



*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

### January 22, 2026, Public Hearing Minutes

Present at the meeting were commissioners, Ray Prince, Yancey Maxwell, Sam Kines, Phillip Drew, and LaFaye Copeland. Staff Celeste Tyler, John White, Holly Murkerson, Attorney Gabe Ridley, and Code Enforcement Director Brian Harrison.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman LaFaye Copeland at 6:00 p.m. The Invocation was given by Mr. Kines, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mrs. Copeland reviewed the order and rules for how the Public Hearing would be conducted.

#### PRESENTATIONS

County Attorney Gabe Ridley opened the hearing by explaining the short-term Moratorium that the commissioners put in place on January 6, 2026, for thirty days. This hearing was to decide if the moratorium needs to be extended for further research. Mr. Ridley reviewed the Land Use Regulations as they relate to Solar Farms.

Silicon Ranch, Matt Kisber

Mr. Kisber and others presented Silicon Ranch's business plan and how they treat the land. They said they would create a grassland where the Solar Farm would be located so they could graze sheep on the land. They stated that they would like the commissioners to take a field trip to visit the solar farm located in Arlington, GA, and their partnership they have developed with Will Harris and White Oak Pastures.

Mrs. Copeland then opened the hearing for public comments.

Ted Collins, 693 Old 179 S Whigham, GA

Mr. Collins spoke in favor of allowing the Solar Farm to be developed.

Mike Moss, 935 Piney Grove Rd Whigham

Mr. Moss spoke against allowing the Solar Farm.

Jill Jones, 4160 Thomasville Rd Climax, GA

Mrs. Jones spoke against allowing the Solar Farm.

Robert Trulocke, 1040 East Ave Madison, GA

Mr. Trulocke stated there are several resources that are available to help with the evaluation process.

Sammy Perkins, 429 Cleon Waldrop Rd Whigham, GA

Mr. Perkins spoke in favor of allowing the solar farm.

Peter Wright, Cairo, GA

Yielded his time to Mrs. Jill Jones so she could finish.

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



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Mrs. Jones stated that solar farms have nothing to do with economic development. It is all about money for a few individuals.

Tonya Welch, 504 Beryls Ln Whigham, GA

Mrs. Welch spoke against allowing solar farms.

Rodney Harrison

Mr. Harrison spoke in favor of allowing solar farms.

Michael Cook, 184 Carr St

Mr. Cook was against allowing solar farms.

Malinda May, 476 Melton Brinson Rd

Mrs. May spoke in favor of allowing solar farms.

John Phillips, 835 Jowers Rd

Mr. Phillips spoke in favor of allowing solar farms.

Phil Troyer, 635 Meridian Rd

Mr. Troyer spoke in favor of allowing solar farms.

Ben Naselius, Tall Timbers

Mr. Naselius stated there are resources which could assist in making decisions concerning solar farms.

Mrs. Copeland then opened for questions from the floor. Several asked questions about Silicon Ranch and they responded.

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 - 6:00 PM

2. Invocation/Pledge

II. Presentations

1. Public Hearing on Moratorium on Solar Panel Farms - Grady County Board of Commissioners, Applicant

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

33 17<sup>th</sup> Ave NW • CAIRO, GEORGIA 39827 • P: 229.377.1512 • F: 229.377.1039



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**III. Adjournment**

ATTEST:

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John White, County Clerk

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LaFaye Copeland, Chair

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Sam Kines, Vice Chair

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Phillip Drew, Commissioner

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Yancey Maxwell, Commissioner

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Ray Prince, Commissioner