

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Lee Hearn
Edward Gibbons
Eric K. Maxwell
Charles D. Rousseau
Charles W. Oddo

**FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Dennis A. Davenport, County Attorney
Tameca P. Smith, County Clerk
Marlena Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk

140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

**ACTION AGENDA**

January 8, 2026
5:00 p.m.

Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Commissioners. Your participation in County government is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION:**Call to Order by County Attorney Dennis Davenport**

County Attorney Dennis Davenport called the January 8, 2026, Board of Commissioners meeting to order. He stated that in accordance with Section 252 of the Fayette County Code of Ordinance, he had the duty and responsibility to open the first meeting of the year.

Election of Board Chairman for the year 2026

Mr. Davenport outlined the process for election of the Chair of the Board of Commissioners. He opened the floor for nominations:

Commissioner Edward Gibbons nominated Commissioner Lee Hearn as Chairman.

Commissioner Eric Maxwell moved to close the nominations for Chair. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Gibbons moved to elect Lee Hearn as Chairman. Commissioner Maxwell seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Davenport turned the meeting over to Chairman Hearn.

Election of Board Vice Chairman for the year 2026

Commissioner Hearn opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Maxwell nominated Edward Gibbons as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Maxwell moved to close the nominations for Vice Chair. Chairman Hearn seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Chairman Hearn moved to elect Edward Gibbons as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Maxwell seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

OFFICIAL SESSION:**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Eric Maxwell**

Commissioner Maxwell acknowledged the recent passing of former Chief Information Officer Phil Frieder, noting his intellect and emphatic personality. Commissioner Maxwell extended his thoughts to Mr. Frieder's family and asked to take a moment of silence in his honor. Commissioner Maxwell gave the Invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Maxwell seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:

1. Recognition of the Fayette County Annual Merry Wreath Decorating Contest winners.

County Administrator Steve Rapson recognized the winners of the Merry Wreath Decorating Contest.

Third Place - Finance; Second Place – Building Safety; First Place – Assessor's Office

PUBLIC HEARING:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Williams of Fayetteville expressed her concern with consent items 2- 4, regarding the check authorization amount increase noting these were tax payer funds and the need for transparency.

Mr. Rapson explained what this change consisted of outlining the checks and balances in place ensuring fiduciary responsibility.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve the Consent Agenda except item #8. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

- 2. Approval of authorization for the Chairman, Vice Chairman and County Administrator, in any combination of two, to sign checks, and to increase the check amount requiring second signature from \$5,000 and higher to \$20,000 and higher.**
- 3. Approval of authorization to sign checks for transactions in the amount of \$19,999.99 or less: Chairman, Vice Chairman, County Administrator.**
- 4. Approval of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and the County Administrator to execute contracts, resolutions, agreements, or other documents approved by and on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.**
- 5. Approval to accept a State funded supplemental grant award for the DUI Accountability Court in the amount of \$8,400 with a match of \$1,260 for enhancement and innovation of treatment.**
- 6. Approval for Fayette County Fire and Emergency Services to accept the FY2026 Firefighter Cancer Reduction Awareness Program Reimbursement Grant from ACCG-LGRMS (Local Government Risk Management) in the amount of \$4,913.39.**
- 7. Approval for Fayette County Fire and Emergency Services to accept the FY2026 Trauma Equipment Reimbursement Grant from the Georgia Trauma Commission in the amount of \$10,662.66.**
- 8. Ratification of revisions to three (3) previously approved permanent easements for Georgia Power's Ashley Park - Creola 230 kV Transmission Line.**

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he pulled this item to maintain consistency with his vote, he noted that he understood the revisions but when originally presented he voted against this project and wanted to maintain consistency. Commissioner Oddo stated that he would be voting against this item as well to maintain his original vote.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve ratification of revisions to three (3) previously approved permanent easements for Georgia Power's Ashley Park - Creola 230 kV Transmission Line. Commissioner Maxwell seconded. The motion passed 3-2, with Commissioner Oddo and Commissioner Rousseau voting in opposition.

9. **Approval of a recommendation from the Selection Committee, comprised of Chairman Lee Hearn and Vice Chairman Edward Gibbons to appoint Philip Crane to the Fayette County Board of Health to an unexpired term beginning January 1, 2022 and expiring December 31, 2027.**
10. **Approval of a recommendation from the Selection Committee, comprised of Fayette County Staff, to reappoint Jim Poff to the Fayette County Water Committee for a term beginning January 1, 2026 and expiring December 31, 2029.**
11. **Approval of Board of Assessors' recommendation to approve a disposition of tax refund, as requested by Mike Gassman, President of Flat Creek Villas HOA, in the amount of \$1,533.27 for tax year(s) 2023 and 2024.**
12. **Approval of Board of Assessors' recommendation to approve a disposition of tax refund, as requested by Bryan Hallock, as agent for Daniel M Boglioli, trustee of the Dorothy Reinecke estate, in the amount of \$584.47 for tax year(s) 2022, 2023, and 2024.**
13. **Approval of December 8, 2025, Special Called Millage Rate Hearing Minutes.**
14. **Approval of December 11, 2025, Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.**

OLD BUSINESS:

15. **Discussion, at the request of Chief Judge Scott Ballard, of the Superior Court Judges' compensation, pursuant to House Bill 85, and the request for a merit-based increase for Superior Court Judges' staff members.**

Commissioner Maxwell moved to approve supporting locality pay in the full amount for Superior Court Judges'. Chairman Hearn seconded. The motion failed 2-3, with Vice Chairman Gibbons, Commissioner Oddo and Commissioner Rousseau voting in opposition.

Commissioner Oddo moved to deny the request for Superior Court Judges' locality pay. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 3-2, with Chairman Hearn and Commissioner Maxwell voting in opposition.

NEW BUSINESS:

16. **Request to approve \$100,000 donation from Georgia Power Company to use for Kenwood Park enhancements.**
17. **Consideration of staff's recommendation to submit up to seven (7) grant applications to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in response to the 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) solicitation.**

Vice Chairman Gibbons amended his motion and moved to approve staff's recommendation to submit up to six (6) grant applications to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in response to the 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) solicitation. Commissioner Oddo amended his seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

18. **Request for Fayette County to serve as the official project sponsor for Peachtree City's application to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2026 solicitation, contingent upon Peachtree City's final project selection and cost proposal.**

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve for Fayette County to serve as the official project sponsor for Peachtree City's application to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2026 solicitation, contingent upon Peachtree City's final project selection and cost proposal. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

19. **Request to award Contract #26079-S to the U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey (USGS) for surface water monitoring in the amount of \$274,100.**

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve to award Contract #26079-S to the U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey (USGS) for surface water monitoring in the amount of \$274,100. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

- A. **Contract #2612-S GIS Professional Support; Change Order #1: Pathway Evaluation Model Development**

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that there were four items for Executive Session. Two items involving real estate acquisition, one item of threatened litigation and the review of the December 11, 2025 Executive Session Minutes.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Vice Chairman Gibbons, Commissioner Rousseau, Commissioner Rousseau and Chairman Hearn made comments

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

One item involving real estate acquisition and the review of the January 8, 2026 Executive Session Minutes. Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0. The Board recessed into Executive Session at 6:32 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 6:58 p.m.

Return to Official Session and Approval to Sign the Executive Session Affidavit: Commissioner Oddo moved to return to Official Session and for the Chairman to sign the Executive Session Affidavit. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of December 11, 2025 Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner Oddo moved to approve December 11, 2025 Executive Session Minutes. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Oddo moved to adjourn the January 8, 2026 Board of Commissioners meeting. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The January 8, 2026 Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Marlena Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk

Lee Hearn, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 22nd day of January 2026. Attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Marlena Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk