tax collection to the Tax Commissioner. The Department of Revenue recommended the resolutions be readopted after the election of a Tax Commissioner.

Resolution 2025-01 - Waiver of Penalties and Interests by Tax Commissioner

Resolution 2025-01 was presented as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WAIVER OF CERTAIN PENALTIES AND INTEREST BY THE BALDWIN COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER; AND OTHER PURPOSES

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, state laws impose penalties and/or interest obligations on taxpayers who fail to make timely payments of taxes or fail to timely file certain documents, including:

- O.C.G.A. § 48-2-44(b), which provides that any person who fails to pay any ad valorem tax within 120 days of the date due shall be liable for and pay a penalty of 5% of the amount due;
- O.C.G.A. § 48-2-44(a), which provides a penalty for willful failure to file a report, return, or other information required by law, to include personal property tax returns due by April 1st of each year as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-18;
- O.C.G.A. § 48-2-40, which provides that any taxes owed to local taxing jurisdictions bear interest at the bank prime rate plus three percent, beginning on the date such taxes were due; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 48-5-242 authorizes the county governing authority to delegate to the county tax commissioner the authority to waive, in whole or in part, the collection of penalties and interest assessed as a result of a taxpayer's failure to comply with laws relating to ad valorem taxation,

where such failure was due to reasonable cause and not due to gross or willful neglect or disregard of the law.

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. **Delegation of Authority.** The authority to make the final determinations as to which properties and taxpayers are entitled to the waivers described above is hereby delegated to the Baldwin County Tax Commissioner.
3. **Waiver of Penalties and Interest.** The waiver of penalties and interest pursuant to this Resolution shall be valid through and including December 31, 2028 beginning on which date penalties and interest shall accrue and be payable on any unpaid balance then due and owing.
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 7th day of January, 2025.

BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Honorable Andrew Strickland, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser
Baldwin County Clerk

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-01 to authorize the waiver of certain penalties and interests by the Baldwin County Tax Commissioner. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Resolution 2025-02 – Correction of Errors and Refunds of Taxes and Removal of Personal Property from Digest

Resolution 2025-02 was presented as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02
A RESOLUTION REGARDING CORRECTIONS OF ERRORS AND REFUNDS OF TAXES; REMOVAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY FROM THE DIGEST; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-380 and paragraph (e) thereof, and O.C.G.A. § 48-5-241, the Board of Commissioners of Baldwin County, Georgia ("Board of Commissioners") finds that it is in the best interest of the citizens and taxpayers of the County to delineate the proper procedure for the correction of errors in the assessment, preparation of the digest, and collection of ad valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Assessors and the Tax Commissioner are appropriate authorities to correct obvious clerical and factual errors that may be discovered by them or presented to them in the performance of their respective duties, and to approve or disapprove of claims based on such errors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Assessors is the appropriate authority to remove from the digest property that no longer exists within the County and to correct the digest to reflect those removals and to approve or disapprove of claims based on such corrections;

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. **Delegation of Authority to Correct Errors.** The Board of Commissioners hereby delegates to the Baldwin County Board of Assessors and the Baldwin County Tax Commissioner the authority to administer the provisions of Code Section 48-5-380 as to obvious clerical and factual errors and to approve or disapprove of such claims. Notice of such corrections and approval of such claims shall be given by the Board of Assessors to the Tax Commissioner and from the Tax Commissioner to the Board of Assessors, when appropriate. Corrections or approvals of claims that could have a substantial negative impact upon the tax digest or tax collections shall be reported to the County Manager and shall not be finalized without the approval of the Board of Commissioners. Subject to the foregoing, the Board of Commissioners further authorizes the Baldwin County Board of Tax Assessors to delegate to the Chief Appraiser the authority to correct obvious clerical and factual errors and correction of the tax digest as provided for herein to the extent it deems appropriate.
3. **Delegation of Authority to Remove Personal Property.** The Board of Commissioners hereby delegates to the Baldwin County Board of Assessors the authority to remove from the digest personal property not in the County as of January 1 of that year.

