



GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 3, 2026

Judicial Building Assembly Room

Work Session - 5:00 PM

Regular Session - 6:00 PM

PRESENT: Commissioners M.L. “Bud” Owens, Chair, Kevin Cunningham, Vice-Chair, Chad Steward, Randy Abernathy, and Kurt Sutherland; County Administrator Jim Ledbetter, County Clerk Hollis Barton, Assistant Administrator Keith King, County Attorney Chris Jackson; Heath Derryberry, Courtney Taylor, Angie Gillman, Brent Jones, Brandi Owczarz

WORK SESSION

Mr. Ledbetter gave an overview of the agenda, noting item 1 under New Business would nullify the MOU with the Public Facilities Authority previously approved at the January 20, 2026 meeting. Mr. Ledbetter then discussed data centers stating staff is assessing our current ordinance and reaching out to other counties in Georgia for further insight.

Chair Owens then asked for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss property acquisition. Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to enter, seconded by Vice-Chair Cunningham. The motion carried 5-0.

Upon exiting the executive session, Chair Owens asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Abernathy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sutherland. The motion carried 4-0, with Vice-Chair Cunningham being out of the room.

REGULAR SESSION

- I. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** - Commissioner Sutherland; Commissioner Abernathy
- II. Call To Order** - Chair Owens called the meeting to order.
- III. Approval of the Agenda** - Commissioner Steward made a motion to amend the agenda to add item 9 under New Business, seconded by Vice-Chair Cunningham. The motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Sutherland then made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Steward. The motion carried 5-0.
- IV. Approval of Minutes** - Vice-Chair Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Steward. The motion carried 5-0.
 - 1. Adopt minutes of Work and Regular Session of January 20, 2026.**

- V. Special Recognition** - Commissioner Steward recognized the employees with service dates in February. Vice-Chair Cunningham drew Mike Reece as the recipient of the additional vacation day.

1. February Employees Years of Service

Brittany Mills, *Animal Control, 1 year*
Mike Reece, *Building & Grounds, 20 years*
Terri Bowen, *Clerk of Superior Court, 31 years*
Tara Zapp, *Clerk of Superior Court, 30 years,*
Kailee Bearden, *District Attorney's Office, 2 years*
Brandi Lybrand, *E-911, 4 years*
Jalynn Wyatt, *E-911, 4 years*
Carolyn Bingiel, *E-911, 4 years*
Regan Bell, *Finance, 6 years*
Sandra Padgett, *Fire Rescue, 34 years*
Steven Cochran, *Probate Court, 18 years*
Charles Stephenson, *Parks & Recreation, 13 years*
Shane Strickland, *Public Works, 21 years*
John Roberts, *Public Works, 19 years*
Tony Brown, *Public Works, 8 years*
Michael Henderson, *Public Works, 8 years*
Tristan Hunt, *Public Works, 2 years*
Dale Pulle, *Sheriff's Office, 7 years*
John Daniel Nesbitt, *Sheriff's Office, 4 years*
Sean Henery, *Sheriff's Office, 1 year*
Pam Woods, *Tax Commissioner, 26 years*

VI. Administrator's Report

Mr. Ledbetter presented the report to the Commission.

VII. Commissioner's Report

1. Vice-Chair Cunningham

Stated he attended the Annual Fire Banquet held on January 22nd and has spoken with several citizens and met with Mr. Ledbetter.

2. Commissioner Steward

Stated he also attended the Fire Banquet and has been keeping up with legislative updates at the State.

3. Chair Owens

Stated he attended the Georgia Regional I EMS Council on 1/22; went on the radio with Brent Jones and Brandi to discuss the Multi-Purpose Facility and various other topics; attended the Development Authority of Gordon County and Joint Development Authority discussion; thanked public safety with their efforts in weather readiness; attended the weekly ACCG Policy Council meeting.

4. Commissioner Abernathy

No report.

5. Commissioner Sutherland

Stated he also attended the Annual Fire Banquet and thanked EMA and public safety for their efforts with the recent storms.

VIII. First Reading

IX. Public Hearing

X. Unfinished Business

XI. New Business

1. Consideration of request from Administration to approve Resolution Establishing Community Events Center department. - Chair Owens

presented the item to the Commission. Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Steward. The motion carried 5-0.

2. Consideration of request from Administration to approve creation of one director position in the Community Events Center Department. - Chair

Owens presented the item to the Commission. Vice-Chair Cunningham made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Steward. Commissioner Sutherland asked about the hiring process, Mr. Ledbetter stated they would consider advisory from relative agencies. Chair Owens asked if the recommended committee members would be brought before the Board or if the position would be an appointment. Mr. Ledbetter stated the recommendation would most likely be brought before the Board, but it is still in the planning stages. The motion carried 5-0.

3. Consideration of request to approve budget transfer in the amount of \$50,000 from General Fund - Contingency to Community Events Center for salary and wages, group insurance, FICA, retirement contribution, legal, communications-telephone, operational supplies, and small equipment. -

Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Steward. The motion carried 5-0.

4. Consideration of request from Purchasing to award proposal for debris removal services for a period of three (3) years to Southern Disaster

Recovery, DRC Emergency Services LLC, and Crowder Gulf. - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Commissioner Abernathy made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Steward. The motion carried 5-0.

5. **Consideration of request from EMA to approve ratification of contract with North Georgia Consulting Group for the 2027 Hazard Mitigation Plan. The award acceptance for the Hazard Mitigation Plan was previously approved at the August 19, 2025 meeting.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Vice-Chair Cunningham made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Steward. The motion carried 5-0.
6. **Consideration of request from E 9-1-1 to approve quote and scope of work from GB Technologies Inc for service plan and preventative maintenance for UPS units in the annual amount of \$3,784 using GL Account 215-522210. This has been budgeted for FY26.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy. The motion carried 5-0.
7. **Consideration of request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$22,000. This will be an increase to GL Account 404-521205 from GL Account 100-391999.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Vice-Chair Cunningham made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy. The motion carried 5-0.
8. **Consideration of request from Risk Management to approve quote from TK Elevator Corporation for elevator repair at the Gordon County Courthouse in the amount of \$ 28,054. This will be budgeted using GL Account 419-522230.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chair Cunningham. The motion carried 5-0.
9. **Consideration of request to approve adoption of Resolution Imposing a Temporary Moratorium relating to Data Centers for a sixty (60) day period.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chair Cunningham. Mr. Jackson gave an overview of the definition of data centers and stated the moratorium would extend through April 4, 2026. The motion carried 5-0.

XII. Adjourn

Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy. The motion carried 5-0.