

**HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
6:00 P.M., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025
HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
295 LLEWELLYN ST, CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523**

The Habersham County Board of Commissioners held a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room of the Habersham County Courthouse located at 295 Llewellyn St, Clarkesville, GA 30523.

Present was Chairman Jimmy Tench, Vice Chairman Bruce Harkness, Commissioner Ty Akins, Commissioner Kelly Woodall, County Manager Tim Sims, County Attorney Angela Davis, County Clerk Brandalin Carnes, staff, members of the media and the public.

Absent was Commissioner Dustin Mealor.

Chairman Jimmy Tench called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Commissioner Akins led the Invocation.

Commissioner Harkness led the Pledge of Allegiance

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Akins, seconded by Commissioner Harkness, and voted unanimously (4-0) to adopt the agenda as presented.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Departmental Recognition: Habersham County Landfill Recipient of 2025 Georgia Recycling Coalition (GRC) Recycling Award for Outstanding Government Program
- b. Proclamation of November 19-27, 2025 as "Farm-City Week"
- c. Proclamation of Support for the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia
- d. "Share the Harvest" Food Drive and Fundraiser: November 10th – December 13th
- e. County Offices Closed November 27th-28th for Thanksgiving Holiday. Landfill Closed on November 27th and Re-Opening on November 28th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Commissioner Woodall, seconded by Commissioner Akins, and voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Consider/Approve Minutes of October 20, 2025 Regular Meeting
- b. Consider/Approve Lease with Shaun Brautigan for Hangar E-3 at Habersham County Airport

- c. Consider/Approve Resolution Adopting the Local Emergency Operating Plan with Proposed Amendments as Presented and Authorizing Submission to GEMA
- d. Consider/Approve Adjusted Contract Amount for Right-of-Way Mowing/Trimming Contract with Yellowstone Landscaping to Reflect Corrected Centerline Mileage and Finalized Scope of Work
- e. Consider/Approve Renaming of Segment of Hollywood Hills Rd Located Between Rockford Creek Rd and US 23 to Hollywood Hills Connector
- f. Consider/Approve Applications for Alcohol License Issuance/Renewals for:
 - 1. Adam Business, LLC (dba Shore's County Store) located at 4113 Pea Ridge Rd in Cornelia for Malt Beverage and Wine Package Sales
 - 2. Chicago's Pizza, Inc located at 879 Historic Hwy 441 N in Demorest for Distilled Spirits, Malt Beverage and Wine on Premises
 - 3. Country Boy Business, LLC located at 2476 Cannon Bridge Rd in Demorest for Malt Beverage and Wine Package Sales
 - 4. Leo Das, LLC (dba A to Z Grocery) Located at 1723 Crane Mill Rd in Alto for Malt Beverage and Wine Package Sales
 - 5. Adhya, LLC (dba Speed Mart) Located at 4753 HWY 115 in Clarkesville for Malt Beverage and Wine Package Sales
 - 6. 3134 Old Historic Enterprises, LLC Located at 3134 441 Old Historic Hwy in Turnerville for Malt Beverage and Wine Package Sales
 - 7. Nutritional Performance, Inc (dba Glen Ella Springs) Located at 1789 Bear Gap Rd in Clarkesville for Wine and Beer Consumption on Premises
 - 8. The Orchard Golf and Country Club, LLC Located at 1057 Orchard Drive in Clarkesville for Malt Beverage, Wine and Distilled Spirits Consumption on Premises
 - 9. Dugout Sports Bar Located at 6725 Hwy 17 in Clarkesville for Malt Beverage, Wine and Distilled Spirits Consumption on Premises
 - 10. Clarkesville Food Mart Located at 4900 Talmadge Dr in Clarkesville for Malt Beverage and Wine Package Sales
 - 11. Raina Rakin Enterprises, LLC Located at 305 Panther Brook Lane in Clarkesville for Malt Beverage and Wine Package Sales
 - 12. S.N. Patel Inc (dba One Stop) Located at 2027 Camp Creek Rd in Mt. Airy for Malt Beverage and Wine Package Sales

13. Circle K Stores Inc. #2723324 Located at 5000 Talmadge Drive in Clarkesville for Malt Beverage and Wine Package Sales.
14. Virannis Business Inc. (dba BP Food Mart) Located at 310 Toccoa Hwy in Mt. Airy for Malt Beverage and Wine Package Sales
15. Krish Business, LLC (dba Haye's Corner Country Store) Located at 3226 Hwy 17 in Clarkesville for Malt Beverage and Wine Package Sales

REPORTS:

- a. County Manager's Report: Tim Sims, County Manager
- b. Quarterly Financial Report: Kiani Holden, Financial Administrator
- c. Grant Update: Kiani Holden, Financial Administrator

APPOINTMENTS:

DBHDD Region 1 Advisory Council

3- Year Term Ending 11/30/2027

1. Jeremy Noles (Resignation- Term Expires 11/30/2027) At-Large Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Akins, seconded by Commissioner Woodall, and voted unanimously (4-0) to table this appointment.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consider/Approve Release and Transfer of Rocky Branch Rd to the City of Clarkesville

Public Works Director Jerry Baggett addressed the Commission. He is seeking approval from the Board of Commissioners to quit claim and transfer ownership of Rocky Branch Rd from Habersham County to the City of Clarkesville. The City of Clarkesville currently owns most of Rocky Branch already. The County only owns a small section of .34 miles between State Route 17 (southern terminus) and Barron Dr (northern terminus). Most of the property has already been annexed into the City of Clarkesville. Upon approval by the Habersham County Board of Commissioners, Clarkesville City Manager will take this item before the Clarkesville City Council for their approval as well.

Motion by Commissioner Woodall, seconded by Commissioner Akins, and voted unanimously (4-0) to approve.

- b. Consider/Approve Resolution Declaring Results of November 4, 2025 Election Determining the Issuance or Non-Issuance of Habersham County General Obligation Bonds and the Continuation of the One Percent Sales and Use Tax

Senior Elections Assistant Derek LaPerriere addressed the Commission. He is seeking approval of a resolution declaring the official results of the November 4, 2025 election determining (a) the issuance of Habersham County General Obligation Bonds and (b) the continuation of the one percent Sales and Use Tax. On July 29, 2025, the Habersham County Board of Elections and Voter Registration adopted a

resolution calling for an election to be held on November 4, 2025. The purpose of the election was to submit to the qualified voters of Habersham County the question of whether to authorize the issuance of up to \$52 million in general obligation bonds and to continue the one percent sales and use tax for an additional six years upon the expiration of the current tax. The election was conducted in accordance with Georgia Law, and the Board of Elections and registration certified and declared the official results on November 7th. The results showed that the majority of qualified voters voted in favor of both the issuance of up to \$52 million in general obligation bonds and the continuance of the one percent sales and use tax.

Chairman Tench asked how the general obligation bonds will be paid? County Manager Sims informed him that it would be paid back using revenue from SPLOST VIII, savings from no longer having to board out prisoners, and revenue from being able to board prisoners from other counties.

Motion by Commissioner Akins, seconded by Commissioner Woodall, and voted unanimously (3-1) to approve with Commissioner Tench dissenting.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Woodall wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving. He stated that people who are grateful are also often the most generous, and he is proud of the amazing generosity from Habersham County citizens and non-profit organizations for those in need.

Commissioner Harkness thanked everyone in attendance at the meeting, including County staff, the Sheriff and the representatives from Farm Bureau. He feels blessed to live in Habersham County and he is grateful to serve the citizens as their Commissioner.

Commissioner Tench echoed Commissioner Harkness' sentiment, stating that he is also thankful to have been chosen to be a Commissioner as well.

Commissioner Akins stated that the presentations at the biggining of the meeting for Farm City Week and the Food Drive/Fund Raiser for the Northeast Georgia Food Bank reminded him of the importance of Agriculture to the community. He stated that agriculture has been and still is the number one industry in Habersham County. Commissioner Akins has a print in his office with a quote stating that if you burn down cities and leave the farms, the cities will spring back as if by magic. However, if you burn down farms, the cities will grown grass and become a memory. He is thankful for all of the hardworking farmers in the area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Litigation, pursuant to O.C.G.A §50-14-2

Motion by Commissioner Akins, seconded by Commissioner Woodall, and voted unanimously 4-0 to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation, pursuant to O.C.G.A §50-14-2.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Commissioner Tench- aye
Commissioner Harkness- aye
Commissioner Akins- aye
Commissioner Woodall- aye
Commissioner Mealor- Absent

Motion carries unanimously (4-0) to enter into executive session at 7:07 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Akins, seconded by Commissioner Woodall, and voted unanimously (4-0) to leave executive session at 7:38 p.m.

County Attorney Angela Davis reported that all matters discussed in executive session were limited to those matters allowed by the laws of the State of Georgia and asked for a motion authorizing the Chairman to make such a representation under oath on the affidavit.

Motion by Commissioner Akins, seconded by Commissioner Harknes, and voted unanimously (4-0) to adopt the representation authorizing such an affidavit as per the Attorney's recommendations.

ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Akins, seconded by Commissioner Harkness, and voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: _____
Jimmy Tench, Commission Chairman

Attest: _____
Brandalin Carnes, County Clerk