**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**
**APRIL 28, 2026 6:00 PM**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**:

Commissioners Hal Floyd, Michael Gravett, Linda Liles, David McElwee, John Paschal and Chuck Thaxton.

**OTHERS PRESENT**:

County Manager Matt Denton, Assistant County Manager Connor Hooper, County Attorney Brad McFall, and County Clerk Jaime Armstrong.

**CALL TO ORDER**:

Chairman Chuck Thaxton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. **Consider approval of agenda for the Regular Meeting of April 28, 2026.**

   Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Floyd to approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting of April 28, 2026 with the correction on item three from TA26-01 to TA26-02. Second by Commissioner McElwee. Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. **Consider approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of March 31, 2026.**

   Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Paschal to approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of March 31, 2026. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Consider presentation of Badge and Glock 45 Gen6 COA Service Weapon (Serial Number CHGZ818) to Captain Perry Davis following 27 years of service to the citizens of Polk County.**

   Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner McElwee to approve presentation of Badge and Glock 45 Gen6 COA Service Weapon (Serial Number CHGZ818) to Captain Perry Davis following 27 years of service to the citizens of Polk County. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Z26-05: Request from JMJP Home represented by John Powell to rezone 4.278 acres from R-4 to R-1 located on Wieuca Way, Cedartown (Parcel: 025J-080). Planning Commission recommended approval.**

   Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Gravett to approve the request from JMJP Home represented by John Powell to rezone 4.278 acres from R-4 to R-1 located on Wieuca Way, Cedartown (Parcel: 025J-080). Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **TA26-02: Text Amendments to the Polk County Zoning Code of Ordinances, Section 708.15 – CN, Neighborhood Businesses, Section 708.24 – I-1, General Industrial, and Section 708.25 – I-2, Heavy Industrial. Planning Commission recommended approval of CN and I-2.**

   The proposed text amendment addresses zoning only and does not regulate anything else regarding data centers (i.e. power, water, etc…).

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner McElwee to table the request until the next meeting to extend the moratorium until June 02, 2026. Second by Commissioner Floyd. Motion passed with Commissioners Floyd, Gravett and McElwee voting in favor; Commissioners Liles and Paschal abstained.

4. **SU26-01: Consider request from SME Properties, LLC for a special use permit for an event venue located at 1195 Grady Road, Rockmart (Parcel: 037-048). Planning Commission recommended approval. Tabled March 31, 2026.**

   Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Paschal to deny the request from SME Properties, LLC for a special use permit for an event venue located at 1195 Grady Road, Rockmart (Parcel: 037-048). Second by Commissioner Gravett. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Consider the purchase and installation of commercial fire bay doors from R+R Builders & Construction, LLC in the amount of $75,500.00 for the Esom Hill Fire Station project.**

   The price includes material and labor for the installation of five (5) 14x14 full view glass sectional doors. The doors will be ½ inch tinted tempered glass and insulated. R+R Builders is the contractor that installed both buildings on-site. The next lowest price for the doors was $115,000.00 from Preferred Custom Doors, a company located in Rockmart.

   Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Gravett to approve the purchase and installation of commercial fire bay doors from R+R Builders & Construction, LLC in the amount of $75,500.00 for the Esom Hill Fire Station project. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **Consider the approval of Mauldin & Jenkins as the official governmental auditing firm through FY28.**

   Mauldin & Jenkins has been the county's governmental auditing firm for the past three years. They service many local governments and there have been no complaints from Administration's point of view. The services were re-bid this year and only one other firm submitted a bid. While Mauldin & Jenkins was higher in price, the other firm (CKH) primarily deals with smaller cities and towns, with their county clients being smaller as well (ex: Brooks, Schley, Telfair, etc.). The proposals were evaluated and graded as specified in the request for proposals. Due to the complexity and size of our financial operations and the experience of Mauldin & Jenkins with complex entities, they are the higher scoring firm.

   Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Paschal to approve Mauldin & Jenkins as the official governmental auditing firm through FY28. Second by Commissioner McElwee. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **Consider the surplus of various vehicles & property to be sold on GovDeals or sealed bid.**

   Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner McElwee to approve the surplus of various vehicles & property to be sold on GovDeals or sealed bid. Second by Commissioner Floyd. Motion passed unanimously.

8. **Consider approval of a Grant Application for additional LRA funding from the Georgia Department of Transportation.**

   This is a grant application for additional Local Road Assistance (LRA) funding with $0.00 match from Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Administration is proposing to use this funding to replace additional failing culverts around the county. The county is currently using prior LRA funding for work on replacing the bridge on Government Farm Road.

   Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Gravett to approve Grant Application for additional LRA funding from the Georgia Department of Transportation. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

9. **Consider approval of a bid from Northwest Georgia Paving in the amount of $335,682.18 for roadway paving.**

This bid is for paving the roads within the Sunset Valley Subdivision. Several years ago, at the recommendation of the Public Works Director, the County accepted all of the roadways in this subdivision. Paving was never completed prior to acceptance. Of the five bids submitted, the lowest bid was received from Northwest Georgia Paving, Inc. in the amount of $335,682.18.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Liles to approve bid from Northwest Georgia Paving in the amount of $335,682.18 for roadway paving. Second by Commissioner Paschal. Motion passed unanimously.

**10. Consider a recommendation from County Administration to renew the County's Health Insurance for Fiscal Year 2027 with Cigna.**

The county's current carrier, Aetna, proposed an increase in premiums of over 20% this year due to claims. Cigna initially proposed an increase of over 11% with certain lesser benefits. The county counter proposed and negotiated down to a 1.7% increase keeping the existing benefits the same with the exception of urgent care copays and upper-tiered medication copays. This proposal is for "Level Funding" which will allow the county to share any profits with Cigna at the end of the year and give the county access to better claims reporting. In addition, this will reduce from three (3) plan options to two (2) plan options for coverage.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner McElwee to approve the recommendation from County Administration to renew the County's Health Insurance for Fiscal Year 2027 with Cigna. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

## COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Denton reviewed the May 2026 Finance Report. He reported that Revenues were at 87.6% and Expenses were at 82.4%.

County Manager Denton also asked Commissioners to be thinking of May dates for budget hearings.

## COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner McElwee expressed his appreciation of the Chairman and his fellow Commissioners. He also recognized the Commissioner Candidates in attendance.

Commissioner Floyd echoed Commissioner McElwee's comments and urged everyone to get out and vote on May 19, 2026.

Commissioner Paschal had no comment.

Commissioner Liles expressed her appreciation to all of those in attendance, especially the Commissioner Candidates. She also wished all of the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Commissioner Gravett expressed his appreciation for the public engagement and his appreciation to the department heads and employees, as they are their greatest asset. He also commended County Manager Denton for a job well done on negotiating the county's insurance.

Commissioner Thaxton reiterated the comments of his fellow Commissioners with emphasis on the encouragement for everyone to get out and vote on May 19, 2026.

## ADJOURN

Chairman Thaxton adjourned the meeting.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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CHARLES THAXTON, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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JAIME ARMSTRONG, COUNTY CLERK