



Pierce County Board of Commissioners

705 College Ave, 2nd Floor, Blackshear, GA 31516

December 3, 2024

Commissioners in Attendance

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Harold Rozier, District 1
Graham Raley, District 2
Randy Dixon, District 3
David Lowman, District 4

Staff in Attendance

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

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order-Chairman Neal Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Invocation Leader-Ray Turner, Founder of Ray Turner & Raceway Ministries
3. Pledge of Allegiance Leader- Commissioner Harold Rozier led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Any addition or deletion to December 3, 2024, Agenda-County Manager Raphel Maddox added 7. c) Recognition of new Fire Chief Chris Todd, d) Appointment of new Recreation Board Members, e) Discussion of new 911 Center, 16. b) executive session for personnel and real estate.
5. Approval of December 3, 2024, Agenda-Commissioner Graham Raley made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried.
6. Approval of Minutes from
 - a) November 5, 2024, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
 - b) November 6, 2024, Called Meeting
 - c) November 13, 2024, Called MeetingChairman Neal Bennett put a, b, and c together asking for a motion to approve all minutes. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve all minutes. Commissioner Graham Raley seconded. The motion carried.
7. a) Recognition of Mr. Harold Rozier for 12 years of service as Commissioner. (Jan. 2013-Dec. 2024)-The Board of Commissioners came together and recognized Commissioner Harold Rozier for his 12 years of dedication serving Pierce County.
 - b) Recognition of Mr. Thomas Sauls as Clerk of the Court for 24 years. The Board of Commissioners recognized Clerk of the Court Thomas Sauls for his dedication serving Pierce County.
 - c) Introduction of new Fire Chief Chris Todd-The Board of Commissioners welcomed the new fire chief and his family.

- d) Appointment of new Rec Board Members-Chairman Neal Bennett asked for a motion to accept the resignations of Timothy Griffis, Johnny Thigpen, and Barrett Boatright and appointing 3 new members to the Rec Board starting in January. Commissioner Harold Rozier nominated Jake Stewart, Commissioner Graham Raley nominated Chris Wright, and Commissioner David Lowman nominated Trey Thompson. County Clerk Donna Golding will get together all information for their terms and provide it to the Rec Board. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the resignations and appointments. Commissioner Graham Raley seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- e) Discussion of a new 911 Center-County Manager Raphel Maddox stated the need for a new 911 Center. Public Safety Director Blake James will get estimates, plans, and location ideas. Funding possibilities for this will partially be in the 2026 SPLOST. Chairman Neal Bennett asked for a motion to start the process. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to start the process. Commissioner Graham Raley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8. Public Comments

- a) Roger Hamelin, 6205 Mara Brooke Lane
Mr. Roger Hamelin voiced his concerns with the lack of code enforcement behind Farr's. Chairman Neal Bennett asked the County Code Enforcement Officer Chris Bond to speak on this. Code Enforcement Officer Chris Bond explained the steps it takes to implement citations. Stating it is a time consuming process but it is being handled. Mr. Hamelin was thankful for this being taken care of. Mr. Hamelin spoke directly to Commissioner Graham Raley about the road conditions. Stating if he needs to show the county how to fix it correctly, he can do that.

9. County Employee of the Month-Detention Officer Chester Clements

10. Discussion and approval to rezone Hwy 84, Blackshear, 2 acres, Parcels 045-106, 045-107, 045-108, 045-109A, from (MF) Multi-Family to (C) Commercial to build a new office and shop-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the rezone. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

11. Discussion and approval of 2025 commissioners meeting schedule and paid holidays-Chairman Neal Bennett presented to the Board a schedule of all paid holidays and meeting schedule for 2025. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve. Commissioner Graham Raley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

12. Discussion and action to add an Emergency Conditions Pay section to the policy.-Chairman Neal Bennett presented this to the Board but asked Elena Ryals with Human Resources to speak on this. Elena expressed the need to have a policy in place for natural disasters that will compensate first responders with hazard pay. This will also help the county to be reimbursed for claims paid during a natural disaster from state and federal government. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve. Commissioner Graham Raley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

13. Discussion and action to approve the purchase of new HR Software

- a) Paycom at \$41,088.32 per yr
- b) Paycor at \$35,997.72 per yr
- c) PNI-HCM at \$33,804 per yr

Elena Ryals with Human Resources presented 3 options of payroll software to the Board. Explaining her choice option a. Paycom is who she feels is best suited to fulfill the county's payroll needs. The current software system has many errors and makes it more difficult to navigate. Less mistakes will be made with the new software. The salesperson for Paycom stated that this program would help the employees be more involved with their information giving them the ability to update anytime. Commissioner David Lowman asked if this program would integrate over with what we have now, and the salesperson assured Commissioner Lowman that it would. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to purchase this new payroll software. Commissioner Graham Raley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

14. Discussion and approval of 2025 budget-County Manager Raphel Maddox stated that the county employees will be getting a 3% raise in January 2025 and another 3% in July. Making the final 2025 budget amount to \$15,396,172. Chairman Neal Bennett asked if anyone had questions or wanted to discuss the budget. There wasn't a response, so he proceeded to ask for a motion. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the 2025 budget. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. The motion carried.

15. a) County Manager's Report-County Manager Raphel Maddox introduced newly elected District 1 Commissioner Troy Mattox. Mr. Troy Mattox will start January 1, 2025. Adding to the report was debris pickup. Hurricane Helene debris pickup has reached 25%. ROW Equipment has hired more help and trucks to speed up the pickup process in a timely manner. The County Manager also stated the work on the second entrance/exit will begin soon behind Farr's.

b) Chairman Neal Bennett asked for a motion to go into executive session at 6:50 p.m. for personnel. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion. Commissioner Graham Raley seconded. The motion carried.

Chairman Neal Bennett asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion. Commissioner David Lowman seconded. The motion carried.

No action was taken during executive session.

16. Adjournment-Chairman Neal Bennett adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Neal Bennett, Chairman

Randy Dixon, District 3

Harold Rozier, District 1

David Lowman, District 4

Graham Raley, District 2

Donna Golding, County Clerk