

AGENDA  
GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
REGULAR MEETING

**FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

**6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**PREVIOUS MONTH BILLS**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**MINUTES**

(Time allocated 10 minutes total)

Check Registers

FEBRUARY 2025

Regular meeting minutes January 14, 2025

Called meeting minutes January 30, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.

Public hearing minutes January 30, 2025 @ 11:00 a.m.

**REPORTS**

MANAGER'S REPORT / EMS

ELECTED OFFICIALS: TAX COMMISSIONER, PROBATE,  
SUPERIOR COURT CLERK, SHERIFF, FAMILY  
CONNECTIONS, LIBRARY, FIRE, EMA DIRECTOR, 4-H  
Coordinator

**OLD BUSINESS**

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

DBHDD Region 6 Board member appointment

SWGAs Regional Development Authority Board appointment

**NEW BUSINESS**

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

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Application to amend Zoning from A-1 to R-1 on Tanglewood Trail

Resolution R1-2025 Safety Coordinator Resolution

Resolution R2-2025 Volunteers & Elected Officials Resolution

Resolution R3-2025 HB 581 Homestead Exemption opt out Resolution

Resolution R4-2025 First Responder PTSD Resolution

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**If needed**

- Personnel
- Real Estate
- Litigation

**APPEARANCES**

**MEETING ADJOURN**

FEBRUARY 11, 2025 Board Meeting

**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 14, 2025**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 6:32 p.m. with a prayer and the pledge. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Green, Baggett, Kinsey and Bussey. County Manager Jason Weeks, County Clerk Carolyn Wilson, and Financial Officer Teri Odom.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS-** Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add HB 581 homestead exemption, Family Connections contract FY 2026, and surplus equipment. **Motion made by Bussey to amend the agenda as listed above. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

Chairman Lewis relinquished himself and asked Commissioner David Kinsey to take over the meeting.

Commissioner Kinsey opened the floor for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman. Commissioner Baggett nominated Carvel Lewis for Chairman. **Motion made by Bussey to close nominations for Chairman. Second by Baggett.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green. **Motion made by Baggett to appoint Carvel Lewis for Chairman. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green. Chairman Lewis took back over the meeting. Chairman Lewis opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Commissioner Bussey nominated Commissioner Kinsey for Vice Chairman. **Motion made by Bussey to close nominations for Vice Chairman. Second by Green. Motion made by Bussey to appoint Commissioner David Kinsey as Vice Chairman. Second by Baggett.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Baggett, and Green. (Commissioner Kinsey abstained from voting.)

**APPOINT COUNTY AUDITOR-**Chairman Lewis called for a motion to appoint a County auditor. **Motion made by Kinsey to appoint R.W. Wingate & Company LLC as the County Auditor for FY 2025. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**APPOINT COUNTY ATTORNEY-**Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to appoint Jarrad-Davis, LLP as the County Attorney for FY 2025. **Motion made by Kinsey to continue County Attorney services with Jarrad-Davis, LLP for FY 2025. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS-** Chairman Lewis asked if there were any public comments. No comments at this time.

**PREVIOUS MONTH CHECK REGISTER**

**Motion made by Kinsey to approve the previous month's check register. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Motion made by Kinsey to approve the bills. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

## **MINUTES**

**December 10, 2024 Public Hearing minutes-Motion made by Bussey to approve the Public Hearing minutes. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**December 16, 2024 Regular meeting minutes-Motion made by Kinsey to approve the Regular meeting minutes. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**MANAGER'S REPORT-** Chairman Lewis asked County Manager Weeks for his report. Weeks stated that he received the EMS report for December. Total calls 32, 21 transports, 6 refusals, and 5 cancellations. Average response time was 7.5 minutes. We provided mutual aid 4 times and we did not receive/request any mutual aid.

**GDOT OFF SYSTEM SAFETY GRANT-** Weeks stated that he applied for this grant back in 2023. This grant is for striping and any safety signage issues. This was not scheduled to start until after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year but Weeks stated they started the week of Christmas. We have 11 roads that will get restriped and any safety signs that need replacing or added will be the next phase of the project.

