



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

Thomas Weaver, County Manager
Lisa Bickel, County Clerk
Bin Minter, County Attorney

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

April 1, 2025

215 McNaughton St.

PRESENT:

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

Thomas Weaver, County Manager
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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAR. 4, 2025, REGULAR MEETING

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

APPROVAL OF THE MAR. 4, 2025, EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

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

APPROVAL OF THE MAR. 25, 2025, BOC WORK SESSION MINUTES

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

OPEN FORUM

NONE

SPEAKER

CARLOS NEGRON – Speeding on Wells St. – He did not Show, will reach out and reschedule for another meeting date.

OLD BUSINESS

ATTORNEY old business has spoken with the County Manager on the cemetery bylaws and will just draft an ordinance, the County Manager said instead of keeping on the Work session every month, and holding things up the Attorney will come up with the draft and then come back to the Commission and put back on the Work Session for discussion.

County Manager nothing currently that isn't already on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

ATTORNEY just wanted to remind the Commission on legislation and emails from ACCG and the recent one on Senate Bill 21, it would waive sovereignty for cities that violate federal law for integration. The bill was drafted to try and punish cities that try to be sanctuary cities. Some counties try to use the law as it was not meant to be intended. He just wanted to remind the Commission of this bill, and any others that might be coming up.

County Manager wanted to touch on this when Mr. Negron was here, but he didn't show, but speeding is a growing concern, and the semi-trucks are a growing topic of conversation, when he spoke to Mr. Negron he stated he had been to the sheriff and spoke, however the sheriff said he could not run radar but that maybe the county could install speed bumps. Speed bumps are not the best option, and just for the Commission to keep this in the back of their mind when they are considering all of these options. **Chairman Coffey** asked the County Manager if we are informing the citizens that the sheriff is the point of contact when they come to us asking about speeding, the County Manager said, yes, we are. **Chairman Coffey** stated the sheriff has an invite to come to one of our meetings, he asked the county manager to extend another invite to the sheriff again, the County Manager said yes, he would. **Chairman Coffey** thanked the County Manager.

AGENDA ITEMS

National Donate Life Proclamation: Motion to approve, made by **Commissioner Frost**, seconded by **Commissioner Biddle**. The vote was unanimous.

Budget Hearing Date Calendar: Motion to approve, by **Commissioner Biddle**, seconded by **Commissioner Douglas**. The vote was unanimous.

Tax Refund Tracy Chiodo: Motion made by **Commissioner Hoyte**, seconded by **Commissioner Biddle**. The vote was unanimous. Total of 38.31, County portion of \$12.31

Budget Amendments: Motion made by **Commissioner Biddle**, seconded by **Commissioner Frost**. The vote was unanimous. Total amendment of \$294,725, (Exhibit A, with Minutes) Chairman Coffey stated this upcoming budget needs to be balanced is the goal, hopefully with the HB581 will help the county out. There is a difference between needs and wants. If Mr. Negron would like to come to a future meeting he is more than welcome to reschedule for another date.

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 6:19 pm on Tuesday, Apr. 1, 2025.



CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN



TIMOTHY BIDDLE, VICE CHAIRMAN



GERALD DOUGLAS, COMMISSIONER



DAMON HOYTE, COMMISSIONER



JASON FROST, COMMISSIONER

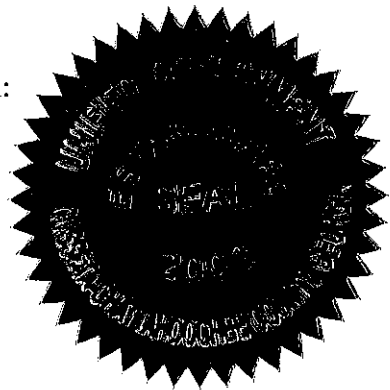
May 6, 2025
DATE APPROVED

I hereby certify that the foregoing documentation, the Minutes of April 1, 2025, Regular Meeting, was approved via majority vote by the Board of Commissioners in its May 6, 2025, regular meeting.

ATTESTED BY: 

THOMAS WEAVER, COUNTY MANAGER
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF
CUSSETA-CHATTAAHOOCHEE COUNTY

Seal:



LifeLink®



National Donate Life Month Proclamation

CUSSETA CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, one of the most meaningful gifts that a human being can bestow upon another is the gift of life; and

WHEREAS, more than 100,000 men, women, and children await lifesaving or life-enhancing organ transplants, of which nearly 3,000 reside in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, 46,630, a record number of transplants, occurred in the calendar year 2023 thanks to the generosity of 23,287 deceased and living donors, of which 1,268 transplant patients and 642 deceased and living donors, also a record number, were from Georgia; and

WHEREAS, more than 2.5 million people throughout the country and in Georgia benefit annually from tissue transplantation thanks to thousands of tissue donors; and

WHEREAS, the need for organ, eye, and tissue donation remains critical as a new patient is added to the national waiting list for an organ transplant every 10 minutes and millions more could experience improved quality of life through tissue transplantation; and

WHEREAS, the critical donor shortage remains a public health crisis as an average of 20 people die daily due to the lack of available organs; and

WHEREAS, organ, eye, and tissue donation can provide families the comfort of knowing the gift of donated organs and tissue endows another person with renewed hope for a healthy life; and

WHEREAS, donating life through organ, eye, and tissue donation is the ultimate act of generosity and kindness we **Cusseta Chattahoochee County** citizens can perform; and

WHEREAS, nearly than 3.8 million Georgians have already registered their decision to give the Gift of Life at www.donatelifegeorgia.org, when getting or renewing their driver license or state identification card at a driver license office, or when getting a hunting or fishing license through the Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, LifeLink® of Georgia, the non-profit organization dedicated to the recovery of organs and tissue for transplantation therapy in Georgia, with a vision to maximize the gift of life while giving hope to donor families and transplant patients and mission to honor donors and save lives through organ and tissue donation; and

WHEREAS, **CUSSETA CHATTAHOOCHEE** supports the life-saving mission of LifeLink® of Georgia; and
NOW, THEREFORE, The Board of Commission of, **Cusseta Chattahoochee** do hereby proclaim April 2025 as

DONATE LIFE MONTH

In **Cusseta Chattahoochee County**, to honor all those who made the decision to give the gift of life, to focus attention on the extreme need for organ, eye and tissue donation, to encourage all residents to take action and sign up on Georgia's Donor Registry at www.donatelifegeorgia.org, to discuss the miracle of transplantation as a family and to make a family commitment to organ, eye, and tissue donation

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF CUSSETA-CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved and adopted this 1st day of April 2025

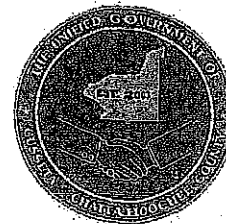

Charles Coffey, Chairman
Board of Commission

SEAL:





Board of Tax Assessors
The Unified Government of
Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia



215 McNaughton Street Cusseta, Georgia 31805

OFFICE (706) 989.3249

FAX (706) 989.2013

taxassessor@ugoccc.com

Board of Assessors

Jim Wiehe, Chairman

Kenneth Van Horn, Vice-Chair

Edgar "Jr" Burgamy, Member

Carol Greer, Member

Administration

Alan Hornaday, Chief Appraiser

Crystal Walker, Appraiser II / BOA Secretary

March 5, 2025

Chattahoochee County Board of Commissioners
215 McNaughton Street
Cusseta, Georgia 31805

RE: 2023 Refund for Error on Parcel C05 0001.

Honorable Commissioners,

The Board of Assessors corrected an error on Parcel C05 0001, 116 Angelia Drive on September 9, 2024. In accordance with *O.C.G.A. 48-5-303* the Board corrected the error for 2023 & 2024. The correction lowered the valuation from \$52,831 to \$49,068. The change in value resulted in a corrected bill for 2024 and a refund for 2023.

2023 - \$12.81 – County

\$25.57 - School

2024 – Corrected Bill

Total Refund - \$38.38

The Board of Assessors wishes to thank the Board of Commissioners for all their assistance and look forward to our continued excellent working relationship.

Sincerely

Jim Wiehe

Chairman

Chattahoochee County Board of Assessors

adh
attachments

ACO (E&R / NOD)
CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY

Account#	938
Digest	2023

CHIDO TRACY LYNN
116 ANGELIA DR
CUSSETA, GA 31805

Map ID	C05 0001
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ACO #	945
Real Property	
Tax District	02
CO_ID_NUM	

Owner # 6152
Situs: 116 ANGELIA DRIVE

Legal Desc ALL OF PARCEL "A" & "D" SURVEY OF JOE HARDEN

Control No

MH Serial #

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

GROSS	54,269	21,708
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50,506	20,202
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Real Details

(3,763)	(1,505)
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Reason	DELETED UTILITY BUILDING - ON WRONG PARCEL
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Other

BOA Date

BOA Acceptance Yes

Appraiser AH

Signed:

Chief Appraiser

Signed:

Chairman, BOA

Tax Commissioner, Clerk

Date _____

Bill Number

State of Georgia
Cusseta-Chattahoochee
County

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY2024 BUDGET FOR THE PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT

WHEREAS, the Commission of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia (herein after called "Commission") is authorized by the Official Code of Georgia (O.C.G.A. § 36-81-3 (d) (1)) to amend the budget to adapt to changing governmental needs during the budget period; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager has requested additional funds be moved from the reserve account and transferred to the operating account.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby elects to transfer the sum of \$6,000.00 from the reserve account and transfer these funds to the Operating Account, to offset the 2024 budget.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Commission of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia this 1st day of April 2025.



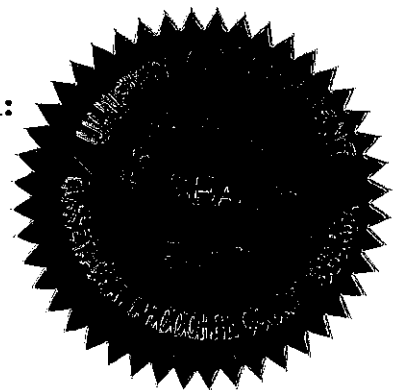
CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN

ATTESTED

BY: 

**THOMAS WEAVER, COUNTY MANAGER
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF CUSSETA-
CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Seal:



RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY2024 BUDGET FOR THE CORONER

WHEREAS, the Commission of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia (herein after called "Commission") is authorized by the Official Code of Georgia (O.C.G.A. § 36-81-3 (d) (1)) to amend the budget to adapt to changing governmental needs during the budget period; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager has requested additional funds be moved from the reserve account and transferred to the operating account.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby elects to transfer the sum of \$30,000.00 from the reserve account and transfer these funds to the Salary Line Item, to offset the 2024 budget.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Commission of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia this 1st day of April 2025.



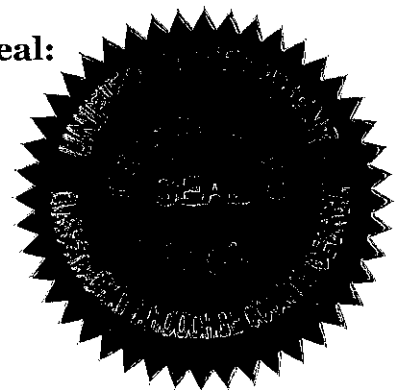
CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN

ATTESTED

BY: 

**THOMAS WEAVER, COUNTY MANAGER
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF CUSSETA-
CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Seal:



State of Georgia
Cusseta-Chattahoochee
County

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY2024 BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE

WHEREAS, the Commission of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia (herein after called "Commission") is authorized by the Official Code of Georgia (O.C.G.A. § 36-81-3 (d) (1)) to amend the budget to adapt to changing governmental needs during the budget period; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager has requested additional funds be moved from the reserve account and transferred to the operating account.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby elects to transfer the sum of \$150,000.00 from the reserve account and transfer these funds to the Legal Expense Line Item, to offset the 2024 budget.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Commission of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia this 1st day of April 2025.



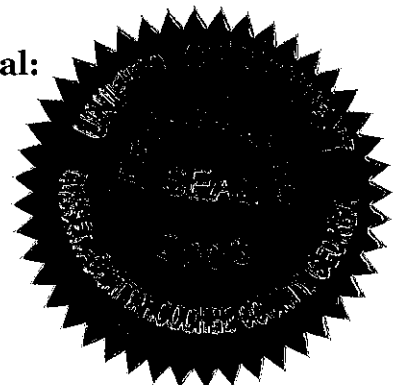
CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN

ATTESTED

BY: 

**THOMAS WEAVER, COUNTY MANAGER
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF CUSSETA-
CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Seal:



State of Georgia
Cusseta-Chattahoochee
County

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY2024 BUDGET FOR THE EMS SALARY LINE ITEM

WHEREAS, the Commission of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia (herein after called "Commission") is authorized by the Official Code of Georgia (O.C.G.A. § 36-81-3 (d) (1)) to amend the budget to adapt to changing governmental needs during the budget period; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager has requested additional funds be moved from the reserve account and transferred to the operating account.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby elects to transfer the sum of \$275,000.00 from the reserve account, and transfer these funds to the EMS Salaries Budget, to offset the 2024 budget.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Commission of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia this 1st day of April 2025.



CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN

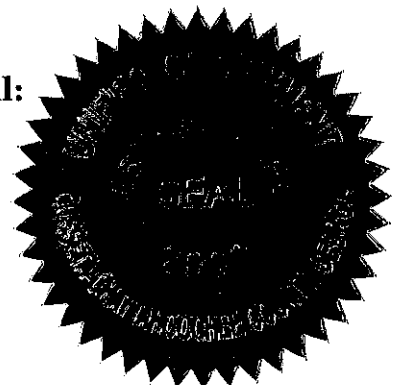
ATTESTED

BY:



**THOMAS WEAVER, COUNTY MANAGER
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF CUSSETA-
CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Seal:



State of Georgia
Cusseta-Chattahoochee
County

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY2024 BUDGET FOR THE SHERIFF DEPT

WHEREAS, the Commission of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia (herein after called "Commission") is authorized by the Official Code of Georgia (O.C.G.A. § 36-81-3 (d) (1)) to amend the budget to adapt to changing governmental needs during the budget period; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager has requested additional funds be moved from the reserve account and transferred to the operating account.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby elects to transfer the sum of \$200,000.00 from the reserve account, and transfer these funds to the Boarding of Prisoners Line Item, to offset the 2024 budget.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Commission of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia this 1st day of April 2025.



CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN

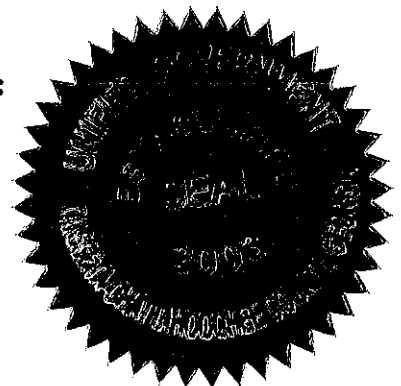
ATTESTED

BY:



**THOMAS WEAVER, COUNTY MANAGER
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF CUSSETA-
CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Seal:



Large Budget Amendments

Property Tax Reimbursement: Budgeted-\$0 Needed-6000 Actual-5733

EMS Salaries: Budgeted- \$225,000 Needed-275,000 Actual-217,000

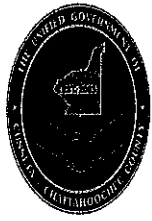
Boarding of Prisoners: Budgeted-\$120,000 Needed-200,000 Actual-140,000

Legal Expense: Budget- Budgeted-\$50,000 Needed-150,000 Actual-105,000

Library: Budget-\$25,125 Needed-\$75,000 Actual-48,000(Received a Grant)

Coroner: Budgeted-\$21,150 Needed-\$30,000 Actual-29,078(Salary Error)

Total Amendment: \$294,725



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

April 1, 2025 – BOC Regular Meeting

PLEASE SIGN IN
SO THAT WE MAY RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE

1. <u>Thomas A. Bickel</u>	21. _____
2. <u>Deloris Baker</u>	22. _____
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20. _____	40. _____



The Commission

of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia

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Timothy Biddle, Vice Chairman
Gerald Douglas
Damon Hoyte
Jason Frost

Thomas Weaver, County Manager

Lisa Bickel, County Clerk

Bin Minter, County Attorney

MINUTES BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING I

April 1, 2025

215 McNaughton St.

PRESENT:

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

Thomas Weaver, County Manager
Lisa Bickel, County Clerk
Bin Minter, Attorney


Chairman Coffey the Public Hearing of the *Commission of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia* to order at 6:19 p.m., with all other Commissioners present, and live streaming on our Facebook page.

PUBLIC HEARING

CHAIRMAN COFFEY opened the First Public Hearing for the Proposed Budget, he gave the County Manager Weaver the floor, County Manager stated this is the budget as given or submitted by all of the departments, we haven't cut anything yet. We will have to make cuts, some are in capitol that can be cut and taken out of SPLOST, we are starting at a \$740,000.00 deficit and we need to get it down to be balanced. The revenue is looking strong, the new SPLOST is already bringing in revenue. The ambulance since we started has brought in over \$130,000.00, it is helping but it isn't self-sustaining itself. **Chairman Coffey** said, before we get to far, he believes there is a typo under the revenue, Mr. Weaver & Mrs. Bickel will check into this. The County Manager also stated that no other departments have asked for any vehicles other than the sheriff department, they asked for \$70,000.00 from the capital budget, which will come from SPLOST instead. Most of the other departments have tried to stay in line where they were with last year or lower, with the exception of one department asking for additional staffing. This budget will change after some cuts as we go. **Chairman Coffey** stated that if anyone needs some more time to look over it, he asked the County Manager did the other departments know the revenue when they asked and submitted the budget, County Manager Weaver stated he did inform them it will get submitted but that the departments know things might be cut. The Tax Commissioner needed new software; it wasn't a want it was a need. **Chairman Coffey** stated we will take this home, go through, discuss at the next meeting, County Manager Weaver said the public is more than welcome also to come sit down anytime and he will be glad to go over anything with them. **Chairman Coffey** also asked about line items such as miscellaneous, County Manager Weaver stated that all departments must do an itemized list of what is coming out of such line items like miscellaneous or contracted services. **Commissioner Biddle** asked about EMA grant money that had to be spent also.

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 Public Hearing of the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 6:33 pm on Tuesday, Apr. 1, 2025.


CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN


TIMOTHY BIDDLE, VICE CHAIRMAN


GERALD DOUGLAS, COMMISSIONER


DAMON HOYTE, COMMISSIONER


JASON FROST, COMMISSIONER

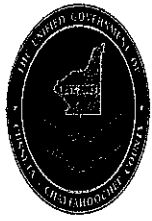
May 6, 2025
DATE APPROVED

I hereby certify that the foregoing documentation, the Minutes of the Apr. 1, 2025, Public Hearing, was approved via majority vote by the Board of Commissioners in its May 6, 2025, regular meeting.

ATTESTED BY: 
THOMAS WEAVER, COUNTY MANAGER
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF
CUSSETA-CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY

Seal:





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

April 1, 2025 – BOC Budget Public Hearing 1

PLEASE SIGN IN
SO THAT WE MAY RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE

1. Thomas J. Bickel

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

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Gerald Douglas
Damon Hoyte
Jason Frost

Thomas Weaver, County Manager
Lisa Bickel, County Clerk
Bin Minter, County Attorney

MINUTES BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING II

April 14, 2025

215 McNaughton St.

PRESENT:

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

Thomas Weaver, County Manager
Lisa Bickel, County Clerk

Chairman Coffey the Public Hearing of the *Commission of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia* to order at 9:00 a.m., with Commissioners Douglas, Hoyte, and Frost absent, and live streaming on our Facebook page.

