



## *The Commission*

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

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

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

**Kenneth Riner, County Manager**  
**Lisa Bickel, County Clerk**  
**Bin Minter, County Attorney**

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### **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**February 6, 2024**

**215 McNaughton St.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

Lisa Bickel, County Clerk  
Bin Minter, County Attorney

**Chairman Coffey** called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the *Commission of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia* to order at 6:00 p.m., with all other Commissioners present, and live streaming on our Facebook page.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A Motion was made to go into executive session at 6:02 p.m. **Commissioner Hoyte** made the Motion, seconded by **Commissioner Biddle**. The vote to enter executive session was unanimous.

#### **Regular meeting reconvened:**

The regular meeting reconvened at 9:17 p.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.

**Chairman Coffey** stated that interviews were conducted for the position of County Manager during executive session, the top three candidates that are being considered are Brian Martin, Doug Redmond, and Thomas Weaver. The county does have to wait fourteen days before deciding.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2, 2024, REGULAR MEETING**

**Commissioner Frost** made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by **Commissioner Hoyte**. The vote was unanimous.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2, 2024, EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

**Commissioner Hoyte** made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by **Commissioner Biddle**. The vote was unanimous.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 22, 2024, WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**Commissioner Biddle** made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by **Commissioner Frost**. The vote was unanimous.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2024**

**Commissioner Hoyte** made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by **Commissioner Frost**. The vote was unanimous.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

**NONE**

#### **SPEAKER**

**COMMISSIONER BIDDLE** informed the Commission that Nicole Morrison would not be able to attend due to illness, and that she would be rescheduled for the following meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**ATTORNEY** is still working on E911 memo. He will clarify if he needs to be at the magistrate hearing with CME and code enforcement. The open records request with the sheriff's department from last month has been resolved. His firm must generate a letter for the auditor. Budget amendment letter

**County Manager** office updates **Mrs. Bickel** informed the Commission that we were able to claim our internet damage on our ACCG insurance, we just had to pay the \$5000.00 deductible. When it comes to water, nothing underground is covered, but above ground is, tanks, well houses are covered. **Chairman Coffey** asked if the labor costs and Medusa were covered by the insurance, **Mrs. Bickel** replied yes both were covered. **Mrs. Bickel** and **Chairman Coffey** also informed the Commission about the Barge sewer agreement proposal, the attorney brought a second copy of the agreement that has recommended changes that need to be sent to Barge before the Commission votes on it.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

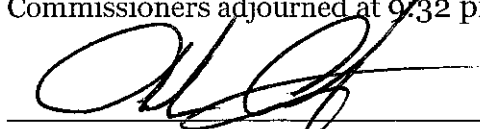
**ATTORNEY** gave Mrs. Bickel a SPLOST referendum for the Work Session and informed the Commission that some counties do a six year SPLOST instead of five.

**County Manager** office updates **Mrs. Bickel** informed the Commission we have three residents who came before planning and zoning for CUP permits, they would like to request a public hearing. Tim Biddle, Debbie Hart, and Jaime Holland/Teri Roland. Our next regular meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00. **Chairman Coffey** would like to see if a representative from planning and zoning would come to the public hearing preferably their chairman or the entire board so they can see how the process works.

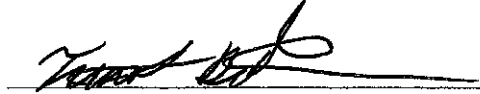
**ATTORNEY SCHEDULE FEE:** Motion made by **Commissioner Biddle** to accept the new fee schedule, seconded by **Commissioner Hoyte**. The vote was unanimous.

### 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 Monthly Meeting of the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 9:32 pm on Tuesday, February 6, 2024.



CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN



TIMOTHY BIDDLE, VICE CHAIRMAN



GERALD DOUGLAS, COMMISSIONER

*unable to sign*

DAMON HOYTE, COMMISSIONER

*unable to sign*

JASON FROST, COMMISSIONER

March 5, 2024

DATE APPROVED

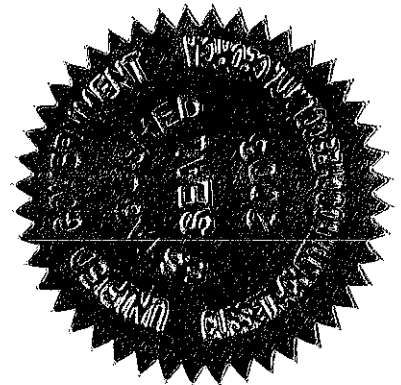
I hereby certify that the foregoing documentation, the Minutes of the February 6, 2024, Regular Meeting, was approved via majority vote by the Board of Commissioners in its February 6, 2024 regular meeting.