**DOLLAR TREE DRIVEWAY-**Weeks explained that he has received several complaints about the driveway at the Dollar Tree and the lack of visibility. Weeks contacted Mr. Alfred Walls with GDOT. Mr. Walls asked Weeks to send an email explaining the issues and problems so that he can get this submitted to the proper authorities that handle these types of issues.

**LMIG 2025-**Weeks reminded the Commissioners about the LMIG application that has to be turned in by February 1, 2025 for FY 2025 funds. Weeks asked that a work session be scheduled to go over LMIG projects.

## **Tax Commissioner Report-**

### **Probate Report-**

### **SUPERIOR CLERK OF COURT-**

### **SHERIFF REPORT-**

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS-** Ms. Sara Lee Crumbs was present and gave an update on Family Connections. Ms. Crumbs said that they received the State of Hope grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 for literacy efforts. On February 3, 2025 the collaborative is holding their annual planning meeting via zoom. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Ms. Crumbs know. The First Readers book program has given 906 books to head start/early head start and Pre-K students since October of 2021. They have funds available to purchase books each month. The Senior produce delivery is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Family Connections parking lot. Residents must be 55 years or older and be present to receive the produce. On February 12, 2025 there will be a Mobile Health van available for residents needing screenings for pregnancy, HIV/STI, PAP smears, and primary care screenings. The van will be at the Family Connection office parking lot from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Chairman Lewis thanked Ms. Crumbs for her report.

**4-H COORDINATOR REPORT-** Mrs. Young was present and gave an update on 4-H. Mrs. Young stated that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class was the winner this past semester for good behavior points and received a pizza party. Mrs. Young told everyone that she took a group of students to the Ft. Gaines health and rehab facility to do crafts with the residents. She said the students and the residents had a wonderful time. She went onto say that the strawberry fundraiser has started and the funds will help kids to go to camp. Mrs. Young has been talking with County Manager about doing a bike-a-thon. This is still in the early planning stage and she will give more details as she gets them worked out. Chairman Lewis thanked Mrs. Young for her hard work and report.

### **Library-**

**Fire Dept. Report-** Chairman Lewis asked Fire Chief Pate for an update for the fire dept. Chief Pate introduced himself to everyone that may not know him. Chief Pate went onto say that the Fire Dept. is made up of a group of volunteers. These volunteers drop everything when they get a call. They received 67 calls this past year. Chief Pate went over different types of calls that they get called out to. He stated that he is working on finding grants to help purchase equipment. Chairman Lewis and the entire Board of Commissioners thanked Chief Pate and the entire Fire Dept. for their hard work for the residents of Georgetown-Quitman County.

### **EMA REPORT-**

### **CHAIRMAN REPORT-**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**DBHDD REGION 6 BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT-** Chairman Lewis asked that this be placed on the Work session agenda.

#### **NEW BUSINESS-**

**FY 2025 MONTHLY RECURRING PAYMENTS-** Chairman Lewis asked the Commissioners to look over the list of monthly recurring payments. **Motion made by Baggett to approve the FY 2025 monthly recurring payments. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

#### **WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY BOARD REAPPOINTMENT FOR LARRY RIGSBY-**

Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to reappoint Larry Rigsby to the Water and Sewer Authority board. **Motion made by Kinsey to reappoint Larry Rigsby to the Water & Sewer Authority board. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