4. **Claims Not Based Upon Factual or Clerical Errors.** As to any claims not based upon obvious factual or clerical errors, the Baldwin County Board of Assessors and/or the Baldwin County Tax Commissioner shall make such recommendations as they deem appropriate for final determination by the Board of Commissioners.
5. **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.
6. **Repeal of Conflicting Resolutions.** Any and all resolutions in conflict with this Resolution this day passed be and they are hereby repealed.
7. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

SO RESOLVED, this 7th day of January, 2025.

BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Honorable Andrew Strickland, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser
Baldwin County Clerk

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-02 to authorize the correction of errors and refunds of taxes and the removal of personal property from the digest. Commissioner Little seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Resolution 2025-03 – Authorize Tax Commissioner’s Office to Receive Checks and Credit Card Payments

Resolution 2025-03 was presented as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE BALDWIN COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER’S OFFICE TO RECEIVE CHECKS FOR PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS AND MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS AS PROVIDED FOR IN O.C.G.A. § 48-5-16; TO REAFFIRM THE ORDINANCE PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BALDWIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE 17TH DAY OF JUNE, 1997 AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS DUE TO BALDWIN COUNTY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners has reviewed a request for certain authorizations by the Baldwin County Tax Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners has an interest in supporting the level of service requested through these authorizations by the Baldwin County Tax Commissioner and to relieve the officer from any personal liability, as provided for by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as amended from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners had examined staff recommendations for requested authorizations under this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners has determined, out of public necessity and for the good of the citizens of Baldwin County, that the proposed action is needed; and,

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:

- 8. Incorporation of Recitals.** The above stated recitals are true and correct and are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.
- 9. Authorization of Tax Commissioner to accept Checks or Money Orders.** The Baldwin County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Tax Commissioner's Office to receive personal, company, certified, treasurer's, or cashier's checks, or bank, postal, or express money orders in payment of taxes and license fees, as provided for in O.C.G.A. 48-5-146.
- 10. Reaffirmation of July 17, 1997 Ordinance.** The Board of Commissioners hereby reconfirms the Ordinance duly passed on the 17th day of July, 1997 to authorize the acceptance of credit card payments for money due the County including, but not limited to ad valorem taxes, occupation taxes, fines, forfeitures, penalties, license fees, permit fees, and registrations fees; to provide for procedures; and for other purposes.
- 11. 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.
- 12. Repeal of Conflicting Resolutions.** Any and all resolutions in conflict with this Resolution this day passed be and they are hereby repealed.
- 13. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

SO RESOLVED, this 7th day of January, 2025.

BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Honorable Andrew Strickland, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser
Baldwin County Clerk

Commissioner Little made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-03 to authorize the Baldwin County Tax Commissioner's Office to receive checks for property tax payments and motor vehicle registrations and to reaffirm the ordinance passed and adopted authorizing the acceptance of credit card payment due to Baldwin County. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2025-04 – Victims of Crime Assistance Grant

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson asked that the grants be accepted and the chairman be authorized to sign documents.

Resolution 2025-04 was presented as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN APPLICATION BE SUBMITTED TO THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACTS ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners desire to continue to receive funding from the Victims of Crime Acts Assistance Grant ("Grant") for the Prosecuting Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Grant provides funding of \$170,340 for the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

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:

- 14. Incorporation of Recitals.** The above stated recitals are true and correct and are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.
- 15. Authorization of Grant Application.** The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the preparation and submission of an Application for the Victims of Crime Acts Assistance Grant.
- 16. 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.
- 17. 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.
- 18. Repeal of Conflicting Resolutions.** Any and all resolutions in conflict with this Resolution this day passed be and they are hereby repealed.

19. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

SO RESOLVED, this 7th day of January, 2025.

BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Honorable Andrew Strickland, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser
Baldwin County Clerk

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-04 to authorize acceptance of a grant from the Victims of Crime Assistance for a grant that would continue funding for the prosecuting attorney. Commissioner Little seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2025-05 – Appoint County Legislative Officer
County Manager Carlos Tobar stated that former County Clerk Cindy Cunningham was the County Legislative Officer; and the new Clerk is Bo Danuser.

Resolution 2025-05 was presented as follows;

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-05
A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR (CLC);
AND OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, legislative decisions made by the Georgia General Assembly increasingly impact county governments; and

WHEREAS, the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) monitors and reports on legislative proposals on a regular basis during and after each legislative session; and

WHEREAS, ACCG regularly seeks input and comment from county officials and staff in assessing the impact of legislative proposals and in developing responses to such proposals; and

WHEREAS, to ensure an effective and accurate response, there must be a process whereby reports from ACCG and requests from ACCG for information or analysis of legislative proposals are directed to the most appropriate county officials or staff for a response; and

WHEREAS, to most effectively respond to legislative proposals affecting counties, there shall be one county official or staff person designated by the Board of Commissioners to serve as the County Legislative Coordinator (CLC) for Baldwin County;

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:

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

21. Authority of CLC. The CLC for Baldwin County shall have the following:

1. Access to all department heads and county officials to obtain information and data.
2. Access to the members of the board of commissioners.
3. Working knowledge of county operations.
4. The ability and time to respond to requests for information from ACCG policy staff in a timely manner.
5. Authority within the county government structure to request and receive timely responses to requests for information.
6. Knowledge of the various departments within the county and the points of contact within each to obtain information and feedback.
7. Ability to provide periodic reports to the members of the board of commissioners and other county officials regarding the legislative reports and activities of ACCG.

22. Appointment of CLC. The Board of Commissioners hereby designate and appoint Bo Danuser to serve as CLC for Baldwin County until further notice.

23. Notice to ACCG. Notice of this appointment shall be immediately transmitted to ACCG.

24. 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.

25. Repeal of Conflicting Resolutions. Any and all resolutions in conflict with this Resolution this day passed be and they are hereby repealed.

26. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

SO RESOLVED, this 7th day of January, 2025.

BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Honorable Andrew Strickland, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser
Baldwin County Clerk

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve Resolution R 2025-05 to appoint County Clerk Bo Danuser as the County Legislative Officer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Little and the appointment was approved unanimously.

Resolution 2025-06 – Assign Length of Terms of Office for Board of Elections and Registration Members

County Attorney Brandon Palmer stated this was a resolution to assign the terms of office of each member of the Board of Elections and Registration. Mr. Palmer discussed the legislation transferring the election responsibilities from the Probate Judge to the Board of Elections, which are the former members of the Board of Registrars.

Resolution 2025-06 was presented as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06

A RESOLUTION TO ASSIGN THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF EACH MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION OF BALDWIN COUNTY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, by Act of the Georgia General Assembly during the 2023-2024 Regular Session, effective January 1, 2025, there was created the Board of Elections and Registration of Baldwin County (“Board of Elections”) with the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Superintendent of Elections in Baldwin County; and

WHEREAS, the Local Act provides that the initial members of the Board of Elections shall be the members of the Baldwin County Board of Registrars who were then serving on the effective date of the Act; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of such Local Act, on January 2, 2025, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners held a duly advertised, called meeting during which the Vice-Chairman, fulfilling duties of the Chairman, assigned the name of each member of the Board of Elections a random number and then drew such numbers at random, with the members of the Board of Elections whose names matched the first two numbers drawn having been assigned a four-year term of office and the members of the Board of Elections whose names match the last three numbers drawn having been assigned a six-year term of office; and

WHEREAS, each seat was assigned a number for the drawing as follows:

Number 1 was assigned to Ferrlando Jones,
Number 2 was assigned to Natalie Fields,
Number 3 was assigned to Randall Morrow
Number 4 was assigned to Tony Fraley, and
Number 5 was assigned to Glenda Brown.

