

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, July 06, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting Minutes



Commissioners Present: Chairman Dan McCranie, Sharon Cobb Flanagan – District 1, Leigh Ann Greene – District 2, Vice-Chair Brian Watkins – District 3, Jeffrey Jones – District 4

Also Present: Attorney Ron Daniels, Manager Conner Bearden

Absent: Clerk Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, Attorney John Harrington

Call to Order

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex on Monday, June 01, 2026, with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with a devotion from Psalm 33. He also read an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble to the Constitution in celebration of the country's 250th birthday. Afterward, he led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

Nothing presented.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – June 01, 2026

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the minutes with no additions, corrections, or deletions. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. DFCS Board Appointments

Applications were submitted for the DFCS Board from Conner Bearden, Lametra Davis, Kristi Hulett, and Margo Watson. Conner Bearden and Margo Watson were appointed at the prior board meeting.

Commissioner Jones made a nomination to appoint Kristi Hulett. With no other nominations for the appointment forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and Kristi Hulett was appointed by acclamation.

B. Judicial Project Demolition

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to tear down the two old jails in order to build a new judicial complex. Commissioner Jones seconded. Chairman McCranie opened the floor for discussion from the board and/or the public. The board voted unanimously in favor of tearing down the two old jails. Motion passed.

B. Data Center Ordinance

Commissioner Greene made a motion to table the data center ordinance. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$1,479,240.55. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Chairman McCranie allowed for discussion from the board and the public. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. 2025 Audit

County Auditor Frank Erwin presented the county's 2025 financial audit, with discussion regarding pertinent findings. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the audit. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

C. CJCC Grant Approval

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve Grant #AW-ACFP-27-017 in the total amount of \$169,349 with matching funds of \$25,402 for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

D. Mr. Jeff Fordham, Manager of Heart of GA Regional Airport

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the request from the airport for \$13,000 for tree removal services. Commissioner Watkins seconded with the stipulation that TSPLOST funds could be used. Attorney Daniels affirmed. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

E. Mr. Roy Locke – Dodge County Cemeteries

Mr. Locke, DodgeCountySettlers.org representative, presented research on local cemeteries and requested the board create a committee to identify, register, and seek grant funding for preservation. The board agreed to take the proposal under advisement.

F. Trent Drive – Petition for County Ownership

Manager Bearden stated Trent Drive was deeded to the county in the 90s but had not been officially adopted into the county's road network. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the addition of Trent Drive to the county's road network. Commissioners Flanagan and Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

G. Community Development Block Grant

The county manager requested permission to engage the regional commission to plan a Community Development Block Grant application for Shady Acres. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the county manager looking into the project with the regional commission. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

H. GA Opportunity Zone 2.0

Commissioner Jones made a motion to authorize the County Manager to proceed with nominating census tracts within Dodge County for the Georgia Opportunity Zone 2.0. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

I. Mr. Howard Warnock

Mr. Warnock discussed the board's formatted agenda, specifically public comments.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Greene stated that the county should include a referendum in the November election in the matter of the old courthouse. Chairman McCranie asked Attorney Daniels to present referendum options at the next meeting.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

Manager Bearden discussed the Deeds trial expenses and stated the courts would reimburse the county from ARPA funds. Judge Wall notified the board that the case would be retried in 2027 with no ARPA funds available.

Manager Bearden also discussed the county's new mass notification system and encouraged everyone to sign up.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 7:09 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman