

**Dodge County Courthouse Committee Minutes
Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**



Present:

Commissioner Brian Watkins, District 3
Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan, District 1
Martin Kehayes, Middle GA State University
Judge Michael Johnson
Conner Bearden, County Manager
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Virtual Attendance:

Stephen Whigham

The Dodge County Courthouse Committee held a meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. with County Manager Bearden presiding. He called the meeting to order.

Business:

The Courthouse Committee discussed renovating and/or expansion of the courthouse at 5016 Courthouse Circle. Potential ideas included using the Pearl Bates Annex for the court system with enlarged parking, privacy entrance/exit for inmates (sally port), and space accommodations for two jury trials. In this case, the Board of Commissioners, and possibly Probate, could be located at Courthouse Circle. (Judge Johnson stated he would make sure Probate didn't have to stay in the court building.)

Manager Bearden stated the elevator and restrooms will need to be addressed, as well as the basement flooding issue in the historic courthouse. However, an architect might not be necessary; a contractor may suffice.

Manager Bearden stated he would contact DCA for blueprints of the Pearl Bates Annex.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, the Courthouse Committee meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Conner Bearden, County Manager