

**HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
5:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024
HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
295 LLEWELLYN STREET, CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523**

The Habersham County Board of Commissioners held a special called meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room of the Habersham County Courthouse located at 295 Llewellyn St, Clarkesville, GA 30523.

Present was Chairman Ty Akins, Commissioner Bruce Palmer, Commissioner Dustin Mealor, Commissioner Jimmy Tench, County Manager Alicia Vaughn, County Clerk Brandalin Carnes, staff, members of the media and the public.

County Attorney Donnie Hunt was available over the phone.

Absent was Vice Chairman Bruce Harkness.

Chairman Akins informed everyone that Commissioner Tench made him aware that the June 24th meeting was improperly adjourned, and therefore it was necessary to call the Monday, June 24th meeting back into order so it could be properly adjourned.

Chairman Akins called the Monday, June 24, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting back to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26th.

Commissioner Tench lead the invocation.

Commissioner Palmer lead the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, and voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the Monday, June 24, 2024 meeting at 5:32 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

Chairman Akins called the Wednesday, June 26, 2024 special called meeting to order at 5:33.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no public hearings scheduled for this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no citizens signed up for public comment as of the start of the meeting.

Commissioner Akins stated another meeting will be held to discuss the budget at a later time. Once the Commission sets a date and time, they are required to legally advertise this information to the public to give them a chance to participate in discussions. The date and time have not been determined yet. With this being said, he asked if there was anyone present who wished to come up and discuss the item being voted on tonight which was in regard to the continuing budget resolution? There were none who wished to speak on this topic.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business scheduled for this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider/Approve Resolution 2024-06-002 For Purpose of Continuing to Operate Under the Fiscal Year 2024 (2023-2024) Operating Budget Pending Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025 (2024-2025) Operating Budget

Commissioner Mealor wanted everyone to know that he had spoken with Commissioner Harkness and that he was in agreement with approving this resolution as a stop gap measure until they can vote on the new budget.

Motion by Commissioner Mealor, seconded by Commissioner Palmer and voted unanimously (4-0) to adopt the resolution as written to continue the FY 2024 budget until such time as the FY 2025 budget is adopted.

Commissioner Akins reminded everyone present that this resolution is only to allow the county to keep operating under the current budget levels until a new budget can be agreed upon. It does not allow for any new hires, new equipment, etc.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Mealor wanted to wish everyone a happy and safe 4th of July holiday next week.

Commissioner Tench echoed Commissioner Mealor's sentiment telling everyone to be safe and watch out for the kids.

Commissioner Palmer wanted to thank everyone who came tonight. He realizes that many people may have come thinking that the FY 2025 budget would be discussed, however he assures everyone that this will be discussed again at an upcoming meeting once they get a date and time scheduled. He wished everyone a happy 4th of July with their families.

County Manager Vaughn wanted to thank the Finance team for all the work that they have put into the budget. Though they got the tax digest numbers late, she reminded everyone that the Tax Assessor's Office is undergoing a lot of changes and that they are understaffed. In a perfect world, they would receive the tax digest sooner, however she feels that Tax Assessor's Office is working very hard to improve their processes for the future. She wanted to thank the Commissioners as well, letting them know that she realizes that it is a thankless job.

Chairman Akins wanted to highlight the support that the Commission has given to the Tax Assessor's Office. He informed everyone that this Commission realized that the Tax Assessors needed help and were in agreement to support them by approve their requests for additional resources such as a software upgrade, additional personnel, and contracted services from the McCormick's. In addition to this, he feels that the Tax Assessors have a good board and that things are moving in the right direction.

ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Meador, seconded by Commissioner Tench, and voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Commission Chairman Ty Akins

Attest: _____
County Clerk Brandalin Carnes