



Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 07, 2025, 6:00 PM

SUMMARY

Commissioners in Attendance:

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Troy Mattox, District 1
Graham Raley, District 2
Randy Dixon, District 3
David Lowman, District 4

Staff in Attendance

Adam Craft, County Attorney
Raphel Maddox, County Attorney
Donna Golding, County Clerk

1. Call to order-Chairman Neal Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Invocation Leader – Matt Gardner (Youth and Associate Pastor at Hacklebarney Baptist Church)
3. Pledge of Allegiance Leader – Deputy Sheriff Ralph Miller, started his military career in 1964 with the United States Marine Corp working in Heavy Equipment Maintenance, leaving in 1969. Then joining the Unites States Navy in 1977 as a Computer Technician, retiring from the Navy in 1993.
4. Any addition or deletion to January 7, 2025, Agenda-No additions or deletions.
5. Approval of January 7, 2025, Agenda-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Troy Mattox seconded. The motion carried.
6. Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2024, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting, and December 23, 2024, Called Meeting-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve all December meeting minutes. Commissioner David Lowman seconded. The motion carried.
7. Discussion and approval of an Ordinance for Enforcement of County Environmental Health Regulations. (James Ragan with Dept of Public Health)- James Ragan with the Department of Public Health spoke on what the Ordinance means. He stated that by adopting this ordinance would enact a code of enforcement of rules and regulations of the PC BOH. Giving jurisdiction to Pierce County Magistrate Court over violators of this ordinance.

ORDINANCE FOR ENFORCEMENT OF

COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REGULATIONS

2025.01.07

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING A CODE OF ENFORCEMENT OF RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH; EXPRESS ADOPTION OF APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS; DELEGATION OF DUTIES OF IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT TO PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH; PROVISION FOR CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR PROVISION OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS; ESTABLISHMENT OF JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATE'S COURT OVER VIOLATORS OF THIS ORDINANCE.

ALL FOR THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF PIERCE COUNTY, GEORGIA.

I.

There are currently in existence certain rules and regulations adopted by the Pierce County Board of Health with the purpose of preserving the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens of Pierce County, Georgia. This ordinance specifically incorporates by reference the provision of the following rules and regulations which are in force at the time of the adoption of this ordinance:

- A. Rules and Regulations pertaining to Food Service (adopted by the Department of Public Health and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-6-1 as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Food Service;
- B. Rules and Regulations for On-Site Sewage Management Systems (adopted by the Department of Public Health and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-3-1 as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to On-Site Sewage Management Systems;
- C. Rules and Regulations for Mass Gatherings (adopted by the Department of Public and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-3-2 as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Mass Gatherings;
- D. Rules and Regulations pertaining to Drinking Water Supply (adopted by the Department of Public Health and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-3-3 as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Drinking Water Supply;

- E. Rules and Regulations for Mass Gatherings (adopted by the Department of Public Health and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-3-2 as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Mass Gatherings;
- F. Rules and Regulations pertaining to Drinking Water Supply (adopted by the Department of Public Health and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-3-3 as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Drinking Water Supply;
- G. Rules and Regulations pertaining to Solid Waste (adopted by the Department of Public Health and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-3-4 as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Solid Waste;
- H. Rules and Regulations pertaining to Public Swimming Pools, Spas, and Recreational Water Parks (adopted by the Department of Public Health and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-3-5 as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Public Swimming Pools, Spas, and Recreational Water Parks;
- I. Rules and Regulations pertaining to Portable Sanitation Contractors (adopted by the Department of Public Health and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-3-6 as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Portable Sanitation;
- J. Rules and Regulations pertaining to Georgia Smoke Free Air Act of 2005 (adopted by the Department of Public Health and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-3-7 as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Smoke Free Air;
- K. Rules and Regulations pertaining to Rabies Control (adopted by the Department of Public Health and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-4-2 and the "Rabies Control Ordinance" as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Rabies Control;
- L. Rules and Regulations pertaining to Tourist Accommodations (adopted by the Department of Public Health and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-6-2 as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Tourist Accommodations;

amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Rabies Control;

M. Rules and Regulations pertaining to Tourist Accommodations (adopted by the Department of Public Health and the Pierce County Board of Health and being Chapter 511-6-2 as subsequently amended and updated), and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Tourist Accommodations;

N. Rules and Regulations pertaining to Body Art and/or Tattooing (adopted by the Department of Public Health and/or the Pierce County Board of Health being Chapter 511-3-8 as subsequently amended and updated, and policies of the Pierce County Board of Health pertaining to Body Art and/or Tattooing; and

A copy of all these rules and regulations are attached to this ordinance.

