REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Peach County Board of Commissioners
6:00 PM, July 14, 2026

Minutes

I. Public Hearing:

II. Consent Agenda:

1. July 7, 2026

Commissioner Moseley made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vice-Chairwoman Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Agenda Approval:

1. July 14, 2026

Vice-Chairwoman Hill made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approve of Minutes of Previous Meetings:

1. Regular Meeting - June 9, 2026

Commissioner Yoder inquired whether the design specifications discussed in connection with the rezoning request during the previous month's public hearing should be incorporated into the meeting minutes. Chairman Lewis responded that doing so was unnecessary, as the information was already included in the landscape plan submitted by the developer to the Board of Commissioners, Public Works, and the Development Authority of Peach County.

Commissioner Moseley made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 9, 2026, as presented. Vice-Chairwoman Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Announcements/Updates:

VI. Appearances:

1. Napoleon Smith - Convenience Center Fees

Napoleon Smith appeared before the Board to express concerns regarding the newly proposed and implemented fee structure at the Peach County Convenience Center. Mr. Smith stated that he believes the fees could lead to an increase in illegal dumping along county roadways. He also expressed concern over the requirement to present identification each time he visits the Convenience Center, noting that the staff are familiar with him.

Chairman Lewis explained that the identification requirement is intended to ensure all customers are treated equally and to verify whether individuals are Peach County residents or reside outside the county. He further stated that the fee structure was implemented to help offset the costs associated with transporting waste from the Convenience Center to the landfill. Chairman Lewis noted that it would not be equitable for taxpayers who do not utilize the Convenience Center to bear the full cost of providing the service to those who do.

Mr. Smith responded that county taxpayers should not have to pay to use the Convenience Center, particularly when individuals from outside Peach County have been using the facility to dispose of waste.

Commissioner Yoder clarified that non-residents are required to pay a $10 access fee in addition to the applicable disposal fees for bagged trash and other materials. He added that the Board is working to avoid increasing property taxes while maintaining the service.

Commissioner Moseley stated that the Convenience Center is an additional service provided by the County and that residents who do not use the facility should not be required to subsidize the cost for those who do. No action taken.

VII. Old Business:

1. Opioid Training Solutions - Operational Readiness for Police Officers: Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

County Administrator Jillian Bowen advised that during the July Work Session, the Board discussed the opportunity for the Peach County Sheriff's Office, the City of Byron Police Department, and the City of Fort Valley Police Department to participate in the Opioid Training Solutions Operational Readiness for Police Officers: Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) training program. Following the Board's discussion, Ms. Bowen inquired about extending the training opportunity to include all county first responders, including Fire and EMS personnel, and requested pricing for a larger group.

Ms. Bowen reported that the expanded participation qualified for a bulk discount, reducing the cost from $450 per participant to $400 per participant, for a total project cost of $104,000.00. She advised that the training would be funded through the County's opioid settlement funds. Ms. Bowen further stated that Opioid Training Solutions would offer an additional discount if the County elected to incorporate the training into its onboarding process for all newly hired first responder employees.

Chairman Lewis stated that incorporating the training into the onboarding process would provide an effective way to ensure new employees receive necessary training from the beginning of their employment. Commissioner Howell agreed, noting that including the training as part of onboarding would promote continuity and ensure all first responders receive consistent instruction.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the Opioid Training Solutions Operational Readiness for Police Officers: Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) training program for the Peach County Sheriff's Office, the City of Fort Valley Police Department, and the City of Byron Police Department in the amount of $104,000.00, as presented, and to incorporate the training into the onboarding process for newly hired first responder employees. Commissioner Moseley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. New Business:

1. Errol Newark - Grants Manager

   i. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) - Transit Safety Plan

Errol Newark, Grants Manager, presented the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Transit Safety Plan for approval. He advised that the plan has been updated for 2026 and is due to GDOT by August 2, 2026. Mr. Newark noted that the only change to the plan was an update to the Resource Management Systems (RMS) organizational chart due to changes in leadership.

Commissioner Moseley made a motion to approve the GDOT Transit Safety Plan for 2026 as presented. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

   ii. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Grant

Errol Newark, Grants Manager, presented the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Grant for approval. He advised that the grant is for the Accountability Court Program and is in the amount of $120,310.80, with a required county match of $21,231.00. Mr. Newark noted that the grant application was submitted in the name of Peach County rather than the Macon-Bibb Circuit, and the county has budgeted accordingly.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the CJCC Grant as presented. Vice-Chairwoman Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Janet Smith - Finance Director - Budget Amendments

   i. Education & Training

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment to transfer $50 from Chairman Lewis' Education and Training account to his Travel account. She advised that the amendment was necessary *to appropriate funding for travel expenses associated with attending meetings.*

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Moseley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ii. Board of Commissioners Office

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for internal transfers within the Board of Commissioners Office budget to cover overages.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

iii. Human Resources

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for the Human Resources Department. She advised that contingency funds would be needed to cover retirement expenses, which account for the majority of the requested amendment.

Vice-Chairwoman Hill made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

iv. Information Technology

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment to address overages within the Information Technology budget.

