



*The Commission*  
of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia

215 McNaughton St Cusseta, Georgia 31805  
(706) 989-3602 Fax (706) 989-2005 admin@ugoccc.com

---

**Charles Coffey, Chairman**  
**Timothy Biddle, Vice Chairman**  
**Gerald Douglas**  
**Damon Hoyte**  
**Jason Frost**

Lisa Bickel, County Clerk

Bin Minter, County Attorney

---

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY WORK SESSION**

**January 22, 2024**

**215 McNaughton St.**

**PRESENT:**

Chairman Coffey  
Vice-Chairman Biddle  
Commissioner Douglas  
Commissioner Hoyte  
Commissioner Frost

Lisa Bickel, County Clerk

**Chairman Coffey** called the Monthly Work Session of the *Commission of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia* to order at 9:00 a.m., with all other Commissioners present, and live streaming on our Facebook page.

**COUNTY MANAGER OFFICE UPDATES:**

**County Clerk** Lisa Bickel started with election updates for the public the March 12<sup>th</sup> Presidential Preference Primary advance voting dates, Election Day, and voter registration deadline. She also announced when qualifying for the local May Primary will be March 4-8<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Bickel continued with update on cemetery meeting Nixon Maxey, Lou Beck, Chairman Coffey, and Jay Sigal. We are 60-70% complete with the cemetery work are biggest issue is the slope which will need some grading work, they want it to slope towards the road and crest to a 3-1 slope so it will be gradual enough so anyone can get around it to cut grass or walk around with no issues. We are also getting quotes from local contractors for the grading work or if we want to continue in-house. Mrs. Bickel continued with the sheriff vehicle insurance update, we are waiting on the insurance adjuster, they might not want to total the vehicle and fix it instead, she spoke with the ACCG representative, he is reaching back out to the adjuster, but we will be able to add on the fees we are having to add on daily for storage and tow fees. **Chairman Coffey** stated that they already removed items out of the vehicle so those fees should be covered as well. Mrs. Bickel continued with the status on Manta Rd leak update, water dept will be starting on the leak Tuesday weather permitting, once they start to dig and confirm if it is a service or a main, they will know if they will have to turn off water to other customers. The last update Mrs. Bickel had was on Chattnet, when a bad storm came, and lightning hit the Mustang tower it took out one of the cambium medusas. This particular tower operates with three, and we need to purchase it again to have on standby in case this happens again, so we can get internet back to customers as quickly as possible. **Chairman Coffey** and the **Commission** agreed that we should purchase the part now. **Commissioner Hoyte** did inquire about looking into insurance coverage for Chattnet. Mrs. Bickel said she would check with ACCG and see if it covers our internet towers. **Chairman Coffey** did ask about insurance on water as well, Mrs. Bickel stated she would check into this also.

## Department Head Updates:

**Mordie Askew** gave updates for Recreation Department, including that Chattahoochee Concrete did a new roof on the score board and dugouts and concessions stands.

**Daniel Keith** left packet for the Commission for water department in his absence, **Chairman Coffey** asked about the work on the drying beds if this was something done by ABM.

**Samantha Hedgecoke** – gave updates for Community Development, has been in contact with Southern heat paranormal, they plan on filming at the old jail to film. Will be presenting the Pink Out event check for Elena Amos Breast Cancer center January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Lou Beck** – gave updates for FT. Moore ACO & IGSA's, they are moving animals to a temporary shelter, while the other is being worked on. Invoices have been submitted for the IGSA's.

**Jay Sigal** – gave a lot of updates for public works, he thanked everyone that has helped him, some included helping water department out with a load of sand & salt on a leak, and he has been cleaning up at the city park.

## COUNTY ATTORNEY UPDATES:

NONE

The following items were discussed as to their relevance for appearance on the February 6, 2024 regular meeting agenda:

**Budget Review CHAIRMAN COFFEY** asked if Ms. Robin was on the phone, Mrs. Bickel said she is waiting by the phone, the Commission said they would like to review the budget and have Ms. Dunn on the phone at the next Work Session. Chairman Coffey stated budget amendments are a work in progress, biggest one is housing of prisoners, nobody's fault just hard to predict, but we are going to have to end of having to fund. Keeping budget amendments in folders for departments.