11.

The duty of implementation and enforcement of these regulations rest with the Pierce County Board of Commissioners, and by virtue of this ordinance is hereby expressly delegated to the Pierce County Board of Health who is hereby charged with promulgation of sufficient procedures for insuring compliance with these rules and regulations by the citizens of Pierce County or those individuals found within the boundaries of Pierce County. The Pierce County Board of Health is directed to implement procedures which will insure that the citizens of Pierce County or those individuals found within the boundaries of Pierce County will receive all procedural rights to which they are entitled under the laws of the State of Georgia.

111.

Any violation of the rules and regulations hereby referenced shall be a violation of this ordinance and shall be a misdemeanor offense. Any violator shall be subject to the imposition of a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 and/or imprisonment for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days. Any failure of payment of inspection fees listed within the fee schedule adopted by Pierce County Board of Health and approved the Pierce County Board of Commissioners within 60 days of first notice, may result in suspension of permit.

IV.

The Magistrate's court of Pierce County shall have jurisdiction over violators of this Ordinance and all procedures for enforcement of such ordinance shall be as provided in Article 4, Chapter 10 of Title 15, Official Code of Georgia. Complaints of violation of any provision of this ordinance shall be brought before the magistrate's court by a designated representative of Pierce County Board of Health and shall be prosecuted through that court.

The effective date of this ordinance shall be January 7, 2025. Passed in regular session of the Board of Commissioners of Pierce County, Georgia, on January 7, 2025_____ .

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Board of Commissioners of Pierce County

Attest:

8. Discussion of SPLOST with the County, City of Blackshear, City of Patterson, and City of Offerman-Mayor Denison from Patterson, Mayor Brooks from Blackshear, Mayor Thomas from Patterson, and the Board of Commissioners discussed SPLOST for 2026.
The projected amount the county will receive over 6 years will be \$18,000,000. The County has agreed to 65.37%, City of Blackshear to 24.7%, City of Patterson to 6.89%, and City of Offerman to 3.04%. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded. The motion carried.
9. Discussion and approval of re-appointing Jerry Davis to the Pierce County Board of Tax Assessors-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve. Commissioner Davis Lowman seconded. The motion carried.
10. Discussion and action to increase the wages of the Board of Assessor Members-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve an increase from \$62.32 to \$100.00 per member per meeting for the Board of Assessors. This is an increase of \$37.68 per meeting. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. The Motion carried.
11. Discussion and action to approve a Resolution Approving the Waiver of Certain Penalties and Interest by the Pierce County Tax Commissioner-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve. Commissioner Troy Mattox seconded. The motion carried.
12. Discussion and action to Re-Appoint Hofstadter & Associates as Engineer of Record-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to reappoint Hofstadter & Associates as the Engineer of Record for the year 2025. Commissioner Graham Raley seconded. The motion carried.
13. Discussion and action to Appoint Adam Craft as County Attorney-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to appoint Adam Craft as County Attorney. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried.
14. Discussion and approval of the 2025 Georgia Indigent Defense Service Agreement-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the 2025 Georgia Indigent Defense Service Agreement. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded. The motion carried.

15. County Manager's Report-County Manager Raphel Maddox presented the Report.

16. Executive Session-County Manager Raphel Maddox asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and property. At 6:37 p.m. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to move into an Executive Session. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded. The motion carried.

At 6:55 Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded. The motion carried.

17. Adjournment-Chairman Neal Bennett asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner David Lowman seconded. The motion carried.

Neal Bennett
Chairman, Commissioners

Harold Rozier
Commissioner, District 1

Graham Raley
Commissioner, District 2

Randy Dixon
Commissioner, District 3

David Lowman
Commissioner, District 4

Donna Golding
County Clerk