ATTESTED BY:



LISA BICKEL, COUNTY CLERK  
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF  
CUSSETA-CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY

Seal:



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

Feb. 6, 2024  
Regular Meeting

**PLEASE SIGN IN**  
SO THAT WE MAY RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE

1. <u>Thomas A Bickel</u>	21. _____
2. <u>Jim Wiehe</u>	22. _____
3. <u>Deloris Baker</u>	23. _____
4. <u>Erwanda Plue</u>	24. _____
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19. _____	39. _____
20. _____	40. _____



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

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(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

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### **MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY WORK SESSION**

**February 26, 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.

**SPEAKERS:** **Superintendent Kristie Brooks** announced that they were awarded the state literacy award for their third-grade scores in the state. She also came to speak on the ESPLOST for the school that will be on the ballot on the May Election for renewal. This continuation of ESPLOST will help in various ways with the school including planning for a new school building and improving current facilities. She also thanked the local businesses for supporting the school system during their training.

**Nicole Morrison** with the Health Department also came to introduce herself and spoke on what she does to help with our county. She regulates rabies control, septic's, tattoo shops, wastewater ponds, restaurants in multiple counties. She has worked with our code enforcement on many occasions and any time we need her to feel free to reach out.

#### **COUNTY MANAGER OFFICE UPDATES:**

**County Clerk** Lisa Bickel gave Elections reminders and dates for the current Presidential Primary going on now and the upcoming qualifying dates to start March 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. She updated the **Commission** on the sheriff vehicle claim, once the title is signed and sent to the adjuster, they will send us a payment of \$40,501.23, this includes the cost of the vehicle plus removal of equipment. Storage and towing fees have been paid. **Chairman Coffey** asked the **Commission** if they were ok with this amount and if so, he will go ahead and sign title, the rest of the **Commission** had no objection. **Mrs. Bickel** then informed the **Commission** on ABM Meeting; we are waiting for them to send a copy of the contract to see what items were included in the scope of work versus what was done and what we paid for. **Chairman Coffey** did receive an email since the meeting and ABM would like to resolve as soon as possible. They would like to have a final meeting either in person or by zoom, **Chairman Coffey** said if any of the other Commissioners would like to attend, they are more than welcome to. **Mrs. Bickel** informed the Commission on the budget meeting that we had last week with many department heads and Elected Officials, this was to go ahead and get a jump on the new fiscal year and sit down with everyone so they can see where they are with their budgets. The next meeting will be one on one

with each department head and Elected Officials, and it will be to start on the new fiscal year budget. **Mrs. Bickel** also informed the **COMMISSION** about the opioid settlement update, the state will be distributing \$638 million dollars to counties over the next 18 years, however they haven't decided how the funds will be spent and to do so a voting delegate from each county will need to be appointed to the advisory board. So, we will need to pick someone from our county, and then possibly a proxy, in case that person cannot attend the in-person meetings, **CHAIRMAN COFFEY** also stated it wouldn't hurt to also have the **COUNTY MANAGER** whomever that may be as a third.

### **Department Head Updates:**

**Mordie Askew** was absent but left an update packet for the Commission.

**Samantha Hedgecock** gave an update for community development.

**Chris Tymes & Teri Hancock** gave an update on water dept, they had some relationships with vendors they are trying to mend, the Hopper at well #1 that is going back and forth so the vendor is coming back out to fix the issue, but we are waiting on the part. They found that the Chlorine levels were off at the drying beds, this has been corrected. They are looking at budget items that need to be fixed and corrected.

**Lou Beck** stated that everyone at public works is doing a great job. Ft. Moore IGSA invoices have been approved. The dock at Riverbend will need a crane to be fixed. We are working on a sign at Fire Station #2. Road clippings are still being done in the county. Nicole with the Health Dept will look at the septic at public works up the hill so we can see if we need to replace the lines. The septic at the courthouse is all on track. If anyone around town has work orders, and they need done they can call 706-989-3422 and we will get it done.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY UPDATES:**

**NONE**

The following items were discussed as to their relevance for appearance on the March 5, 2024, regular meeting agenda:

**SPLOST Referendum 2025 DISCUSSION CHAIRMAN COFFEY** draft to be cleaned up with current amounts as discussed and added as voting item on next regular meeting.

**Barge Proposal Agreement** final draft for review to be added as a voting item on March Regular Meeting.

**Budget Review CHAIRMAN COFFEY** will need to make some amendments, possibly making them quarterly. **CHAIRMAN COFFEY** stated there are checks now that he will not sign due to the budget being over, we need to have policies in place for overspending. It is hard to predict certain line items. If we do an amendment it will need to come out of reserve. **COMMISSIONER FROST** asked why doesn't the software flag that the line item is over budget. **CHAIRMAN COFFEY** said to put amendments on work session.

**2022/2023 Audits CHAIRMAN COFFEY** stated we received our 2022 & 2023 audits at around 5 am and we are ready to submit to the state. Denied on Friday for LMIG, send these to the state, submit so they have something on file. Vote to accept them, just move forward. Look into policy on audits. Put on agenda as voting item.