#### **PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD REAPPOINTMENT FOR MICHAEL CAUSEY-**

Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to reappoint Michael Causey to the Planning and Zoning Board. **Motion made by Kinsey to reappoint Michael Causey to the Planning and Zoning Board. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**BEER & WINE APPLICATION FOR 768 GEORGETOWN, LLC.-** Chairman Lewis asked everyone to look over the Beer & Wine application for 768 Georgetown, LLC. After some discussion, a **motion was made by Bussey to approve the Beer and Wine application for 768 Georgetown, LLC. Second by Baggett.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**TAX COMMISSIONER LETTER-**Chairman Lewis read the letter aloud and explained the reason for this letter is required for the Tax Commissioner to collect funds and disburse the funds to The Unified Government of Georgetown-Quitman County. **Motion made by Bussey to approve the Tax Commissioner letter to Mrs. Mindy Ward. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**SHERIFF LETTER**-Chairman Lewis explained that this letter to the Sheriff is required for the collection of funds and disbursement to The Unified Government of Georgetown-Quitman County. **Motion made by Bussey to approve the letter to Sheriff Davis. Second by Baggett.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**ARCHITECT APPROVAL FOR CDBG**-Chairman Lewis explained that this CDBG is for the addition at the Community Center. River Valley Regional Commission submitted the 3 architects that sent their RFP's in. After discussing each RFP, a **motion was made by Kinsey to go with 2WR. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**SWGA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD APPOINTMENTS-** Chairman Lewis explained that the two appointments for Georgetown-Quitman County are due. Ms. Leslie Culver and himself are the current two members. Chairman Lewis requested that he come off of this board. Ms. Culver is willing to continue to serve. **Motion made by Kinsey to reappoint Ms. Leslie Culver to the SWGA Regional Dev. Auth. Board. Second by Baggett.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**-Chairman Lewis stated that we have 2 garbage trucks that need to be declared surplus. Commissioner Kinsey asked if these trucks were out of service. Weeks stated that they are out of service. Weeks stated that we have 2 additional trucks that are in service.

**Motion made by Kinsey to declare the 2007 Sterling AC TERRA VIN#2FACGDC87AX84356 and the 2012 Kenworth T370 VIN#2NKHHN7XOCM316158 surplus. Second by Green.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS FY 2026 CONTRACT**-Chairman Lewis told everyone that The Unified Gov't Of Georgetown-Quitman County serves as the fiscal agent for Family Connections. **Motion made by Baggett to approve the Family Connections FY 2026 contract. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**HB 581 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION**-Chairman Lewis opened the discussion on HB 581. After a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of this legislation, a **motion was made by Bussey to move forward with advertising the public hearings with the intentions to opt out. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, and Baggett. Voting No-Green.

Chairman Lewis asked everyone to look at their calendars to set up a work session. The work session is scheduled for January 22, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**APPEARANCES**

**MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

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Carvel Lewis, Chairman

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David Kinsey, Vice Chairman

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Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

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Jerry Green, Commissioner

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Richard Baggett, Commissioner

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Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager

**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION  
CALLED MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 30, 2025  
9:00 a.m.**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 9:07 a.m. with a prayer. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Green, Baggett, Kinsey and Bussey. County Manager Jason Weeks, County Clerk Carolyn Wilson, and Financial Officer Teri Odom.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS-** Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add capitol updates and mileage rate increase. **Motion made by Bussey to amend the agenda as listed above. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**LMIG FY 2025-** Chairman Lewis asked County manager Weeks to go over LMIG FY 2025. Weeks explained that the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) program provides funds to local governments to perform improvements to their roadway network each year. Our amount for this year is \$212,000.00. The application deadline is February 1st of each program year. Weeks stated that he has already submitted the application to meet the deadline. Weeks went over the roads that he submitted and the cost but explained that the application can be modified to add, delete or change the roads that he turned in. Weeks said that the Commission would not have to make a decision until early summer. Weeks also mentioned that we do have to do a 10% match for the grant funds.

**EMERGENCY SERVICE ASSESSMENT ON UNUSABLE PROPERTY-**Weeks explained that there have been some citizens asking about the Emergency service assessment on unusable property. After some discussion, a **motion was made by Kinsey to table the emergency service assessment on unusable property. Second by Baggett.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**RETIREMENT-**Chairman Lewis read over the resolution that would amend the retirement plan to allow eligible employees to make Roth contributions to the plan. Financial Officer Odom explained that this will allow employees to decide if they want to make Roth contributions pre-tax or taxed. Odom stated that this will be placed on the agenda for the Regular commission meeting to be voted on if the Commission agrees on this amendment. All Commissioners were in favor of adding to the agenda for the Regular commission meeting.

**NOTIFICATION SYSTEM-**Chairman Lewis explained that this is something that the Commission Board would like to put in place to help get information out to the Community. County manager Weeks suggested that we try Facebook to get the information and notifications out to the Citizens. After a brief discussion, everyone agreed on trying Facebook as an informational only page.

**LIBRARY STORAGE-**Weeks told everyone that Librarian Mrs. Betty Fair asked him to come to the library and she told him she has does not have enough closet space for storage. Mrs. Fair suggested getting a storage building to put out in the parking lot. Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to ask 2WR the architects that designed the library what the cost would be to add storage on the inside of the library. Weeks said that he would look into this.