PUBLIC HEARING-BUDGET WORK SESSION I

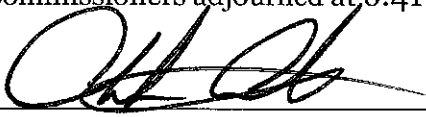
CHAIRMAN COFFEY stated that they did not have a quorum present, but that the hearing would continue, no votes would be cast. County Manager gave an update on last hearing, everything is the same, however, nothing has been changed yet, he has presented the Commission with some budget updates, this budget does have a new IT budget. However these items just got moved from the Board of Commission line-item contracted services. The Tax Commissioner salary item is state mandated, her office equipment is due to printers she needs because of software changes. The next item County Manager Weaver brought to the Commission was Superior Court Clerk Tami Wade asking for additional funding for staff, for a part-time person. Mrs. Wade was in attendance and spoke.

Mrs. Wade stated that historically her office has always had three people even before she became the Court Clerk. She said that when she goes to training next week to receive her clerk's certificate, she will have to shut the office due to the fact that she has nobody to cover so her staff can go to lunch. She said she just needs the additional staff for court days. She stated she runs three courts, and most days are good, but that by law she must keep her office open from 9-5, she stated she cannot borrow staff from another office, due to certain background checks they have to go through. She would not need someone 20 hours a week. The other thing she needs is the need for software, the County Manager stated her software is not being cut. The software is \$10,000.00. Chairman Coffey asked is there anywhere she can make cuts, she stated she does not, if she can see anything she doesn't please let her know. She stated she gets phone calls now once a month about her budget being over or where she can put things. County Manager Weaver stated they can see where she is usually always on top of her budget. **Chairman Coffey** thanked her for coming and even speaking to them about her budget, he said however they are in a deficit, she said she understands that County Manager stated to give the elected officials all of there requests we would have to double our millage rate, to give everyone what they are asking for. Mrs. Wade replied, at this point she doesn't have what she needs to run her office, she will be hurting come next month, during the jury days, she doesn't have what she needs to run her office efficiently.

Chairman Coffey stated he is just one of five, he cannot say yes or no that it will or won't be funded, we have to either increase taxes or decrease spending, if you can wait a year, to which **Mrs. Wade** interrupted and said she has waited two years. **Chairman Coffey** said, if you can let me finish, if you can wait a year, this HB 581, for the tax revenue, if we get the sales tax, it will help us out of this deficit. **Mrs. Wade** stated she can not wait a year, she would not be sufficiently running her office to keep up with other counties, **Chairman Coffey** stated that is her opinion, to which she replied it is not her opinion it is necessary, and she will take necessary steps if she must, **Chairman Coffey** stated he does not doubt how important it is, and that if she feels the need to take these steps to do what she must, however one officials needs are not more important than the next on the budget. **Mrs. Wade** said then she will step up, **Chairman Coffey** stated you can go all the steps you want to, respectfully, however the buck stop here, at this table, if the Commission does not have the funds to support it, we do not have the funds, we do not have a magic wand to wave to give you funds, the point is the budget is the Commissions lane, the Commission cannot please everybody, if the money is not coming in, our option is to raise taxes, and the public is going to wonder where and why. **Mrs. Wade** stated so you can amend your budget for a lawsuit, all she is asking is for \$15,000.00, for a part-time person. **Chairman Coffey** stated he was not going to say this, however he is now, when we had a request to close the office to close the office due to weather, you worked from home, and you told us we had no say so on the office being open, and the public needed access to records. **Mrs. Wade** stated that it was closed by an order from the judge, she stated read the order now, and that she and her staff worked from home. **Chairman Coffey** stated she is missing the point he is trying to make. **Chairman Coffey** stated what is the difference between her closing the office, but she was still able to operate. **Mrs. Wade** stated so you would like me to jeopardize her deputy that lives in Columbus, due to weather, **Chairman Coffey** stated he is not running that office, his point once again is that she was able to run the office without even being there. **Mrs. Wade** stated that on court days she doesn't have a court order saying she can close it, and the law states that she must have her office open Monday through Friday 9-5. **Chairman Coffey** asked how has it been done in the past, **Mrs. Wade** said there have always been two people, before McKenzie, there was Tiffany, before that it was her and Mimi. **Chairman Coffey** stated it is still not just his decision to make, he is just one Commissioner, it is the entire board, it will be taken under consideration, however the money has to be there, if the money isn't there the county cannot fund it. **Chairman Coffey** asked **Commissioner Biddle** if he had any comments, he said no, he was just listening to everything and that it will be taken into consideration. The County Manager moved on to probate court salary line item, we will be in the same issue. The County Manager stated that the public safety department we are going to remove it, since we do not have the funds for it at this time. County Manager moved onto the sheriff budget, they went over each line item request and the sheriff requested a vehicle from the capital budget, which can come out of SPLOST instead. The County Manager stated anything that is requested from the capital outlay budget can most likely come from SPLOST. **Chairman Coffey** stated we could have a riot on the streets if we raise taxes, just to meet these requests from the elected officials. The County Manager agreed, yes. **Chairman Coffey** stated there is no line item safe in this budget, he understands the state mandated there is no choice, however if they are wanting to give raises, and want additional staffing, and if the people don't or elected officials don't understand, they can dislike and hate, but he isn't going to put the county in jeopardy because of people being selfish, **Chairman Coffey** will give up his own salary for the next four years if constitutional officers will do the same, not the whole thing just a portion of it, just to help the budget, if it helps the county, the offer is on the table, they can't say that we didn't help also. The County Manager said moving to Fire/EMS, they also had items on capital outlay that can come from SPLOST, the \$15,000.00 from the building to station #1 was damage that could possibly come from SPLOST and need to be wrapped up. The County Manager said moving on to EMS salaries we cut it last year and we ended up having to amend it where it should've been, the last one on the list is increase on solid waste, his recommendation is to increase the trash rates \$2.00. **Commissioner Biddle** asked didn't we just do that, **Chairman Coffey** stated it keeps going up, The County Manager stated the trash bill on water bill is at \$20.00 now, we would be at \$22.00 a month now. **Chairman Coffey** asked to add raising trash rates to work session. The County Manager said those are all the changes as of right now for the budget. **Chairman Coffey**, whatever the recommendations for cutting bring them to us in the next meeting. **Chairman Coffey** stated the only budgets that went down were Board of Commission and Tax Assessors. **Chairman Coffey** asked if the County Manager has received any requests or concerns from any other elected officials, The County Manager stated no, **Chairman Coffey** stated he does thank **Mrs. Wade** for coming.

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 Public Hearing of the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 6:41 pm on Monday, Apr. 14, 2025.



CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN



TIMOTHY BIDDLE, VICE CHAIRMAN

Absent

GERALD DOUGLAS, COMMISSIONER

Absent

DAMON HOYTE, COMMISSIONER

Absent

JASON FROST, COMMISSIONER

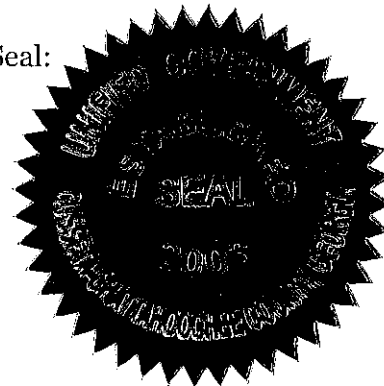
May 6, 2025
DATE APPROVED

I hereby certify that the foregoing documentation, the Minutes of the Apr. 14, 2025, Public Hearing, was approved via majority vote by the Board of Commissioners in its May 6, 2025, regular meeting.

ATTESTED BY: 

THOMAS WEAVER, COUNTY MANAGER
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF
CUSSETA-CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY

Seal:





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

APRIL 14, 2025 – BOC PROPOSED BUDGET WORK SESSION I

PLEASE SIGN IN
SO THAT WE MAY RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE

1. <u>Thomas A. Bickel</u>	21. _____
2. <u>Law Ward</u>	22. _____
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The Commission

of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia

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

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

Thomas Weaver, County Manager

Lisa Bickel, County Clerk

Bin Minter, County Attorney

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY WORK SESSION

April 28, 2025

215 McNaughton St.

PRESENT:

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

Lisa Bickel, County Clerk
Thomas Weaver, County Manager

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.

SPEAKER:

Belva Dorsey-Mott- With Enrichment Services gave an update for the county, she also had Ms. Sabrina Stephens with her, the school board representative, for our area. They do not have a board representative; however, she does have a recommendation so they will have one next time she comes down. She stated they do training; they have classes for employment training such as EMT, CDL, and CNA training. **Chairman Coffey** and County Manager Weaver inquired about the employment training, we will reach out and get this information and put on our newsletter and Facebook page. She also asked for a letter of support in the future from the county.

COUNTY MANAGER UPDATES:

County Manager Weaver – Gave updates for IGSA's, FT. Benning Stray Facility, and Public Works Depts and Water, some of these included locates for roundabout, well #3 shut down, possibly lightning strike, have reached out to a company that will come out and investigate this issue to see why this keeps happening, leak on Trotters Ridge, they did get this fixed quickly, well #4 if offline, however well #1 is picking up the slack for it. Ms. Beck received a pickup truck full of dog food, and a grant for \$1700.00 that will be for the microchipping, it will be for both Benning & our animals here. **Commissioner Douglas** asked about the Benning facility being shut down, County Manager Weaver stated they put in work orders, it should be taken care of by the end of the year, the ball is in their court, the building is still open. Public Works going up to the cemetery, the ditch looks better, grass is starting to grow and will help the water divert where it needs to go, they had to repair several shoulders off the road, they cleaned the culvert off Fire tower Rd where it has the beaver dams, possibly give DNR a call to relocate the beavers safely. The benches at the library were all installed by public works. It is time to get training on some of the equipment, we have a lot of new staff at public works. We have a new operator working part time on the motor grader.

Mordie Askew gave updates for the recreation dept, baseball season concluded, slight issue at splashpad, however it should be up and running by Memorial Day.

Samantha Hedgecock gave a packet with community development updates. There will be a conditional use permit on May 27th for The Spillers. Code enforcement citations, list is sent to County Manager, then they get approved or denied, they have to make two attempts and then a certified letter to the property owner.

