

Minutes
Taylor County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
June 3, 2025

The Taylor County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p. m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, in the County Commissioners Meeting Room of the Taylor County Government Complex at 7 Ivy St., Butler, GA. Present were Chairman Tameka Harris, Vice-Chairman Cicero Latimore, Commissioner Jeff Watson, Commissioner Randy Nelson, Commissioner Dianne Renfroe, County Manager Amanda Queen, and County Attorney Eddie Davis.

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, Mr. Heath Holly, Pastor of Reynolds Community Church gave the invocation. Commissioner Watson led the Pledge to the United States Flag and Commissioner Nelson led the Pledge to the Georgia Flag.

Agenda approved without change on motion of Commissioner Renfroe, seconded by Commissioner Watson, and carried with all in favor.

The Minutes of the May 6, 2025, Regular Meeting were approved as distributed on motion by Commissioner Renfroe, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and carried by voice vote with all voting in favor and none opposed.

Citizens scheduled to appear:

1. Marvin Fortiner (Parachute Training) – Joe Carroll stated this was for a Conditional Use Applicant, but he was not in attendance.
2. Wendy Welch (Road Concerns) – Not in attendance.
3. White Pine Energy (Solar Power Battery Storage) – Ms. Monica Schmelzenbach from Nextera Energy came before the Board to discuss the White Pine Energy project, which is Solar Power Battery Storage, these units are a fire safe completely enclosed structure that will be located on 7 acres adjacent to the White Pine Energy Solar Farm. This will be fenced in and once the contract is up the land will be returned to its existing natural state. There's no danger from spillage as these battery storage houses enclosed batteries in a sideways bookshelf type storage. This battery storage facility will be a \$140 million investment into the community, and they are planning on getting started next year on construction.

Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve the MOU on battery storage, seconded by Commissioner Renfroe and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

4. Ben Nutter (WinWaste) – Mr. Nutter works for WinWaste which has acquired the landfill from GFL, wants to continue the partnership, shared with the Board that there is enough land that they shouldn't have to expand for at least 30 years, they have invested in the rail structures. Commissioner Watson made a motion to extend the contract until 12/31/2034, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and carried with a voice vote of all in favor none opposed.

Reports:

Planning and Zoning – Mr. Joe Carroll introduced John Hattaway, the new Planning and Zoning Director to the Board. Mr. Hattaway stated that we need to increase the fees for permits, we are not making enough to cover inspections or repeat inspections. He proposed that certain fees will be flat rate fees and permits for residential will be raised to \$0.40 per heated square foot and \$0.20 per unheated square foot. The Business permits will be raised to \$0.50 per heated square foot and \$0.25 per unheated square foot. Commissioner Renfroe made a motion to approve the increased permit fees, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and carried with a voice vote of all in favor. Mr. Hattaway also brought before the Board the City Reporter system that people can apply for permits online and schedule real-time inspections. The Tax Assessors will have access for quicker information sharing. The cost will be about \$4,500 per year. Commissioner Renfroe made a motion to approve the City Reporter system, seconded by Commissioner Watson and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

Abb Preston, Taylor County EMS – Mr. Preston reported that during May, there were 164 Emergency calls, with 110 transports to 8 hospitals and 1 landing zone.

Taylor County Fire Department – Mr. Thomas Hoffman reported for the Fire Department month of May. Mr. Hoffman publicly thanked the Butler Fire Department for their help with Chief Jamason Byrd's funeral. During May the Fire Department responded to 9 calls and stated that the 2 newest stations need pump houses built before winter. Ms. Queen stated that they will be running an ad for a new Fire Coordinator. Mr. Hoffman provided a picture of the signage at the Fire station dedicated to Chief Jamason Byrd.

Garrett Bosely, Project Manager – Mr. Bosely was not in attendance, but Ms. Queen shared that we are receiving bids on the Rec department, and the Senior Center's fire alarm system has been replaced and waiting on the state fire inspection.

River Valley Regional Commission – no report

Unfinished business:

GICH Program / Housing – Nicole Acree shared an update on the GICH program, while the cities are involved, the county is responsible for applying, there will need to be a team put together for a strategic planning meeting and the cost to the county will be 2 retreats per year. The application is due July 31st. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to move forward with the application process, seconded by Commissioner Watson and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

Budget Meeting – Ms. Queen stated that we can either approve the budget as is, or amend it and have another hearing, she will need to amend it after the milage rate is set anyways. The yearly budget is set currently at \$10,689,940. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve the budget, seconded by Commissioner Renfroe, and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

New business:

GA Forestry Updates – Mr. Greg Wainwright reported on last year's final numbers for the previous year. There have been some new hires since this report, but during the time frame there were 640 permits issued and 30 wildfires across Taylor & Macon counties. See the attached report.

Appoint Member to Tax Assessor's Board – Ms. Queen stated that we need to replace Mr. Terry Hudson's position on the Board, and recommended Wiliam Brian Lawhorn. Commissioner Watson made a motion to appoint Mr. Lawhorn to the Tax Assessor's Board, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

Appoint Member to Board of Elections & Registration – Ms. Queen stated that Brandon Cassady's term is expiring at the end of the month and the Board of Elections and Registration wishes to reappoint him. Commissioner Watson made a motion to reappoint Brandon Cassady to the Board of Elections and Registration, seconded by Commissioner Renfroe, and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

Planning & Zoning Fee Increase – This matter was discussed during the Reports section.

Dumpster Rent Fee Increase – Commercial Dumpster rent is going from \$37 a month to \$50 per month. Commissioner Renfroe made a motion to approve the increase, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

Discuss County-wide Trash – Ms. Queen stated that she has gotten a quote from a new company that if she gets 2500 customers it will be \$17 per can for a 3-year contract. The commissioners decided to survey the public to move forward.

Approve Energy Audit Proposal – Ms. Queen stated that the Energy grant that we have received requires us to have an energy audit. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve TLC to conduct the audit of historical buildings, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

There was no need for an Executive Session, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:54pm

mb