Effingham County Georgia
Board of Commissioners

Damon M. Rahn, Chairman at Large
Forrest F. Floyd, District 1
Roger Burdette, District 2
Jamie Deloach, District 3
Elizabeth Helmly, District 4
Phil Kieffer, District 5

EMERGENCY SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES
JULY 28, 2026

The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. Damon Rahn, Mr. Forrest Floyd Mr. Roger Burdette, Mr. Jamie Deloach, Ms. Elizabeth Helmly, and Mr. Phil Kieffer met in Emergency Special Called Meeting session at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 in the Commissioners Meeting Chambers at the Effingham County Administrative Complex located at 804 South Laurel Street Springfield, Georgia 31329.

STAFF PARTICIPATION

Mr. Tim Callanan – County Manager, Mr. Edward Newberry – County Attorney, Ms. Stephanie Johnson – County Clerk, Mr. Clint Hodges – Fire Chief & EMA Director, Mr. Michael King – Assistant County Manager, Mr. Jack Burgin Jr. – Sr System Administrator, and Mr. Mark Lastinger – Public Information Coordinator.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Spencer Tyson, Scott Lewis, Donald Brandt, Michael Redmond, Darlene Ainsworth, Henry Dickerson, Deborah Harrelson, Jill Anderson, Judy Okley, Susie Collins, Tracy Smith, Bradford Reddick, Amy Herbert, Casey Frueh, Christy Simmons, Denise Gecik, Scott Thmpson, Michelle Kitchings, Jeanne Seaver, Brian Pepe.

I- CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rahn called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

II- ROLL CALL

Damon Rahn, Chairman
Forrest Floyd - *Absent*
Roger Burdette
Jamie Deloach
Beth Helmly
Phil Kieffer, Vice Chairman

III – INVOCATION

Commissioner Deloach offered the invocation.

IV– PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The pledge was led by Commissioner Deloach.

V – AGENDA APPROVAL

County Clerk Johnson announced the reversal of New Business #1 and #2.

Commissioner Deloach made a motion to approve the agenda with the noted changes. Vice Chair Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI – PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Rahn stated comments shall pertain to the agenda items only. Should you wish to make remarks, clearly state your full name into the microphone before commencing to speak.

VII – CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Rahn stated documents from this meeting are located in the Clerk's office and on the Board of Commissioner's website.

VIII – NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN EFFINGHAM COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF GUYTON, RINCON AND SPRINGFIELD RELATED TO SPLOST (1):

The County Manager explained that to place any item on the November referendum, a specified posting date must be met. There was confusion over whether the 90-day posting window fell on August 4 or 5; it will proceed as if the earlier date applies. An intergovernmental agreement on terms with the cities of Guyton, Rincon, and Springfield has been reached. This framework enables the county to negotiate with the cities in everyone's best interest and, in doing so, provides an additional year of SPLOST funding.

County Manager Callanan outlined the terms of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for a proposed 6-year SPLOST program (projected at $200 million in total revenue) and details how $100 million in upfront bond debt will be structured and distributed across Effingham County and its municipalities.

Commissioner Deloach made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between Effingham County and the cities of Guyton, Rincon and Springfield related to SPLOST. Commissioner Burdette seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION# 026-018 TO IMPOSE A ONE PERCENT SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (SPLOST) (2):

County Manager Callanan explained that approval of the resolution is required to place the SPLOST measure on the ballot for voter referendum. The resolution provides for the continuation of the county's existing Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program.

Public attendees Casey and Donald Brandt raised inquiries regarding presentation accessibility and SPLOST Continuation.

Commissioner Deloach made a motion to approve Resolution# 026-018 to impose a One Percent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Commissioner Burdette seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION# 026-019 FOR THE LOCAL HOMEOWNERS' INCENTIVE ADJUSTMENT GRANT (LHIAG) (3):

County Manager Callanan explained the county may apply excess revenues to provide relief for homesteads. This will be reflected similarly to this year, when a $500 homestead credit appears on property tax bills. The current SPLOST potential (or loss potential) can roll back property taxes for all properties, whereas this proposal targets only homesteaded residential properties. SPLOST, LOST, and TSPLOST funds are maintained in separate accounts and are subject to audit to ensure expenditures comply with applicable laws.

Brian Pepe, Roy Davis, Jeanne Seaver, and John Smith offered public comments concerning county water sources, recycling program operations, SPLOST allocation rules regarding data centers, and the practical application of the proposed Homestead Tax Relief Grant.

Commissioner Deloach made a motion to approve Consideration to approve Resolution# 026-019 for the Local Homeowners Incentive Adjustment Grant (LHIAG). Vice Chair Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IX – ADJOURNMENT

At 5:50pm, there being no further business, Commissioner Deloach made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Burdette seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Damon Rahn, Chairman

Stephanie Johnson

Stephanie D. Johnson, County Clerk

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 4, 2026