

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 03, 2026**

**5:30 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.

**NEWS MEDIA:**

Jeremy Stewart, Polk Standard Journal and Kevin Myrick, Polk.Today.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Chuck Thaxton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**1. Consider approval of agenda for the Regular Meeting of March 03, 2026.**

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Gravett to approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting of March 03, 2026. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Consider approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of February 03, 2026.**

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Paschal to approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of February 03, 2026. Second by Commissioner Gravett. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. V26-02: Consider variance request from Jason Lemley for relief from 40' greenbelt buffer, solid privacy fence, and paved parking in a C-1 zone on property located at 4025 Rockmart Hwy, Cedartown (Parcel # 042-071A). Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval.**

The applicant was present at the Work Session to answer any questions the Commissioners may have prior to consideration of the requests at their Regular Meeting.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Paschal to approve the variance request from Jason Lemley for relief from 40' greenbelt buffer, solid privacy fence, and paved parking in a C-1 zone on property located at 4025 Rockmart Hwy, Cedartown (Parcel # 042-071A). Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Consider an Ordinance Amendment to add "Chapter 33 – Data Centers" to the official County Code of Ordinances regulating any future data centers.**

The purpose of this chapter is to set standards relating to data centers that protect public health and safety, while also mitigating adverse impacts to natural resources, infrastructure, and adjacent land uses. The standards set forth in this chapter shall address water supply issues, electrical grid capacity, and environmental quality.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Liles to approve the Ordinance Amendment to add “Chapter 33 – Data Centers” to the official County Code of Ordinances regulating any future data centers with the addition of a 60-day moratorium on all data centers in order to better strengthen the county’s Zoning Ordinance to address this type of development. Second by Commissioner Gravett. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Consider rescheduling the April 2026 board meeting date from April 07<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> and the May 2026 board meeting date from May 05<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>.**

The purpose for backing up the April meeting is due to spring break week causing some scheduling conflicts and the purpose for backing up the May meeting is to get the insurance approved and allow time to get everyone registered before June.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Liles to approve rescheduling the April 2026 board meeting date from April 07<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> and the May 2026 board meeting date from May 05<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>. Second by Commissioner Gravett. Motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Consider renewing the lease agreement with the Department of Veteran Services effective July 01, 2026 with automatic renewal annually for up to five (5) years.**

This is a token lease in the amount of \$10.00 annually. The Department of Veteran Services occupy the old drive thru building in the parking lot beside the Annex Building.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Gravett to approve renewing the lease agreement with the Department of Veteran Services effective July 01, 2026 with automatic renewal annually for up to five (5) years. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Consider a recommendation from the Public Works Committee to approve a proposal from Oasis Consulting regarding mowing for the old Highway 278 Landfill in the not to exceed amount of \$37,500.00.**

This proposal covers a spring and fall mowing, and represents a \$3,600.00 increase from last year due to increases in labor.

Chairman Thaxton stated the Motion as recommended by the Public Works Committee is to approve the recommendation from the Public Works Committee to approve a proposal from Oasis Consulting regarding mowing for the old Highway 278 Landfill in the not to exceed amount of \$37,500.00. Motion passed unanimously.

- 6. Consider an appointment to the Region 1 EMS Council for a 3-year appointment beginning July 01, 2026.**

Michael Hanuscin currently holds this position. The recommendation by Administration is that Michael be reappointed.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Paschal to approve reappointment of Michael Hanuscin to the Region 1 EMS Council for a 3-year appointment beginning July 01, 2026. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

- 7. Consider a recommendation from the Public Works Committee amending the FY2026 CIP to add a Hoop Building for storing public works materials as a state contract purchase from Clear Span in the not to exceed amount of \$30,000.00 to be funded by the 2020 SPLOST.**

The Hoop Building will be used to cover materials at Public Works that need to remain dry such as salt, fill dirt, etc...

Chairman Thaxton stated the Motion as recommended by the Public Works Committee is to approve amending the FY2026 CIP to add a Hoop Building for storing public works materials as a state contract purchase from Clear Span in the not to exceed amount of \$30,000.00 to be funded by the 2020 SPLOST. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Consider awarding the engineering and construction administration, and inspection services for the replacement of a bridge on Government Farm Road over Euharlee Creek to Neel-Schaffer in the amount of \$436,800.00.**

This recommendation is based upon a review of the proposals received. The existing bridge is a single span, single lane bridge limited to nine (9) tons maximum by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) meaning it cannot carry the weight of school busses and heavier vehicles. There is one structure rated lower at seven (7) tons, but it is a single box culvert on Knight Road. The cost breakdown is as follows: Engineering: \$316,000.00 and Engineering Administration & Inspection: \$120,800.00.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Gravett to approve awarding the engineering and construction administration, and inspection services for the replacement of a bridge on Government Farm Road over Euharlee Creek to Neel-Schaffer in the amount of \$436,800.00. Second by Commissioner Paschal. Motion passed unanimously.

**COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT**

No Report.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner McElwee expressed his appreciation to everyone in attendance and commented on his desire for the community to speak carefully when voicing their opinions on things that they are passionate about and/or stating their position on things. He would like to see the community move forward in harmony and all working together for the betterment of the county. He explained his position of being in favor of the TAD and conveyed decorum to his fellow Commissioners for their willingness to hear him out without any retribution from those not in favor.

Commissioner Floyd echoed Commissioner McElwee’s comments pertaining to community though he noted his difference of opinion on the TAD explaining his reasons for being in opposition.

Commissioner Paschal no comment.

Commissioner Liles thanked everyone for coming out this evening and stated she dittos everything stated by Commissioner Floyd with regard to the TAD exactly as he explained it.

Commissioner Gravett thanked everyone for their civic engagement tonight and expressed his appreciation to the employees and department heads of the cities and the county for everything that they do.

Commissioner Thaxton recognized each student by name from Rockmart and Cedartown High Schools for their achievements and placements in Wrestling and the Skills Programs.

**ADJOURN**

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Paschal to adjourn the meeting. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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CHARLES THAXTON, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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JAIME ARMSTRONG, COUNTY CLERK