The following items were discussed as to their relevance for appearance on May 6, 2025, regular meeting agenda:

Conditional Use Permit Process – Planning and Zoning met and gave the Commission a draft of what changes they would like to see changed with the conditional use process, will forward to the County Attorney before they discuss further, will keep on the Work Session. “Changes are five acres or more not be required for a CUP, Cup not required for modular home for one acres or more, Cup would not be required for a stick built home on one acre or more, already established lots, a CUP would not be required for a swap of a mobile home, stick built home, of modular home, less than an acre (new parcel) a CUP would be required for a mobile home, modular home, or stick built home or modular home to be placed in the correct zoning area, all zoning requirements must be met within former city limits, all health dept requirements must be met, and the correct permits must be obtained before any of the above items, including, but not limited to, newspaper notices, signs, public hearings, inspections, and such if needed.”- Letter from Planning and Zoning

Road Projects – Friendship Rd. bid packet was sent back to the engineer, County Manager stated there are some more questions he has before we move forward with voting, and we are waiting for a response, will keep on the work session.

Proclamation for Milton “Wade” Coleman – Chairman Coffey informed the public the Mr. Coleman had passed away, and the Commission would like to honor him, add to the agenda for voting item.

Board Vacancies – County Manager Weaver just wanted to inform everyone that we still have board openings, this includes the Tax Assessors office and the Board of Health, Chairman Coffey asked if we can get this information out on the website and on Facebook to see if we can get the word out to the public.

Garbage Rate Potential Increase – Trash rate to increase, cost is going up, just to cover the shortage we will need a \$2.00 increase, it will bring the monthly to \$22.00 a month, add to agenda.

Purchasing a Batwing Tractor – Quotes will be emailed to the Commission & also added to the books for the May meeting for the Commission to see, we have a quote from Carson Brothers and John Deere, item will be added to the agenda for voting.

Resolution to add a new signer to the Bank of Ozark – County Manager Weaver informed the Commission that we still have money sitting in this account from when the ABM account had been closed that we need to get transferred over to our current bank, however there was only one previous employee on the account and we have no access to the funds, therefore we need to do a resolution and add a current employee so we can do so, then close this account out, add to agenda as voting item.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A Motion was made to go into executive session at 9:51 a.m. **Commissioner Frost** made the Motion, seconded by **Commissioner Douglas**. The vote to enter executive session was unanimous.

Regular meeting reconvened:

The regular meeting reconvened at 9:20 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. The subjects discussed were personnel issues.

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 Work Session of the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 10:24 am on Monday, April 28, 2025.



CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN



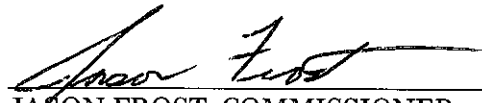
TIMOTHY BIDDLE, VICE CHAIRMAN



GERALD DOUGLAS, COMMISSIONER



DAMON HOYTE, COMMISSIONER



JASON FROST, COMMISSIONER

May 6, 2025
DATE APPROVED

I hereby certify that the foregoing documentation, the Minutes of April 28, 2025, Work Session, was approved via majority vote by the Board of Commissioners on May 6, 2025, regular meeting.

ATTESTED BY:



THOMAS WEAVER, COUNTY MANAGER
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF
CUSSETA-CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY



STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF Chattahoochee

AFFIDAVIT OF ATENDING MEMBERS

All, Members 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 duty advised meeting on

April 28, 2025.

2.

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

3.

The executive session was called to order at 9:51 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 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 the 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 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): _____
_____ 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. § 50-14-3(e)(2)(C) and will be filled and help for in camera inspection only.

This 28 day of April, 2025.

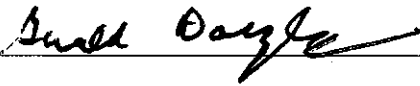
Member



County Board Commissioners



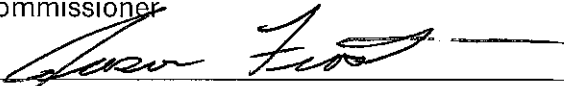
Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28 day of

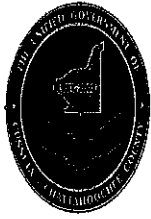
April 2025



Notary Public

My Commission expires





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

APRIL 28, 2025 – BOC WORK SESSION

PLEASE SIGN IN
SO THAT WE MAY RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. <u>Belva Dorsen - Mott</u> | 21. _____ |
| 2. <u>Sabrina Stephens</u> | 22. _____ |
| 3. <u>Thomas J. Bickel</u> | 23. _____ |
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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

Thomas Weaver, County Manager
Lisa Bickel, County Clerk
Bin Minter, County Attorney

MINUTES BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING II

April 28, 2025

215 McNaughton St.

PRESENT:

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

Thomas Weaver, County Manager
Lisa Bickel, County Clerk

Chairman Coffey the Public Hearing of the *Commission of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia* to order at 9:00 a.m., and live streaming on our Facebook page.

