



May 1, 2025

Commissioners' Meeting

6:45PM

Chairperson Kenneth Petty officially commenced the Board of Commissioners meeting on May 1, 2025, at 6:45 PM, followed by the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

At 6:45 PM, the Hazard Mitigation Public Hearing commenced. Alexandra Arzayus, representing the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC), presented an update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Echols County. She noted that she has been working in close coordination with the County Manager and various community stakeholders to ensure compliance with requirements established by GEMA and FEMA. Ms. Arzayus emphasized the importance of conducting an annual review of the work program to evaluate and refine mitigation strategies for hurricanes, wildfires, and other identified hazards.

Additional Updates from SGRC

Following the conclusion of the Public Hearing, Mrs. Alexandra Arzayus provided additional updates regarding the Comprehensive Plan for the County. Mrs. Arzayus also discussed the upcoming Public Transit Initiative, scheduled to launch in July. As part of the SGRC Transit Development Plan, she distributed a survey aimed at gathering public input to identify potential service improvements and explore new transit options. The survey is part of a broader effort to better address the travel needs of the eighteen participating counties.

Board of Elections Update

Patrick Dupree, Chairperson of the Board of Elections, provided a brief update on the most recent board meeting. He informed the Commission that Mrs. Renee Church, Election Supervisor, completed training earlier this week. Mrs. Church also presented the Board with an overview of interactive web mapping for district and polling divisions, which will be obtained through SGRC. This mapping tool may also prove useful to other County departments.

Additionally, Mr. Dupree addressed a concern regarding the county attorney's delayed responses to communications from the Elections Supervisor. Dupree voiced concern that this continued delay may cause complications for the County.

At 6:55 PM, Chairperson Kenneth Petty called for a motion to adjourn the Echols Board of Commissioners workshop. Commissioner Stanley Corbet proposed the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Justin Staten. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

At 7:00 PM, Chairperson Kenneth Petty officially commenced the meeting on May 1, 2025.

Chairperson Kenneth Petty called for a motion to approve the agenda for the board meeting scheduled on May 1, 2025. Vice-Chairperson Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers proposed the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Bobby Walker. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Chairperson Kenneth Petty called for a motion to approve the minutes from the board meeting held on April 10, 2025. Commissioner Justin Staten proposed the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Stanley Corbett. The motion was approved with a vote of 5 in favor and none against.

Chairperson Kenneth Petty called for a motion to approve the Echols County Hazard Mitigation plan. Commissioner Stanley Corbett proposed the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Bobby Walker. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5 to 0.

Commissioner Justin Staten addressed the possibility of the county assuming control of the Water Authority. Some constituents voiced their concerns regarding whether this was a viable proposal. Chairperson Kenneth Petty requested a motion for the Board of Commissioners to proceed with the legalities of assuming responsibilities of the Water Authority.

Commissioner Bobby Walker moved to take control of the Water Authority, provided it would not incur costs for taxpayers. Commissioner Justin Staten seconded the motion. Vice-Chairperson Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers abstained from voting due to her position on the Water Authority Board. Commissioner Stanley Corbett voted against the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 3 to 1.

Chairperson Kenneth Petty initiated a request for a motion to commence the hiring process for a part-time code enforcement officer. Commissioner Justin Staten proposed the motion to begin this hiring process. Vice-Chairperson Bobby Pohlman Rodgers supported the motion. Commissioner Stanley Corbett expressed opposition. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 in favor and 1 against.

There was no executive session.

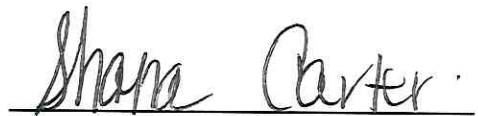
At 8:00 PM, Chairperson Kenneth Petty called for a motion to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting held on May 1, 2025. Vice-Chairperson Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers proposed a motion to conclude the meeting, which was approved with a unanimous vote of 5 to 0.

Attendees: Chairman Kenneth Petty, Vice-Chairman Bobbi Pohlman Rodgers, Commissioner Bobby Walker, Commissioner Justin Staten, Commissioner Stanley Corbett, County Clerk Shona Carter, Sheriff Randy Courson, Judge Carl Rodgers, Patrick DuPree, Bo

Corbett, Lisa Toliver, Alexandra Arzayus, Lindsey Ray, Kevin Tomlinson, Karen Black, Troy Black, Sandra Giddens, Jackie Carter.



Kenneth Petty, Chairman



Shona Carter, County Clerk

