



FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 9, 2025

Floyd County Administration Building

Caucus - Suite 204	4:00 pm
Regular Meeting - Suite 206	6:00 pm

CAUCUS

Present: Commissioners: Allison Watters, Rhonda Wallace, Mike Burnes, and David Thornton; County Manager Jamie McCord, County Clerk Lauren Chumbler, County Attorney Chris Jackson, Greg Dobbins, Mike Bell, Todd Wofford, Mary Hardin Thornton, Brice Wood, Ron Swinford, Susie Gass, and Adam Carey.

Not present: Commissioner Scotty Hancock

Chair Watters called the Caucus meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

Spencer Hogg introduced himself and spoke about the Rome-Floyd Development Authority. The commission discussed the future of data centers with Mr. Hogg.

Chair Watters and Mr. McCord began review of the agenda.

Mr. Wofford went over the sponsorship contracts on the consent agenda. He also gave an update on the Alto Park and Garden Lakes fields.

At 5:26 p.m. Vice Chair Wallace made a motion to enter executive session to discuss litigation and personnel. Commissioner Burnes seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

At 5:54 p.m. Commissioner Thornton made a motion to exit executive session, seconded by Vice Chair Wallace. The motion carried 4-0.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Watters called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG – Vice Chair Wallace

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Wallace made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Thornton. The motion carried 4-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Adopt minutes of Caucus, Executive Session and Regular Meeting of August 26, 2025.

The minutes were approved by common consent.

V. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

VI. PROCLAMATION

1. Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
2. Constitution Week

Commissioner Burnes presented the proclamation to Cameron Abney and Jennie Williams from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REGARDING MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

VIII. FIRST READING

Mr. Wood presented the three planning items for first reading.

1. File Z25-09-02, for the property at 4558 Martha Berry Hwy. (O Martha Berry Hwy. as listed on the Parcel Viewer), Rome, GA 30165, Floyd County Tax Parcel J10Y032, requests to rezone from Suburban Residential (S-R) to Community Commercial (C-C). Staff recommended denial. Should the Commission choose to approve, then staff recommends requiring Dark Sky compatible lighting to protect the two adjacent residential properties from light pollution. Planning Commission recommended denial without prejudice by a vote of 9-0.
2. File Z25-09-03, for the property at O Moran Lake Rd. (785 Moran Lake Rd. as listed on the Parcel Viewer), Rome, GA 30161, Floyd County Tax Parcel L13X088, requests to rezone from Suburban Residential (S-R) to Agricultural Residential (A-R). Staff recommended approval. Planning Commission recommended approval by a vote of 9-0.
3. File Z25-09-04, for the property at O Burlington Rd., Rome, GA 30161, Floyd County Tax Parcels M11X064 and M11X065, requests to rezone from Suburban Residential (S-R) to Light Industrial (L-I). Staff recommended denial. If the commission decides to approve, staff recommends approval on the following conditions: (1) that the property remains vacant to all commercial/industrial

uses until brought up to code, (2) that a professionally produced redevelopment plan be submitted within 90 calendar days after approval of the rezoning or code enforcement actions will resume, (3) that there be no exterior storage of goods, products, or equipment, excluding the parking of delivery vehicles, (4) that the applicant maintains the existing mature trees along Burlington Road, (5) that exterior lighting be limited to dark sky lighting. Exterior illumination shall be shielded, downcast and of a luminosity designed to maintain the existing night sky darkness and to prevent light trespass onto adjacent properties. In order to obtain this objective, the following criteria shall be met: (a) all fixtures shall be full cut-off type fixtures, (b) light poles shall be no taller than 25-feet in height, (c) all light poles must be setback a minimum of 10-feet from any exterior property line (d) maximum foot-candles at the property line shall be 0.5. Planning Commission recommended approval with staff conditions (listed above) for parcel M11X064 and recommended denial of the request for parcel M11X065 by a vote of 9-0.

IX. SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

X. PUBLIC HEARING

XI. RESOLUTIONS

XII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Watters gave an update from the Fire Overview Committee.

XIII. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Vice Chair Wallace presented a report from PAWS about a free pet microchipping program and new cat condos at the facility.

Commissioner Thornton presented a report about a Public Works employee, the DFCS board and invited all to attend a 9/11 memorial Thursday at the Firefighters Memorial Plaza.

