



Hart County Board of Commissioners

Tuesday August 25, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Hart County Administrative and Emergency Services Center

1. PRAYER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. CALL TO ORDER
4. WELCOME
5. APPROVE AGENDA
6. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)
 - 08/11/2026 Regular Meeting
 - 08/18/2026 Called Meeting
7. REMARKS BY INVITED GUESTS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES
8. REPORTS BY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
11. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
12. OLD BUSINESS
 - a) Kratom Ordinance
 - b) Amendment to Chapter 82 Article III (Speed Zones) (2nd Reading)
 - c) Bid Award Striping
 - d) FY 28 Transit Grant Application Authorizing Resolution
 - e) Resolution Authorizing Grand Jury Use of Alternative Facility (Lower-Level Adult Learning Center)
 - f) Sidearm Replacement Purchase
13. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) City of Hartwell Annexation Request (Parcel 156G 034) Christ Church of Hartwell
 - b) Lake Hartwell Association Letter of Support
14. PUBLIC COMMENT
15. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Litigation – Personnel – Real Estate
16. ADJOURNMENT

HART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Aug 25, 2026
6:00 PM

Hart County Board of Commissioners met Aug 25, 2026, at the Hart County Administrative and
Emergency Services Center.

Chairman Marshall Sayer presided with Commissioners Michael Bennett, Frankie Teasley, Jeff Brown, and Joey Dorsey present at the meeting.

1. PRAYER

Commissioner Michael Bennett offered prayer.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood in observance of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sayer called the meeting to order.

4. WELCOME

Chairman Sayer welcomed all those in attendance via in person, HTC Channel 3, and Board of Commissioners YouTube site.

5. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Teasley moved to amend and approve the agenda. Commissioner Bennett provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

6. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

08/11/2026 Regular Meeting
08/18/2026 Called Meeting

Commissioner Bennett moved to approve the 8/11/2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Teasley provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Brown moved to amend and approve the 08/18/2026 Called Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Teasley provided a second. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Bennett abstained.

7. REMARKS BY INVITED GUESTS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES

Mr. Cawthon was unable to attend due to another engagement but plans to present the Water Authority report next month. EMI, the engineering firm, attended the Water Authority meeting and recommended improvements, including monitoring pressure and flow throughout the system as part of a SCADA upgrade. Because the recommendations did not include cost estimates, EMI was asked to provide pricing before the next meeting

8. REPORTS BY CONSITUTIONAL OFFICERS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

None

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

None

10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman asked the county to keep Mr. Bill Chafin in its prayers following the passing of his wife, noting Mr. Chafin many years of dedicated service to Hart County on the GMRC board. He also asked that Pastor Chris Pritchett be remembered as he faces health challenges, recognizing his service with local athletics, Little League, high school baseball, the county fire department, and serves as a Chaplin at the Sheriff's Office.

11. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Bennett echoed the Chairman's remarks regarding Mr. Bill Chafin, recalling Mr. Chafin's long-standing service to the community, including volunteer work with the census and service on the RC&D Board. He also asked that the Thompson family be kept in everyone's thoughts and prayers following the passing of Ms. Reba Thompson, and encouraged continued prayers for all Hart County families experiencing loss.

Commissioner Teasley agreed with the previous remarks regarding Mr. Bill Chafin and asked that he and his family remain in everyone's prayers. He also expressed appreciation for law enforcement, EMS, firefighters, and all county employees for their service.

Commissioner Brown reminded everyone that the comprehensive plan meeting would be held the following day from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Adult Learning Center at the library and encouraged public attendance because the plan is important to the county's future.

He thanked County Attorney Kim Higginbotham for the Water Department update and requested that the next meeting include updates on the after-action plan, emergency plan, and the Ridge Road hydrant and water-pressure issue. He noted that the Water Authority is currently analyzing the matter and that the Board expects to review options and establish a plan in September

Commissioner Dorsey for the District 5 report. Commissioner Dorsey extended condolences to Mr. Bill Chafin and his family, noting Mr. Chafin many years of service to the county. He also asked that Pastor Chris Pritchett, a member of the fire department at Vanna Station, and his family be kept in everyone's prayers. Commissioner Dorsey requested updates at the next meeting from the fire chief regarding maintenance issues and from EMS regarding turnover, staffing vacancies, and progress toward filling positions. He also requested that both department heads attend.

12. OLD BUSINESS

a) Kratom Ordinance

Commissioner Bennett moved to approve the 1st Reading of the Kratom Ordinance and to include a notice with the Beer/Wine and/or Distilled Spirit Alcohol applications. Commissioner Brown provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

b) Amendment to Chapter 82 Article III (Speed Zone) (2nd Reading)

Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve the 2nd reading of the Amendment to Chapter 82 Article III (Speed Zone). Commissioner Teasley provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

c) Bid Opening Striping

Commissioner Dorsey moved to award the Striping Bid to Allstar Concrete, Inc based on the recommendation of Public Works Director Jason Spencer and Road Superintendent, Shannon Teasley. Commissioner Brown provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

d) FY 28 Transit Grant Application Authorizing Resolution

Commissioner Dorsey made a motion to authorize County Administrator Terrell Partain to sign the FY 28 Transit Grant Application. Commissioner Teasley provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

e) Resolution Authorizing Grand Jury Use of Alternative Facility (Lower-Level Adult Learning Center)

Commissioner Bennett moved to authorize the Grand Jury to use an alternate facility (Lower-Level Adult Learning Center). Commissioner Teasley provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

f) Sidearm Replacement Purchase

Commissioner Brown moved to proceed with purchasing the sidearm recommended by Public Works Director Jason Spencer at state purchasing pricing and to determine whether any discount is available for purchasing two units at the same time or for a multiple-unit purchase. If a discount is available to bring that back to the board at the next meeting. In the meantime, I recommend moving forward with this purchase. Chairman Sayer provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

13. NEW BUSINESS

a) City of Hartwell Annexation Request (Parcel 156G 034) Christ Church of Hartwell

Commissioner Bennett moved to not object to the Annexation request of parcel 156G 034 Christ Church of Hartwell. Commissioner Brown provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

b) Lake Hartwell Association Letter Support

Commissioner Dorsey moved to approve the letter of support for the Lake Hartwell Association. Commissioner Teasley provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Evans of Heathwood Circle stated that she has appeared before the Board several times to request that her gravel road be paved. She explained that road dust has become a public health and safety concern, stating that she is under pulmonary care for small airways disease and that her doctor identified mineral dust from gravel roads as a contributing factor.

Commissioner Bennett commented that a person experiencing health problems from road dust might consider moving to a paved road.

After Ms. Evans' allotted time expired, she asked whether a follow-up meeting could be scheduled to discuss the matter further. The Board explained that any meeting involving a quorum would need to be publicly advertised. The Chair asked Public Works Director Jason Spencer to coordinate a meeting with Ms. Evans and individual commissioners.

Jeanette Courtney Cross addressed the Board during public comment regarding concerns related to her work with the Board of Elections. She said she had tried to address concerns privately

since April but felt the matter had not been resolved. She described an incident at an April managers' meeting involving Board of Elections Chairman Gary Hamilton and said she later sought a meeting to discuss how she had been treated. Ms. Cross stated that she was told the chairperson had sole authority over employee retention, termination, discipline, and poll-worker training and appointments, and she questioned what oversight or appeal process was available.

The Board explained that the Board of Commissioners does not have jurisdiction over the Board of Elections because it was created through state legislation, although election-related personnel are paid through the county.

Commissioner Dorsey indicated they would review the enabling legislation, consult with the county attorney and state representatives if appropriate, and consider whether changes could be pursued in a future legislative session.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION – litigation – Personnel – Real Estate

Commissioner Brown moved to exit the Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session Litigation – Personnel – Real Estate. Commissioner Dorsey provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Bennett moved to exit Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting. Commissioner Brown provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bennett moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Teasley provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

Marshall Sayer, Chairman

Lisa Evans, County Clerk