Vice-Chairwoman Hill made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Moseley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

v. Tax Commissioner's Office

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for the Tax Commissioner's Office to address budget overages and correct a data entry error related to overtime.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

vi. Tax Assessors Office

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for the Tax Assessor's Office to address overtime budget overages.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Vice-Chairwoman Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

vii. General Government

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for contingency requests within the General Government accounts.

Vice-Chairwoman Hill made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

viii. Superior Court

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for Superior Court. She advised that the amendment was a contingency request to provide back pay for Judge Smith.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ix. Sheriff's Office

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for the Sheriff's Office related to building and grounds maintenance at the jail. She explained that the Sheriff's Office now has a designated maintenance employee assigned to the jail. The position was originally budgeted under the Buildings and Grounds Maintenance budget within the Public Works Department; however, the Sheriff requested that the position be transferred to the Sheriff's Office budget.

Bobby Cowart, Public Works Director, advised that the original agreement was for the position and its associated budget to remain within the Public Works Department under the Buildings and Grounds Maintenance budget.

Following discussion, no action was taken.

x. Coroner

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for the Coroner's Office. She advised that the amendment was needed to address budget overages, correct a data entry error, and cover transportation assistance provided by the Fire Department.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

xi. Library

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for the Library. She advised that the amendment was needed to cover budget overages using contingency funds.

Commissioner Moseley made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Vice-Chairwoman Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

xii. Extension/County Agent

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for the Cooperative Extension/County Agent. She advised that the majority of the requested funding would come from contingency. Ms. Smith explained that the department received a new vehicle last year and a gasoline line item needed to be added to the budget to account for fuel expenses.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

xiii. Planning & Zoning

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for Planning and Zoning. She advised that the majority of the requested funding would come from contingency and explained that the amendment was needed to cover Bureau Veritas expenditures for monthly professional services. Ms. Smith clarified that these expenses were not related to permit fees.

Commissioner Howell requested an accounting record of payments made to Bureau Veritas from year to year for review. She expressed concerns regarding the cost of the professional services and requested a comparison of the costs associated with utilizing a third-party provider versus hiring a county employee to perform these services. Commissioner Howell noted that the County is also paying a percentage of invoices and requested additional information to better understand the cost-effectiveness of the current arrangement.

Chairman Lewis advised that one employee would not be able to feasibly provide all of the services currently supplied by Bureau Veritas. He explained that the cost fluctuates based on the amount of work performed and that the County is receiving the related revenue; however, those revenues are not reflected in the current budget amendment.

Commissioner Howell clarified that she was requesting the information for reference purposes only. Ms. Smith advised that she would provide the requested accounting records.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Moseley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

xiv. Middle Georgia 21st Century Economic Partnership

Janet Smith, Finance Director, presented a budget amendment for the Middle Georgia 21st Century Partnership.

Commissioner Moseley made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Todd Shepherd - Chief County Marshal - Business License Presentation

Todd Shepherd, Chief County Marshal, presented a business license application for DB Machining, an enclosed building machine shop located at 1040 Jones Road in Byron. He advised that the business is currently operated as a hobby shop and that the owner is not proposing any changes to the existing operations.

Chief Marshal Shepherd advised that he had received mixed responses from neighboring property owners regarding the application, with some in favor and others expressing concerns related to potential expansion, noise, and other impacts. Chairman Lewis advised that he had received a few calls from residents with concerns regarding increased industrialization in an area that is primarily residential.

Chief Marshal Shepherd further advised that the applicant had provided a list of signatures from neighboring property owners in support of the business license application.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the business license application as presented. Vice-Chairwoman Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Vice-Chairwoman Hill - Fort Valley Head Start Facility - Mural

Vice-Chairwoman Hill advised that the Fort Valley Head Start facility had expressed interest in having a mural painted on its building located on Spruce Street. She explained that the facility is exploring grant opportunities to fund the project and wanted to determine whether the Board would be willing to support the effort.

Chairman Lewis stated that the Board would be willing to provide a letter of support for a grant application and referenced the Flint Energies Foundation's Rural Mural Grant as a potential funding source. He advised that he was not in favor of using County funds for the mural and recommended that grant funding be pursued first.

Vice-Chairwoman Hill advised that she would meet with representatives of the Fort Valley Head Start facility to discuss the project further, including the estimated cost, and may bring the matter back before the Board for consideration at a future meeting. No action taken.

IX. Executive Session:

Commissioner Moseley made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:59 p.m. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Board Reappointment (1) - Planning & Zoning Board

Commissioner Moseley made a motion to reappoint Rosio Lopez to the Planning and Zoning Board. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Board Reappointment (1) - Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) Board

No action taken.

3. Personnel Matter #1

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the creation of the Accountability Court Coordinator position and the implementation of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Grant in accordance with the grant terms. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Personnel Matter #2

Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the request to end the Finance Director's probationary period and authorize retroactive compensation for the period served beyond the intended probationary timeframe. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Attorney/Client Privilege - Real Estate

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to approve the recommendation to proceed with a quitclaim deed to clear the title to the property as presented. Vice-Chairwoman Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

X. Adjourn:

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Yoder made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Vice-Chairwoman Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.