**Cemetery Committee Proposal Chairman Coffey** still need to have a cemetery meeting, will stay on work session, send the proposal to the attorney. The next meeting for the Cemetery Committee will be on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Sheriff Vehicle Claim Chairman Coffey** stated update was given during County Manager updates. **CHAIRMAN COFFEY** will sign the title after the meeting.

**Water Dept. Director Appointment** to be discussed in executive session.

**County Manager Applicants** to be discussed in executive session.

**VACATION TIME POLICY CHANGE CHAIRMAN COFFEY** stated a proposed change will be to go back to an accrued system every pay period for employees under three years will be 1.54 every pay period, and employees over three years will be 3.077 every pay period. At the director's discretion they can go into the negative with their time, however if an employee quits or is terminated this will come out of their final check. To have in a policy format for the next meeting for possible voting item.

**PLANNING & ZONING REAPPOINTMENT CHAIRMAN COFFEY** informed the **COMMISSION** the Brent Ingersoll's term has expired and he would like to be reappointed to the Board. To be added to the regular meeting as a voting item.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A Motion was made to go into executive session at 10:11 a.m. **Commissioner Frost** made the Motion, seconded by **Commissioner Biddle**. The vote to enter executive session was unanimous.

**Water Dept. Director Appointment** will be put on the agenda for the March regular meeting as voting item.

**County Manager Applicants** will be put on the agenda for the March regular meeting as voting item.

**COMMISSIONER HOYTE** updated the **COMMISSION** that the Cemetery meeting will be on February the 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **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.

## ADJOURNMENT

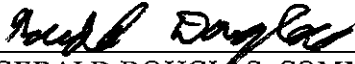
There being no further business to be conducted by and with the Commission of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia, Chairman Coffey declared the Wednesday Work Session of the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 10:37 am on Monday, February 26, 2024.



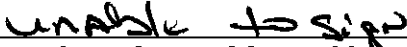
CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN



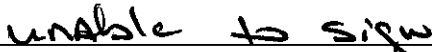
TIMOTHY BIDDLE, VICE CHAIRMAN



GERALD DOUGLAS, COMMISSIONER



DAMON HOYTE, COMMISSIONER

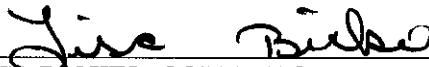


JASON FROST, COMMISSIONER

March 5, 2024  
DATE APPROVED

I hereby certify that the foregoing documentation, the Minutes of the February 26, 2024, Work Session, was approved via majority vote by the Board of Commissioners in its March 5, 2024, regular meeting.

ATTESTED BY:



LISA BICKEL, COUNTY CLERK  
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF  
CUSSETA-CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY

Seal:





STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF Chattahoochee

AFFIDAVIT OF ATTENDING MEMBERS

\_\_\_\_\_, Member of the Chattahoochee County Board of Commissioners, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief:

1.

The Chattahoochee County Board of Commissioners met in a duly advertised meeting on Feb. 26, 2024.

2.

During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.

3.

The executive session was called to order at 10:11 a.m./p.m.

4.

The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:

\_\_\_\_ Consultation with the county attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1)

\_\_\_\_ Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(2) and *(insert the citation to the legal authority making the tax matter confidential)* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Discussion or voting on

\_\_\_\_ Authorizing a settlement as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(A)

\_\_\_\_ Authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(B)

\_\_\_\_ Authorizing an appraisal as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(C)

\_\_\_\_ Entering a contract for the purchase, disposal of, or lease of property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(D)

\_\_\_\_ Entering into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(E)

\_\_\_\_ Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2)

\_\_\_\_ Interviewing candidates for executive positions as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2)

✓ Other (describe the exemption to the open meetings law): personnel issues  
\_\_\_\_ as provided in (insert the citation to the legal authority exempting the topic)  
\_\_\_\_\_

5.

\_\_\_\_ During the course of the closed session devoted to exempt topics, an incidental remark regarding a non-exempt topic or an attempt to discuss a non-exempt topic was made.

\_\_\_\_ The attempt was immediately ruled out of order and attempts to discuss same ceased immediately.

\_\_\_\_ The attempt was immediately ruled out of order. However, the comments did not cease, so the closed/ executive session was immediately adjourned without discussion or action being taken regarding any non-exempt topic.

6.

Minutes were taken of this meeting in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e)(2)(C) and will be filed and held for in-camera inspection only.

This 26 day of Feb., 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Board of Commissioners

[Signature]  
Commissioner

[Signature]  
Commissioner

[Signature]  
Commissioner

[Signature]  
Commissioner

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26 day of

Feb., 2024

[Signature]  
Notary Public

My commission expires



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

**Feb. 26, 2024**  
**Work Session**

**PLEASE SIGN IN**  
**SO THAT WE MAY RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE**

1. Nicole Morrison	21. _____
2. Kimo Brads	22. _____
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