WHEREAS, Vice Chairman Kendrick Butts, fulfilling the duties of the Chairman, drew the numbers at random, with the following results:

Draw 1 was the number 2 assigning Natalie Fields to serve a 4-year term,
Draw 2 was the number 1 assigning Ferrlando Jones to serve a 4-year term,
Draw 3 was the number 4 assigning Toney Fraley to serve a 6-year term,
Draw 4 was the number 3 assigning Randall Morrow to serve a 6-year term, and
Draw 5 was the number 5 assigning Glenda Brown to serve a 6-year term.

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:

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

28. Appointment of Terms of Office of Members of Board of Elections. Consistent with the requirements of Local Act and the random drawing having taken place on January 2, 2025, the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners hereby appoint and assign the following terms to the members of the Board of Elections as follows:

1. Natalie Fields to serve a 4-year term, ending on December 31, 2028;
2. Ferrlando Jones to serve a 4-year term, ending on December 31, 2028;
3. Toney Fraley, to serve a 6-year term, ending on December 31, 2030;
4. Randall Morrow to serve a 6-year term, ending on December 31, 2030; and
5. Glenda Brown to serve a 6-year term, ending on December 31, 2030.

29. Authorization of Chairman, County Manager, County Clerk, and County Attorney. The Board of Commissioners hereby authorize the Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, County Manager, County Clerk, or County Attorney, as appropriate, to sign any documentation or take any other action necessary or reasonably required to carry out, give effect to, and consummate the appointments provided for herein and to take all action necessary in conformity therewith.

30. 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.

31. Repeal of Conflicting Resolutions. Any and all resolutions in conflict with this Resolution this day passed be and they are hereby repealed.

32. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

SO RESOLVED, this 7th day of January, 2025.

BALDWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA

Honorable Andrew Strickland, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser
Baldwin County Clerk

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve Resolution R-2025-06 that assigned the length for the terms of office for the members of the Board of Elections and Registration. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Concession Stand Operator

Brian Hopkins of 247 Ivey Drive addressed the commissioners expressing his concerns with the commission entering into a concessions contract with Nicolasa's Catering and Concessions. He shared that he had three years' experience in concessions, 15 years in tournament directions, and over 30 years in financial reporting, bookkeeping and auditing. He stated that he firmly believed there was no way the new contractor could make the bid work by giving 30% of the gross revenue. He stated that this would affect Baldwin County citizens when there were no concessions or a high concession prices.

Commissioner Strickland thanked Mr. Hopkins for putting on tournaments.

Commission Vice Chairman Butts asked for a motion to approve an agreement with Nicolasa's Catering and Concessions, LLC.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the contract with Nicolasa's Catering and Concessions, LLC. Commissioner Butts seconded the Motion.

There was a discussion about the contract with Nicolasa's and the facts that they were not registered with the Secretary of State, the commissioners could award the contract to an alternate company, and accepting the bid had already been approved.

There was a discussion about Nicolasa's needing to complete registration with the Secretary of State.

County Attorney Brandon Palmer stated he could not recommend approving the contract with Nicolasa's until the business was registered with Secretary of State's Office.

Vice Chairman Butts called for the vote.

Commissioner Butts and Commissioner Davis voted yes. Commissioners Little, Strickland and Hall voted no.

The motion failed.

Commissioner Strickland made a motion to accept the contract with Out of the Park Concessions, LLC. Commissioner Little seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hall stated his vote was yes. The motion was approved.

A copy of the agreement with Out of the Park Concessions, LLC is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages ____ and ____ .

There was a discussion about accepting the Out of the Park Concessions, LLC. Including that Out of the Park was registered with the Secretary of State and the contract fee was for 10% of revenues.

There was a discussion about the procedure for approving contracts, having a contract in hand prior to approval, and not approving verbal contracts.