PUBLIC HEARING-BUDGET WORK SESSION III

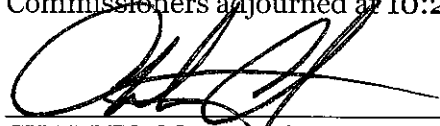
CHAIRMAN COFFEY asked if anyone was scheduled to come speak at today's Public Hearing, Mrs. Bickel replied no sir. He informed the Commission of the changes in their books and asked if they had any comments or concerns, he did want the record to reflect nobody came to speak, elected official or public, he then gave the floor to the County Manager. The County Manager stated he just wanted to bring up a few things biggest issues are employee healthcare, we do have to offer this, Ems services, increase costs with additional staffing, increased costs based on salaries for elected officials due to population of Ft. Benning numbers, and the last thing he wanted to point out was the increase of costs due to increase costs due to number of staff. **Chairman Coffey** asked if there have been any cuts, County Manager said not in the book, 527,000 off, we landed at 33,000.00 was the final number. **Commissioner Frost** stated we need to address the elephant in the room and the costs keep rising, and we need to offset those costs, we are getting to a point where as bad as he hates to say it, and where the economy is, we are going to have to think about raising taxes, with insurance and hiring staff, we need to look at our mileage rate and surrounding counties, we do not have anything coming in to offset these costs. The County Manager stated a small mileage rate would not cover our deficit, we would have to raise it by 10 mils, it is something we definitely need to do. **Commissioner Frost** said we need to manage within our means and do better control the best we know how. The County Manager stated we have worked for years and if we approve a budget every year with a 5- \$700,000.00 deficit, in four years those funds will no longer be there, we have to at some point draw that line in the sand, and say this is what we have, we have to work with this, what we have, the last time, the county tax rate was increased was 2009, if he isn't mistaken, it isn't unheard of to raise the tax rate. **Chairman Coffey** asked so for every mil we raise it is about 50-60,000.00, and right now at the proposed budget we are at half a million dollars. **Commissioner Douglas** asked about the school and their rate, County Manager Weaver stated they do their own. The County Manager stated HB581 will help and if the ballot and vote pass in November, we still will not see anything for a year, and at some point, the school will probably raise there's as well. Chairman Coffey asked has anyone elected official

offered any solution or recommendation on their funding, all wants and no solutions, County Manager Weaver stated no they have not. The County Manager Weaver stated the departments under our control can only be cut

so much, because we have to cut the grass, we have to have water, when you look at the public works budget it went down, it had a 2% increase, however it went down, it was the staff colas, and those have now come out. He also stated that it is hard to go to a department and we cannot always control a department. **Chairman Coffey** stated we have a lot of requests; we must get to the point to operate within our means or else we will not have any money in four years, if we keep taking from our reserve, to that point if there are no proposed solutions from anyone, other than what the County Manager has, we need to look at a proposed mileage rate, we are no longer cutting fat, we are cutting the meat, there is no more fat to cut, we are cutting so deep we are bleeding, there is no funding for additional salaries, staffing, requests. The County Manager Weaver stated the deficient he even took the budget back to last year's budget and took out the colas. **Chairman Coffey** asked the County Manager if he needs something from the Commission to go ahead with the proposed changes and the budget. The County Manager stated he can prepare a report with all the changes and numbers. **Chairman Coffey** asked about the mileage rate going up with HB 581, County Manager stated it would still need to go up. **Commissioner Frost** asked if we are the lowest or not one of the lowest counties with the lowest tax rates in the state, the County Manager said yes, that is correct we are one of the lowest. **Commissioner Frost** said we have been very fair to the community, and we should start putting the wheels in motion to raise the mileage rate. **Chairman Coffey** stated if we can put that in next budget proposal and no additional staffing, it isn't fair seeing people loose there jobs right now, and other offices getting additional staff, we can't just cut it, and then turn around and fix later, we have to make the numbers real, not funding requests that we do not have the money for, he was hoping someone would so up, its all public, it is not a secret. **Commissioner Hoyte** asked about housing and bringing in 200-300 new homes, County Manager Weaver said yes, and no, he spoke on the downside of the what the revenue, and how they would affect us, it is almost a double edge sword. **Chairman Coffey** asked if anyone had anymore comments, no one did, Motion to close the public hearing made by Commissioner Frost, seconded by Commissioner Biddle.

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 Public Hearing of the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 10:24 am on Monday, Apr. 28, 2025.


CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN


TIMOTHY BIDDLE, VICE CHAIRMAN


GERALD DOUGLAS, COMMISSIONER



DAMON HOYTE, COMMISSIONER


JASON FROST, COMMISSIONER

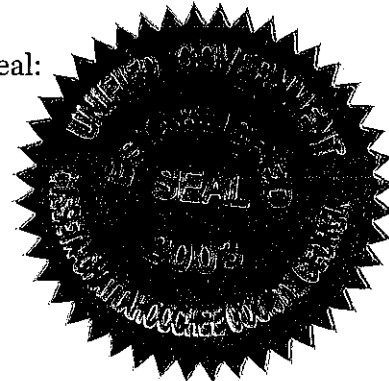
May 6, 2025
DATE APPROVED

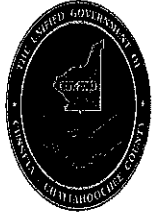
I hereby certify that the foregoing documentation, the Minutes of the Apr. 28, 2025, Public Hearing, was approved via majority vote by the Board of Commissioners in its May 6, 2025, regular meeting.

ATTESTED BY:


THOMAS WEAVER, COUNTY MANAGER
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF
CUSSETA-CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY

Seal:





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

APRIL 28, 2025 – BOC BUDGET WORK SESSION III

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

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