

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman, Kylon Fort, called the regular session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were Commissioners Pixie Harrod, Ronnie Gaskins and Jimmy Parker. Chairman John Nugent was absent.

Invocation: Commissioner Kylon Fort

Pledge: Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve the April 7, 2026 Regular Session Minutes and the April 22, 2026 Special Called Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to move into public hearing at 6:01 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously. The public hearing was for rezoning from AU to WLI on property located at 363 Strawder Rd. Ray City owned by Mr. Daniel Owens. Mr. Owens stated that this all came about when he tried to get an upgrade for power. He stated the power company said he needed the property rezoned. He stated he purchased the property with the buildings already on it. He said he just wants to operate. If he cannot use the buildings, then he needs to sale it. He asked about a Special Use Permit then you can put stipulations in it. The question was asked why the planning commissioner did not approve it. Teresa Willis, Code Enforcement, stated that the original application did not mention the use of a saw and that it was mainly the spot zoning. Commissioner Kylon Fort suggested taking it back to the planning commission and get the correct language and request before bringing it back to the commissioner board. John Beville and Dominic Tottobene spoke against it.

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to move out of public hearing and back into regular session, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins at 6:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

INVITED GUEST: **Aaron Barber** – requesting permission to put a storage building on property located at 55 Barber Lane. This will be a weekend get-away, hunting and fishing cabins. He was advised, according to code, the proper steps would be to get a well and septic tank permit and start that process and then come back to the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. REZONING REQUEST – DANIEL OWENS – Administration received a request from the Planning Commission for consideration of rezoning application submitted by Daniel Owens. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to go back to the planning commissioner with the corrected request/language on the application, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

B. HANGER ACQUISITION – AIRPORT – Administration received a request from the Berrien County Airport Authority requesting funding to move forward with construction of a hanger and surveying hanger sites and future sites. The boards previously agreed to fund hangers with a designated amount of \$250,000.00 from TSPLOST. They are also requesting the County complete the site prep and fill dirt. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

C. MEDICATION SAFES & MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – Administration received a request from Gerald Sumner, EMS Director, to purchase two medication safes. This is now mandated and regulations require to lock up narcotics. This is a budgeted item. The request also includes the annual service fee. The cost of the safes from Knox Company is \$4,744.00 and the annual service fee is \$584.00. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

D. PORTABLE BUILDING PROPOSAL – AARON BARBER – This request was hearing under invited guests. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

E. DRUG COURT SUPPLIES – Administration received a request from Drug Court to purchase testing supplies. This is covered through their grant. Supplies are from Microgenetics Corp, part of Thermo Fisher Scientific in the amount of \$5,940.00. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

F. UNIFORM ACQUISITION – RECREATION – Administration received a request from Joe Barkman, Recreation Director, to purchase all-star uniforms. He has one local quote which the Recreation Authority approved from Downtown Dogwood for Jerseys at \$23.00 each, Hats \$18.00 each and visors \$14.00 each. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

G. SURVEYING – BERRIEN COUNTY LANDFILL ON GARNER RD. – Administration received a quote from Hand Land Surveying t mark locations for monitoring at the Garner Rd. Landfill. For the surveys and markers placed it will cost \$4,000.00. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

H. PIPE ORDER – Administration received a request from Ben Warren, Public Works Director, to order pipe for Talmadge Lindsey Rd. This is a direct order from the manufacturer Cherokee Culvert in the amount of \$9,288.00.

I. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS PROCLAMATION – Administration received a request from Susan, Nebel, Community Impact Director with Greater Valdosta United Way to recognize May as Mental Health Awareness Month. A Proclamation was read before the board. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

J. ELECTRICAL & A/C PHASE – NLFD – Administration received a request from Marc Mathis, Fire Chief, requesting funds for the wiring of New Lois Fire Department and an air conditioner/heater. At this time we received one quote on the electrical from West Plumbing and Electrical Service in the amount of \$10,385.00. We have requested two other quotes but have not received those yet. We have one quote from West Heating & Air for a mini split in the amount of \$4,935.35. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to give the Chairman authority to approve a purchase once the other quotes are received and to go ahead with the purchase of the A/C from West Heating & Air in the amount of \$4,935.35, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

K. RATIFICATION ITEMS - Administration is requesting ratification on the following items:

Osteen CDJR – Sheriff	\$1,167.18
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Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to ratify the item as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:

Marc Mathis –

- We received our ISO ratings that they went from a 9-10 to a 5-5X grade. Ronnie Gaskins stated that a lot of work and dedication went into this. Good Job Marc!
- Marc also wanted to thank and commend the shop of getting a pump fixed that went out on one of the fire trucks. They were able to get it back in operation quickly.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS:

Kylon Fort –

- With several things tonight, this is a good reminder that we need to tidy up some of the codes. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to update the Land Use Ordinances, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

Ronnie Gaskins –

- We received notification that FEMA obligated the rest of the debris funds. We do not have it in our hands yet but it has been obligated.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- I received a request to purchase tires for the Alapaha Knocker Truck. The quote is from Nero Tires for \$2,390.60. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.
- Departmental Budget Meetings with the County Commissioners will start next week on May 13th & 14th and 15th if needed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Walt Stewart –

- He stated that the wiring to the clock tower needs to be replaced and updated. He said it will take about 55 to 60 feet of wire. He has been maintaining the clock for approximately 10 years. It would also be nice to get about four flood lights that would shine on the tower at night.
- He spoke about the clean up of the property adjacent to his located on Jackson St. He wanted to know the next steps. He has concerns with erosion. Ben Warren stated that silt fence is up all the way through so there will not be any erosion.

Emily Beeman –

- Questions the amount of the FEMA money obligated. It was a \$20 million dollar project.

Nick Lacey –

- Stated the community owes Walt Stewart thanks for what he does. He needs to be recognized. The board did thank Walk and Commissioner Parker made a motion to wire the steeple at the old courthouse, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

Matthew Beville –

- Stated he is the largest property owner along Strawder Rd. He had complaints about the road. Ben Warren, asked Mr. Beville to meet him out there tomorrow morning.

Linda Heath –

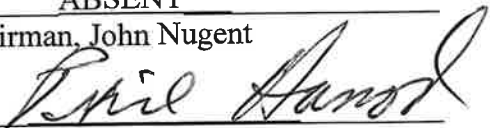
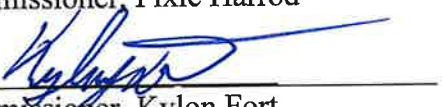
- Stated she lives at 391 O. D. Miller Rd. in Alapaha. She needs power. There is currently building there for tools and a camper that is not lived in. There was a residence there but it burned down. She just wants power. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to allow power, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

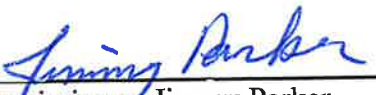
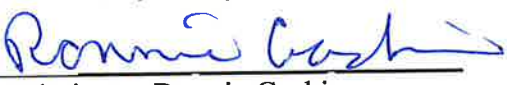

John Beville –

- Spoke about the Proclamation on the Mental Health Awareness. Thank the board for doing that.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

ABSENT
Chairman, John Nugent

Commissioner, Pixie Harrod

Commissioner, Kylon Fort


Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

Commissioner, Ronnie Gaskins
ATTEST: 
County Clerk