**DBHDD REGION 6 BOARD MEMBER-** Chairman Lewis asked everyone to be thinking of someone that would be willing to serve on this board.

**SWGA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**-Chairman Lewis told everyone that this board meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday quarterly. Chairman Lewis asked Commissioner Green if he would be willing to serve on this board. Commissioner Green asked if he could have a couple of days to look at his schedule and get back with Chairman Lewis.

**MILEAGE RATE INCREASE**- Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to go over the mileage rate increase. Weeks stated that the Federal mileage rate has gone up from .67 cents to .70 cents. After some discussion, **a motion was made by Green to increase the mileage rate to .70 cents. Second by Baggett.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**CALENDAR COMMITTEE**-Chairman Lewis discussed with everyone about creating the Georgetown-Quitman County Calendar committee to help get information out to the citizens of Georgetown-Quitman County. Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to create the Georgetown-Quitman County Calendar committee. **A motion was made by Baggett to create the Georgetown-Quitman County Calendar committee. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Baggett, and Green.

**CAPITOL UPDATES**-Chairman Lewis went over some new legislation that is being discussed. Chairman Lewis explained HB 52 relating to homestead exemption by qualified disabled veteran, filing requirements, periodic substantiation of eligibility, persons eligible without application, and retroactive award, so as to extend a homestead exemption for unremarried surviving spouses or minor children of a disabled veteran to include any future homestead; to clarify language; to provide for related matters; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to provide for applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes, HB 92 extends HB 581 homestead exemption opt out deadline to May 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline was March 1<sup>st</sup>, Chairman Lewis also went over Senate Bill 15. This was introduced to allow Non-partisan elections for County Commissioners, HB 66 relating to title ad valorem tax on motor vehicles, so as to expand the definition of a rental motor vehicle with respect to the tax; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes, and HB 90 is a bill to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 48-5-7.4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to preferential assessment for bona fide conservation use property and bona fide residential transitional property, so as to increase the maximum acreage to qualify for assessment and taxation as a bona fide conservation use property; to provide for related matters; to provide for a contingent effective date and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Chairman Lewis went over HB 85 this bill reforms the compensation system for superior court judges in Georgia, introducing several key changes. Starting July 1, 2025, judges will have the option to switch to a new compensation model where they receive a state-mandated base salary (not exceeding 90% of the base salary for federal district court judges) and potential additional locality pay from their county or counties of up to 10% of their state salary. Judges currently in office on July 1, 2025, can choose to maintain their existing compensation structure or opt into the new system. The bill eliminates most county salary supplements for judges, though chief judges can retain existing local supplements. Counties can continue providing fringe benefits to judges as they did before July 1, 2025. The bill also includes a unique provision suspending local laws that automatically adjust other government employees' salaries based on judicial compensation, preventing automatic salary increases for other officials. This suspension will be lifted on July 1, 2026, giving local governments time to adjust their compensation structures. The legislation aims to standardize judicial compensation while providing flexibility for individual judges and local governments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**APPEARANCES**  
**MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

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Carvel Lewis, Chairman

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David Kinsey, Vice Chairman

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Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

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Jerry Green, Commissioner

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Richard Baggett, Commissioner

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Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager



**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**HB 581 PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 30, 2025**  
**11:00 a.m.**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The public hearing was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 11:15 a.m. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Green , Baggett, Kinsey, and Bussey. County Clerk Carolyn Wilson, Financial Officer Teri Odom, and County Manager Jason Weeks.

**PUBLIC HEARING-** Chairman Lewis opened the public hearing by explaining HB 581 homestead exemption. Chairman Lewis also explained that this is the first public hearing that is required if we choose to opt out of HB 581. Chairman Lewis asked for questions and comments for discussion. After hearing several questions and comments, Chairman Lewis closed the public hearing at 12:10 p.m. Chairman Lewis reminded everyone we have 2 more public hearings on February 11, 2025.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-**

**APPEARANCES –**

**MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 12:10 p.m.

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Carvel Lewis, Chairman

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David Kinsey, Vice Chairman

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Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

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Jerry Green, Commissioner

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Richard Baggett, Commissioner

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Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager