

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 31, 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.

NEWS MEDIA:

Jeremy Stewart, Polk Standard Journal.

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 March 31, 2026.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. TA26-01: Consider a text Amendment to amend the C-1 Zoning Ordinance. Planning Commission recommended approval.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Gravett to approve a text Amendment to amend the C-1 Zoning Ordinance. Second by Commissioner McElwee. Motion passed unanimously.

2. 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.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Gravett to table 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 Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

3. V26-03: Consider request from Antioch Estates, LLC for a variance to allow a shared driveway for four (4) homes located on Antioch Road, Cedartown (Parcels: 031E-039 & 031-005). Planning 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 request from Antioch Estates, LLC for a variance to allow a shared driveway for four (4) homes located on Antioch Road, Cedartown (Parcels: 031E-039 & 031-005). Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Z26-03: Consider request from Michael & Jerry Barker represented by Jason Bentley to rezone five (5) acres from A-1 to R-1 located at 523 Branch Road, Cedartown (Parcel: 013-025). Planning 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 Floyd to approve the request from Michael & Jerry Barker represented by Jason Bentley to rezone five (5) acres from A-1 to R-1 located at 523 Branch Road, Cedartown (Parcel: 013-025). Second by Commissioner McElwee. Motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Z26-04: Consider request from Brandy & Jack Henderson to rezone ten (10) acres from A-1 to C-1 located on Vinson Mountain Road, Rockmart (Parcel: 061-011*). Planning 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 Floyd to approve the request from Brandy & Jack Henderson to rezone ten (10) acres from A-1 to C-1 located on Vinson Mountain Road, Rockmart (Parcel: 061-011*). Second by Commissioner Paschal. Motion passed unanimously.

- 6. Consider a Resolution to allow Paulding County into the Bartow/Floyd/Polk Joint Development Authority.**

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Gravett to approve a Resolution to allow Paulding County into the Bartow/Floyd/Polk Joint Development Authority. Second by Commissioner McElwee. Motion passed unanimously.

- 7. Consider the surplus of vehicles and various pieces of fire equipment to be sold on GovDeals with approximately 24 sections of 1.5-inch fire hose to be donated to Borden Springs, Alabama Fire Department.**

VIN	Year & Model
1FM5K8AR0GGD30522 (PD)	2016 Ford Explorer
2C3CDXAT3CH282741 (PD)	2012 Dodge Charger
1FM5K8D8XFGA94883 (PD)	2015 Ford Explorer
1FM5K8AR2GGD30523 (PD)	2016 Ford Explorer
1GDJG31R721242971 (Fire)	2002 GMC Truck
2C3CDXAT8DH670503 (SO)	2013 Dodge Charger
1FBSS31L54HA09477 (SO)	2004 Ford Econoline Van

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Paschal to approve the surplus of vehicles and various pieces of fire equipment to be sold on GovDeals with approximately 24 sections of 1.5-inch fire hose to be donated to Borden Springs, Alabama Fire Department with the amendment to add numerous Scott 2.2 air packs and old Engine 4 utility box with funds from these items being returned to the Fire Department. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

- 8. Consider approval of the “Combined Subdivision Participation and Release Form” regarding the ongoing Opioid Settlement Program.**

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Gravett to approve the “Combined Subdivision Participation and Release Form” regarding the ongoing Opioid Settlement Program. Second by Commissioner McElwee. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Consider approval of a proposed Landowner Affidavit with the Department of Natural Resources to regulate hunting and fishing on the parcels known as the Santa Clause Tract.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Paschal to approve the proposed Landowner Affidavit with the Department of Natural Resources to regulate hunting and fishing on the parcels known as the Santa Clause Tract. Second by Commissioner McElwee. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Consider an appointment to the Polk County Water Authority to fill the expiring term of Mike Lester for a 5-year appointment beginning April 01, 2026.

The Board was informed of Mike Lester's desire to be reappointed.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner McElwee to reappoint Mike Lester to the Polk County Water Authority for a 5-year appointment beginning April 01, 2026. Second by Commissioner Paschal. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Consider a recommendation from the Finance Committee to amend the hourly rates of pay for Election Department Pole Workers as follows: Worker \$12.00, Assistant Manager \$13.00, and Manager \$14.00.

Chairman Thaxton stated the Motion as recommended by the Finance Committee is to amend the hourly rates of pay for Election Department Pole Workers as follows: Worker \$12.00, Assistant Manager \$13.00, and Manager \$14.00. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Consider establishing and certifying a 2026 countywide Estimated Roll-Back Rate as required by O.C.G.A. Title 48.

The Finance Committee recommends setting this rate at 9.000 mills. This is an estimated top ceiling number that will not be exceeded.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Floyd to approve establishing and certifying a 2026 countywide Estimated Roll-Back Rate as required by O.C.G.A. Title 48 at 9.000 mills. Second by Commissioner Paschal. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Consider allocating the proceeds from the sale of court ordered abandoned weapons to the Police Department to be used for departmental equipment.

Superior Court has and is continuing to order the surplus and sale of abandoned weapons in the Police Department evidence room. These are weapons that have been in the custody of the Police Department for many years. The proceeds from the sale of the weapons will be returned to the Police Department.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Gravett to approve allocating the proceeds from the sale of court ordered abandoned weapons to the Police Department to be used for departmental equipment. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Consider a proposed resolution appointing Brad McFall to the Public Defenders Supervisory Panel.

The appointment to the Public Defenders Supervisory Panel is a requirement per O.C.G.A. § 17-12-20 to appoint a local attorney to the panel.

Chairman Thaxton called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Liles to approve the proposed resolution appointing Brad McFall to the Public Defenders Supervisory Panel. Second by Commissioner McElwee. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

(03/31/26 – Regular Meeting)

County Manager Denton reviewed the March 2026 Finance Report. He reported that Revenues were at 81.4%, Expenses were at 72.7%, and Agency Allocations were at 73.3%.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Liles mentioned her time working at the Federal Building in Rome highlighting her assistance in having the building renamed in honor of formal Federal Judge Harold Murphy stating she is very proud of that. The dedication is scheduled for April 17, 2026. She also wished everyone a wonderful and blessed Easter.

Commissioner Paschal thanked everyone for their attendance in supporting the Board on some of the things they are dealing with noting they do what they can to make the right decisions to benefit the community.

Commissioner Floyd echoed Commissioners Paschal thanking everyone for attending adding that he certainly appreciates the work that all of the county employees do and Administration as well. He also wished everyone a blessed Easter and invited anyone who would like to attend the sunrise service that is going to be held at the new Rockmart Amphitheatre at 7:00 a.m.

Commissioner McElwee reiterated the appreciation of attendance by Commissioners Paschal and Floyd with special thanks to the Commissioner Candidates in attendance. He also wished everyone a very happy Easter and a safe Spring Break.

Commissioner Gravett expressed his appreciation for the public engagement and his appreciation to the department heads and employees for the stellar job they do in staying under budget. He ended by wishing everyone a safe and happy Easter.

Commissioner Thaxton repeated his fellow Commissioners in expressing appreciation for those in attendance as well as department heads and employees, and wished everyone a happy Easter. He also mentioned the recognition of PD Officer Coombe again and thanked all of those in Public Safety for their dedication to the community noting that they do not receive the thanks they deserve often enough.

ADJOURN

Chairman Thaxton adjourned the meeting.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CHARLES THAXTON, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

JAIME ARMSTRONG, COUNTY CLERK