Appoint Commission Chairman and Vice Chairman

Commissioner Little nominated Commissioner Strickland as Commission Chairman. Commissioner Strickland seconded the nomination.

There was a discussion about the nomination. Commissioner Butt stated he had no doubt Mr. Strickland would be an outstanding commissioner, but until he learned how things worked property and got certified as a commissioner, he could not support him being chairman.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to appoint Commissioner Kendrick Butts as chairman. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to close the nominations and take a vote on Commissioner Kendrick Butts as Chair for 2025.

Commissioners Davis and Butts voted yes. Commissioners Little, Strickland and Hall voted no. The motion failed.

Commissioner Little made a motion to appoint Andrew Strickland as Chairman. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion.

Commissioners Little, Strickland and Hall voted aye. Commissioners Butts and Davis voted no.

The motion passed and Commissioner Andrew Strickland was appointed as Commission Chairman for the 2025 Calendar year.

Commissioner Strickland pledged he would do everything to make sure the commissioners' interests and their districts were represented fairly and that their points were entertained.

Commissioner Hall nominated Commissioner Kendrick Butts as Vice Chair. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Andrew Strickland discussed the serious issues caused by the overpopulation of animals in Baldwin County and the overpopulation had overwhelmed animal control, the shelter, and staff. He stated the situation had become untenable, the budget had grown but did not solved the problem.

Commissioner Strickland discussed the problems at the animal shelter, euthanizing animals, and finding homes for the shelter animals. Commissioner Andrews proposed holding public hearings for a spay and neuter ordinances. Sammy Hall stated he would like to see the ordinance. County Manager Carlos Tobar was asked to prepare an ordinance. Commissioner Little stated he would like for the Commission to be proactive, not reactive.

OLD BUSINESS

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Carlos Tobar gave an update on HVAC replacement at the Sheriff's Office; the galvanized water line inventory would be going out to bid soon; the Fishing Creek Trail bids would be going out soon; Oconee Heights Streetscape had been signed by Federal Highway Administration and solicitation for the engineering and design would begin in the next few weeks; Cooper Station repairs had started; on the ballfield lights, the aquatic center and a change order; Harrisburg Park construction; Oconee Heights playground equipment; the need to adopt the Land Use Code during the first meeting in February; and the Rocky Creek bridge assessment.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Deb Campbell of 139 Keenan Drive discussed the animal shelter and streamlining the adoption process without sacrificing safety and welfare of the animals. She opposed to advertising free animals and that they had focused on rescues over adoptions. She requested Friends of Baldwin County Animal Shelter to continue as an unpaid volunteer and be invited into the planning for the future of animal control.

Alene Veasy of 841 Sparta Highway and President of Animal Rescue Foundation discussed their adoption policy and that ARF was moving away from an open adoption model. They saw neglected dogs, dog fighting, and starvation daily. She explained the adoption procedure.

Christie Meeks Bachelor of 617 Kings Road welcomed the two new commission members and discussed the adoptions and rescue programs. She discussed working as a team and asked for an opportunity to work with the group developing the protocols and procedure managing adoptions.

Alley Duckworth of 114 Kings Road discussed her concerns regarding changes at the animal shelter. She knew their shelter could move forward in a positive direction and the animals were not being forgotten. She discussed Paws for Georgia providing low cost spaying and neutering.

Sidney Underhill addressed the commissioners representing Georgia College Shelter Buddies. She discussed the difference they made in the lives of animals and then gave a brief history of the organization and their support of the animal shelter.


Vice Chairman Butts announced that January 20, 2025, non-emergency county offices would be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and the next commissioner meeting would be January 21, 2025.

Commissioner Hall suggested the organizations get together to put recommendations together. There was a discussion about areas of focus and the organizations were welcome at the table.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hall made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM. Commissioner Andrew Strickland seconded the motion and the commission meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully presented,



Kendrick Butts, Vice Chairman



Bo Danuser, County Clerk