**SPLOST Referendum 2025 DISCUSSION CHAIRMAN COFFEY** not a cap, the proposal we raised to a larger amount to put to other projects, review those so we can put on our local elections. We put our water upgrades at \$2,000,000 our Recreation at 2,000,000, this is a working draft, we can change the \$7,000,000 if need be. Commissioner Hoyte and Commissioner Frost both stated they were glad to see the recreation department at a higher amount and give the kids something to be proud of. The Commission said they would like to change the overall to \$7,500,000 pending where we will be. So, we can change the recreation projects to \$2,500,000.

Barge Update for sewage project, **Chairman Coffey** stated there are no updates at this time but will keep on Work Session. Should be an update at the next work session.

**2022/2023 Audits CHAIRMAN COFFEY** spoke with Bin and it is working, no major concerns, needs to get with Bin and Ms. Robin. Need to see what we must do to get them done for the 2022 and 2023 audits before we can get the amendments done. **Commissioner Frost** asked if there are outstanding changes from 2022 and that is why we are having issues with our 2022 audits. **Chairman Coffey** stated yes there are outstanding amendments from 2022 that should have been done.

**Cemetery Committee Proposal Chairman Coffey** said they reviewed the by laws, his recommendation is that he would like to speak with the committee and bring back to the board, how members are selected, a couple of detailed items of concerns, cost of plots. **Commissioner Hoyte** asked if a copy was left with Bin. **Chairman Coffey** said yes, and he is probably going to brief us at the next meeting. **Chairman Coffey** said it is a real good start, but we do have more to go. Ms. Place was in attendance and said the next Cemetery meeting would be Thursday at 6pm.

**Sheriff Vehicle Claim Chairman Coffey** stated update was given during County Manager updates.

**Public Works Applications Review** to go through in executive session.

**County Manager Applications** to go through in executive session.

**Water Department Director Applications** to go through in executive session.

**Fuelpoint Status Chairman Coffey** stated it was approved but never got started. **Commissioner Hoyte** stated he didn't think it was a priority at the moment. **Commissioner Frost** agreed with **Commissioner Hoyte** that we have bigger things at the moment of concern to deal with. Just pause and hold on it until we get past our audits.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A Motion was made to go into executive session at 10:13 a.m. **Commissioner Frost** made the Motion, seconded by **Commissioner Biddle**. The vote to enter executive session was unanimous.

**Regular meeting reconvened:**

The regular meeting reconvened at 11:30 a.m. **Chairman Coffey** made the statement that the subjects discussed during the closed meetings were within the legal exceptions to the open meetings law and that no votes were cast within the session.

**Water Department Applicants** will start being interviewed, in house by a member of the Commission.

**County Manager Applicants** will be interviewed at our next meeting in Executive Session.

**Motion made to amend the agenda to vote on Public Works Director made by Commissioner Hoyte, Seconded by Commissioner Frost, The vote was unanimous.**

**Recommendation of Lou Beck for Public Works Director, motion made by Commissioner Hoyte, Seconded by Commissioner Frost, The vote was unanimous.**

**Chairman Coffey** stated Ms. Lou Beck is now Public Works Director as of today and will be making all decisions for Public Works. He also announced the offices under the Board of Commission will all get a \$1.00 COLA pay increase effective today. **Commissioner Frost** stated this is a cost-of-living increase.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be conducted by and with the Commission of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia, Chairman Coffey declared the Wednesday Work Session of the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 11:53 am on Monday, January 22, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TIMOTHY BIDDLE, VICE CHAIRMAN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GERALD DOUGLAS, COMMISSIONER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAMON HOYTE, COMMISSIONER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JASON FROST, COMMISSIONER

February 6, 2024  
DATE APPROVED

I hereby certify that the foregoing documentation, the Minutes of the January 22, 2024, Work Session, was approved via majority vote by the Board of Commissioners in its January 6, 2024, regular meeting.

ATTESTED BY:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
LISA BICKEL, COUNTY CLERK  
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF  
CUSSETA-CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY

Seal:

