



Hart County Board of Commissioners

Tuesday September 8, 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)
 - 08/25/2026 Regular Meeting
 - 08/25/2026 Called Meeting
7. REMARKS BY INVITED GUESTS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES
Charles Cawthon, Director Hart County Water and Sewer
8. REPORTS BY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & DEPARTMENT HEADS
Public Works Director, Jason Spencer, Public Works Monthly Report
Fire Chief, Jerry Byrum, Fire Department Update
EMS Director, Mike Adams, EMS Update
9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
August Financial Report
10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
11. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
12. OLD BUSINESS
 - a) Amendment to Chapter 6 Article I (Kratom) (2nd Reading)
 - b) Amendment to Chapter 82 Article III (Speed Zones) (2nd and Final Reading)
 - c) JDA Board Appointment
 - d) Ridge Road Fire Hydrants
 - e) Use of Courthouse Grounds for Scarecrow Event
13. NEW BUSINESS
14. PUBLIC COMMENT
15. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Litigation – Personnel – Real Estate
16. ADJOURNMENT

HART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sept 8, 2026

6:00 PM

Hart County Board of Commissioners met Sept 8, 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 Bennett moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Teasley provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

6. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

08/25/2026 Regular Meeting

08/25/2026 Called Meeting

Commissioner Teasley moved to approve the 8/25/2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Brown provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Teasley moved to approve the 08/25/2026 Called Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Bennett provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

7. REMARKS BY INVITED GUESTS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES

Charles Cawthon, Director Hart County Water and Sewer

Mr. Cawthon was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

8. REPORTS BY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

Public Works Director, Jason Spencer, Public Works Monthly Report

Fire Chief, Jerry Byrum, Fire Department Update

EMS Director, Mike Adams, EMS Update

Public Works Director, Jason Spencer gave an update on the Liberty Hill Rd/Liberty Hill Church Rd intersection project, the CDL program for employees and the new building at the Transfer Station.

Fire Chief Jerry Byrum reported on completed projects at the volunteer fire stations and provided updates on projects still underway.

EMS Director Mike Adams announced the promotions of paramedics Kayla Gabriel, Nate Mize, and Jacob Keese to assistant supervisor and provided updates on upcoming projects and the implementation of new procedures.

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

August Financial Report

County Administrator Terrell Partain gave the financial report for August.

10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Sayer announced that the VFW would be celebrating Patriot's Day with activities marking the 25th anniversary of September 11, including breakfast pastries for first responders, flag waving on the square, and at 6:00 p.m. stadium-size flag display on the banks of the VFW at Lake Hartwell with drone photography. Community members were encouraged to participate and honor those affected; he also noted the new AED law and asked businesses, churches, schools, and other facilities to register their AED locations with Missy Cobb, E911 Director so first responders can find them quickly during emergencies.

11. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Bennett thanked all county employees for all that they do.

Commissioner Teasley thanked all law enforcement and all military past present and future.

Commissioner Brown thanked residents and commissioners who attended the well-participated comprehensive plan meeting at the library and provided valuable feedback; UGA engineering and design students selected the recreation park improvement proposal as their semester capstone project. They will assess drainage and stormwater issues, recommend practical safety and functionality improvements, and explore future walking paths, landscaping, and other capital projects. Preliminary cost estimates will support planning, grant applications, and fundraising; he also recognized the Archway Partnership's value and thanked Archway professional Rosanna Bibb for helping secure the project. Student planning and engineering work is expected to begin within the next few weeks.

Commissioner Dorsey mentioned that the AED at the Little League press box at the old recreation park needs to be removed; reminded County Administrator and Public Works Director Jason Spencer about doing a work order for an additional culvert at Ayers Rd.

12. OLD BUSINESS

a) Amendment to Chapter 6 Article I (Kratom) (2nd Reading)

Commissioner Bennett moved to approve the 2nd Reading of the Kratom Ordinance and requested that the ordinance be shared with the Cities of Hartwell, Royston, Canon and the Town of Bowersville. Commissioner Brown provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

b) Amendment to Chapter 82 Article III (Speed Zone) (3rd and Final Reading)

Commissioner Bennett made a motion to adopt and approve the 3rd and final reading of the Amendment to Chapter 82 Article III (Speed Zone). Commissioner Dorsey provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

c) JDA Board Appointment

Commissioner Dorsey moved to appoint Dwayne Dye to the Joint Development Authority Board to complete the remaining term of Roy Crocker. Commissioner Teasley provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

d) Ridge Road Fire Hydrants

Commissioner Dorsey made a motion to authorize County Attorney Kim Higginbotham to draft a letter to the City of Hartwell Mayor and City Council stating that because Ridge Road is within their service delivery territory and they are getting revenue from residents it is their responsibility to provide those residents and firefighters with ample volume and water pressure. Commissioner Teasley provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

e) Use of Courthouse Grounds for Scarecrow Event

Commissioner Dorsey moved to authorize the use of the Courthouse grounds for the scarecrow event and to make them aware to keep the scarecrows off the grass. Commissioner Teasley provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

13. NEW BUSINESS

None

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Litigation – Personnel – Real Estate

Commissioner Brown moved to exit the Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session Litigation – Personnel – Real Estate. Commissioner Teasley 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.

16. 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