



Opportunity Awaits

Grady County Board of Commissioners

Ray Prince
District 2

LaFaye Copeland, Chair
District 4

Yancey Maxwell
District 1

Sam Kines, Vice-Chair
District 3

Celeste Tyler
County Administrator

Phillip Drew
District 5

February 3, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Present at the meeting were commissioners, Ray Prince, Yancey Maxwell, Sam Kines, Phillip Drew, and LaFaye Copeland. Staff Celeste Tyler, Holly Murkerson, and Attorney Gabe Ridley. County Clerk John White was attending a conference on Jekyll Island, GA.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman LaFaye Copeland at 9:00 a.m. The Invocation was given by Mrs. Copeland, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Moss, 935 Piney Grove Rd

Spoke against Solar Farms. Keep our county the way it is.

Blake Spurgeon, Silicon Ranch Nashville

Mr. Spurgeon stated Silicon Ranch is in support of a 30-day extension for the moratorium. Provided some information from UGA.

Drew Eyerly, Grovetown, GA

Field Manger with Georgia Land Liberty Coalition. Works for Land Rights of individuals. Protect the individuals' right to use their property as they see fit. Should be allowed to use their property as they see fit if it is legal.

Doug Haas, Longleaf Ln

Mr. Haas spoke about motocross. He in the past has supported motocross but a line has been crossed with the allowing of a private racetrack on one acre of land. The Commissioners need to change the ordinance back.

Cary Bishop, 209 Evergreen Ln

Speaking of the ordinance that was passed that someone can put a racetrack on one acre of land. He feels as if this was passed behind closed doors. This ordinance is wrong.

Michael Cook, 184 Carr St Calvary

Mr. Cook stated no to solar farms and racetracks.

PRESENTATIONS

Trout Lillies – Margaret Tyson

Gabe Ridley, **County Attorney**, John White, **HR Director/County Clerk**, Holly D Murkerson, **Finance Director**



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Ms. Tyson spoke concerning the upcoming Trout Lilly season. It should open in about two weeks. They experience around 800 to 900 visitors during their blooming season. Mrs. Tyson invited the commissioners to visit the Trout Lilly site. They usually bloom for three to four weeks.

Ray Woods

Mr. Woods spoke about when the racetrack ordinance was passed. Unsure how the action FA021-25 was passed. Mr. Woods believes we should revert to the previous ordinances.

Mrs. Tyler addressed the comments from Mr. Woods.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Public Works/Public Properties Committee Meeting, Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 9:30 am.
2. Comprehensive Plan Meeting Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 5:00 pm.
3. Grady County Board of Commissioners Meeting, Tuesday February 17, 2026, at 6:00 pm.
4. Popes Museum 5K Fundraiser Honoring Women Veterans, March 14, 2026.

Sheriff Prince mentioned the Whigham Rattlesnake round up the first Saturday of March.

CONSENT ITEMS (ONE MOTION)

Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to approve:

The minutes of January 20, 2026, Regular Meeting and January 22, 2026 Public Hearing.

The motion was approved.

FORMAL ACTIONS

FA02-01-26 Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mr. Maxwell to approve Stephen McKinnon as Fire Marshall for 2026. The motion was approved.

FA02-02-26 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Prince to approve the purchase of a Dump Trailer from Ag Pro for a cost of \$10,500.00. The motion was approved.

FA02-03-26 Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Prince to approve the Resolution to Extend the Moratorium on Solar Farm Permits for six months from February 6, 2026, with the option of an additional six months if needed. The motion was approved.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrator Matters

Mrs. Tyler stated she gave out a road striping project list, and it will be discussed at the Public Works/Public Properties Committee meeting on Wednesday, 2/11/26 at 9:30

Gabe Ridley, **County Attorney**, John White, **HR Director/County Clerk**, Holly D Murkerson, **Finance Director**

33 17th Ave NW • CAIRO, GEORGIA 39827 • P: 229.377.1512 • F: 229.377.1039



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Commissioner Matters

Mr. Prince asked where we stood on the pavement and Mr. Elkins stated the contractor has solved his base issue and they should be starting next week.

Mrs. Copeland stated she found out we are having to do some patching on Collins Road due to issues with the dirt.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

REPORTS

1. Attorney's Report - None

IX. Adjournment Motion by Mr. Drew, second by Mr. Kines to adjourn. The motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS AND AGENDAS

I. Executive Duties

1. Call to Order - 9:00 AM
2. Invocation/Pledge
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Public Comments

II. Presentations

1. Trout Lillies - Margaret Tyson
2. Ray Woods

III. Upcoming Events

1. Public Works/Public Properties Committee Meeting, Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 9:30 am
2. Comprehensive Plan Meeting Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 5:00 pm.
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IV. Consent Items –(One motion)

Gabe Ridley, **County Attorney**, John White, **HR Director/County Clerk**, Holly D Murkerson, **Finance Director**



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Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2026, and Public Hearing Minutes from January 22, 2026.

V. Formal Actions

FA02-01-26 Approve or Disapprove Stephen McKinnon as Fire Marshall for 2026

FA02-02-26 Approve or Disapprove the purchase of a Dump Trailer from Ag Pro.

FA02-03-26 Approve or Disapprove the Resolution to Extend the Moratorium on Solar Farm Permits.

VI. New and Unfinished Business

1. Administrator Matters
 - a. Road Striping Project Update
2. Commissioner Matters

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Reports

1. Attorney's Report

IX. Adjournment

ATTEST:

John White, County Clerk

LaFaye Copeland, Chair

Sam Kines, Vice Chair

Phillip Drew, Commissioner

Yancey Maxwell, Commissioner

Ray Prince, Commissioner

Gabe Ridley, **County Attorney**, John White, **HR Director/County Clerk**, Holly D Murkerson, **Finance Director**

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