1. Public Safety Committee

a. Next Meeting, Thursday, October 16, 10:00 AM, 2025

2. Administrative Services Committee

a. Next Meeting, Thursday, September 25, 10:00 AM, 2025

3. Elected Officials Committee

a. Next Meeting, TBD

4. Public Utilities & Transportation Committee

a. Regular Meeting, Wednesday, October 15, 8:00 AM, 2025

5. Special Committee Reports

a. Fire Overview Committee

- i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, December 9, 10:30 AM, 2025

b. Joint Services Committee

- i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, October 7, 9:00 AM, 2025

c. Rome-Floyd Planning Commission

- i. Next Meeting, Thursday, October 2, 2:30 PM, 2025

d. Joint Development Oversight Committee

- i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, November 4, 10:00 AM, 2025

e. Joint Solid Waste Commission

- i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, October 28, 8:30 AM, 2025

f. Transportation Policy Committee

- i. Next Meeting, Wednesday, September 17, 10:00 AM, 2025

g. Airport Commission

- i. Next Meeting, Wednesday, September 17, 4:00 PM, 2025

h. SPLOST Project Overview Committee

- i. Next Meeting, TBD, 2025

i. RFPR Advisory Committee

- i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, October 21, 12:00 PM, 2025

j. Floyd County Library Board

- i. Next Meeting, Thursday, November 20, 4:00 PM, 2025

XIV. MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Clerk of Superior Court Certification of Inclusiveness

Mr. McCord presented information on the certificate of inclusiveness the Superior Court Clerk received.

XV. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Jackson stated they are working alongside the Clerk's Office on updating the ordinances throughout the county.

XVI. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Chumbler stated the Consent Agenda was in order with item #11 pending final legal review.

Commissioner Burnes made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice Chair Wallace. The motion carried 4-0.

1. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to approve a contract with Chick-fil-a to advertise at The Rink at Ridge Ferry Park in the amount of \$8,500. This will be billed at the time of approval.
2. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to approve a contract with Coca-Cola to advertise at The Rink at Ridge Ferry Park in the amount of \$8,500. This will be billed at the time of approval.
3. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to approve a contract with Georgia Power to advertise at Chili Fest in the amount of \$1,500 and to advertise at the Rink at Ridge Ferry Park in the amount of \$8,500. The total contract is for \$10,000. This will be billed at the time of approval.
4. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to approve a contract with GNTC to advertise at The Rink at Ridge Ferry, in the amount of \$1,000. This will be billed at the time of approval.
5. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to approve a contract with Rome Athletic Club to advertise at The Rink at Ridge Ferry Park in the amount of \$500. This will be billed at the time of approval.
6. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to approve a contract with Rome Area Volleyball to conduct volleyball leagues and games at the Thornton Center and the Anthony Center. This will be billed 30 days before the due date of January 1, 2026.
7. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to approve a contract with Courtesy Ford to advertise at The Rink at Ridge Ferry Park. This will be billed at the time of approval.
8. Consider request from the Water Department to acquire a temporary water easement from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on behalf of the University of Georgia for the Bells Ferry Road water line relocation.
9. Consider request from the Police Department to purchase an equipped 2019 Dodge Charger from Calhoun Police Department to replace a 2019 Dodge Charger, totaled in a previous auto accident, at a cost of \$12,500. Insurance settlement funds are expected to be paid to the County within the week. These funds will be used to purchase this vehicle.
10. Consider request from Finance for approval of participation in national opioid settlement for eight opioid manufacturers.

11. Consider request from Parks and Recreation to approve a sponsorship contract with Academy Sports in the amount of \$7,500 per year. This is pending final legal review. There will need to be an increase to the budget for 2025 and then the 2026 amount will be included in the original budget.

XVII. OLD BUSINESS

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider request from Airport to approve federal and state tentative allocation of funds.

Mr. McCord presented the request to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Burnes made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice Chair Wallace. The motion carried 4-0.

2. Consider request to increase the Communications budget by \$15,000 for the Tower Costs GL Account # 206611 - 59815 to pay for emergency repairs that totaled \$11,845 and provide \$3,155 to fund the remainder of the year.

Mr. McCord presented the request to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Thornton made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Burnes. The motion carried 4-0.

XIX. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Watters stated the Commission entered into executive session to discuss litigation and personnel. No action was taken.

XX. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEM

Ron Swinford, 11 Poplar St., Rome; addressed the commission regarding parks costs.

XXI. ADJOURN

Seeing no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned by common consent at 6:23 p.m.