DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
VOTING SESSION MINUTES – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026
DAWSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM
25 JUSTICE WAY, DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA 30534
FOLLOWING THE 5:00 PM WORK SESSION BUT BEGINNING
NO EARLIER THAN 6:00 PM

Commissioner Bruce stepped away prior to the board coming out of Executive Session.

Motion passed 3-0 to come out of Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. Gaines/Stowers

ROLL CALL: Those present were Chairman Billy Thurmond; Commissioner Seth Stowers, District 1; Commissioner Chris Gaines, District 2; Commissioner Alexa Bruce, District 3; Commissioner Chad Turkett, District 4; County Manager Joey Leverette; County Attorney Angela Davis; County Clerk Kristen Cloud; and interested citizens of Dawson County.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Thurmond

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Motion passed 3-0 to approve the Minutes of the Work Session held on August 20, 2026. Stowers/Turkett

Motion passed 3-0 to approve the Minutes of the Voting Session held on August 20, 2026. Stowers/Turkett

Commissioner Bruce returned to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Motion passed 4-0 to approve the agenda as presented. Gaines/Turkett

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

CONSENT AGENDA:
- *FY 2027 Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program Funding Application for Treatment Services ($39,000; No Match)*
- *Dawson Grove Conservation Easement*
- *Board Appointments:*
    - ***Department of Family and Children Services***
        - *Tina Brady- reappointment (Term: September 2026 through June 2031)*
        - *Niki Mincey- reappointment (Term: September 2026 through June 2031)*
        - *Jeff Perry- reappointment (Term: September 2026 through June 2031)*

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. Stowers/Bruce

PUBLIC HEARING:

Amendment of Chapter 10 (Animals) of the County Code of Ordinances (2nd of 2 hearings; 1st hearing was held on August 20, 2026)

Community Development Director Richard Osborne reviewed proposed changes to Chapter 10 (Animals) of the County Code of Ordinances, mentioning a few minor changes since the August 20, 2026, public hearing. Osborne confirmed that tethering is prohibited, and confirmed standards of cruelty, neglect, sanitation, transfers, nuisances, welfare checks, consequences of impoundment and unclaimed, hording, and possessing dangerous or vicious dogs. Concerning the entirety of the document and also specific to a newer state law, Osborne noted that "essentially countywide it is not appropriate to have - for every property, every case - livestock-specific regulations because newer state law is really more about ag exemptions and noting that regulations of dogs and cats do need to be very different from regulations of livestock." A state definition of livestock was added to the document.

Chairman Thurmond opened the hearing by asking if there was anyone present who wished to be heard on an Amendment of Chapter 10 (Animals) of the County Code of Ordinances.

The following spoke in opposition to an Amendment of Chapter 10 (Animals) of the County Code of Ordinances:

- Jeff Runner, Marble Hill, Georgia, said he does not disagree with ordinance. "[But under cruelty to animals] it says whoever willfully or maliciously kills, abuses, maims or disfigures *any* animal, which a rat's an animal, so if you go to Kroger and buy rat poisoning, you put it out, you've violated the law." Runner added, "The only other issue I have is [under Section 10-107], where it talks about if you have vicious dogs, you have to have insurance, but there's nothing in there that requires that they keep the insurance, so after they come out to ensure they have the insurance, they can cancel it, and all you need to do is get a certificate of insurance so the insurance company notifies the county if the insurance has been canceled."

Chairman Thurmond asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak on an Amendment of Chapter 10 (Animals) of the County Code of Ordinances and, hearing none, closed the hearing.

Motion passed 4-0 to approve an Amendment of Chapter 10 (Animals) of the County Code of Ordinances to include specific language to define animals and the addition of the words to "keep and maintain insurance." Gaines/Stowers

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration of Request for Funding for New Fire Hydrants

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a Request for Funding for New Fire Hydrants; $97,200 will come from impact fees. Bruce/Turkett

Consideration of Summary Change Order with Bartow Paving for the Construction of a Roundabout at Shoal Creek Road and State Route 136

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a Summary Change Order with Bartow Paving for the Construction of a Roundabout at Shoal Creek Road and State Route 136; $129,910.52 will come from Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax VII funds. Bruce/Gaines

ADJOURNMENT:

APPROVE:

Billy Thurmond, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kristen Cloud, County Clerk