

The Turner County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Turner County Agricultural Center for a Called Meeting and Work Session with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon present. Staff present were Latrice Wilson, County Clerk and J. Shipp, County Attorney. Others present were Ben Baker, Editor of the Wiregrass Farmer, Mayor Gary Walker, Jim Lumpkin, Dustin Beaty, Brad Christian, Blake Christian, James Burgess, Edyth Washington, Lindsey Ray, Crystal Collins, Sami Mastrario, Christy Wray, School Superintendent, Ben McCurdy, Bruce Free, Sheriff Andy Hester, Charles Dean, June Johnston, and others.

Chair Whiddon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ben Baker gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Denham to add School Superintendent Christy Wray and remove line item for JROTC Rifle Team Sponsorship and adopt the agenda as presented, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Denham seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to approve financial information for July 2025 as printed, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Burgess seconded by Commissioner Denham to approve minutes of previous meetings for September 2, 2025, September 5, 2025, September 16, 2025, and September 30, 2025, as printed, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Public Comments: (concerning agenda items) None

Sheriff Andy Hester spoke to the board requesting permission to clear the land behind the Sheriff's Office to put in more dog kennels.

Mr. Bruce Free gave the annual Forestry update for Turner County.

Ms. Crystal Collins spoke expressing her concerns about Nature & Wellness Trail for Turner County.

Superintendent Christy Wray spoke to the board requesting help with funding for caution lights at the new high school.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to approve board appointment for Mrs. Janice Massey to the Library Board.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Burgess to approve agreement for Technical Assistance Services between Turner County and the Southern Georgia Regional Commission and authorize the Chair to sign agreement on behalf of the County, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Denham seconded by Commissioner Burgess to rent a hammer machine for Public Works, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Burgess to approve Executive Session Minutes for Tuesday, September 2nd and 2025, Tuesday, September 30th, 2025, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Commissioners discussed grants for Turner County.

Commissioners table agenda item #2 discussing board members for Airport Authority.

Commissioners discussed liquor license for Wanee Lake.

Commissioners discussed request from Sheriff Andy Hester to use land behind Sheriff's Office to put in more dog kennels.

Chairman Comments: Chair Whiddon spoke asking the board to contact her if they have any questions.

Public Comments: Mr. Jim Lumpkin spoke asking the board to reconsider the grant for the Walking Trail.

Motion by Commissioner Denham seconded by Commissioner Calhoun to go into closed session at 6:47 p.m. to discuss personnel, litigation and or real estate, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Denham to end the closed session and return to the regular meeting at 6:56 p.m., motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Dana L. Whiddon, Chair

Attest: _____
Latrice Wilson, County Clerk

*Motion by Commissioner Denham seconded by Commissioner Burgess to approve meeting minutes for Tuesday, October 28, 2025, as printed, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.