



HALL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS VOTING MEETING MINUTES

**Hall County Government Center 2nd Floor
2875 Browns Bridge Road
Gainesville, GA 30504**

**Streamed Live on Hall County Government's Website - www.hallcounty.org
Thursday, March 12, 2026 - 06:00 PM**

Call to Order

Chairman Gibbs at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Chairman David Gibbs, Vice-Chairman Kathy Cooper and Commissioners Billy Powell, Gregg Poole and Jeff Stowe

Also present were Assistant County Administrators Casey Ramsey and John Gentry, Commission Clerk Jennifer Rivera, Deputy Commission Clerk Ana Dominguez, County Attorney Justin Lawhon and Senior Assistant County Attorney Nathaniel Anderson

Approve Agenda

Commissioner Cooper/Commissioner Powell — Approve with an amendment to add two items. Addition of item 22 for the approval and authorization for the Chairman to execute a resolution suspending the compensation of the remaining members of the Planning Commission subject to review and approval by the County Attorney. Addition of item 23 for the approval of a correction to the Board's Voting Meeting minutes of December 11, 2025, regarding the approved conditions of zoning for 5111 Old Winder Highway, which was item 33 of that Voting Meeting agenda. — Vote: 4 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

Invocation

1 Commissioner Gregg Poole

Pledge

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Proclamation/s

Ms. Rivera addressed the Board and introduced the proclamations.

- 3 Approve the proclamation recognizing March 15-17, 2026 as the 107th Birthday of the American Legion.

Commissioner Poole presented American Legion Post 7 members Mark Arnold, Jamie Compton, Charles Lewis, John Licato, Scott Suracco, Aron Cartes and John Gentry with the Proclamation.

Commissioner Poole/Commissioner Stowe — approve — Vote: 5 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

- 4 Approve the proclamation recognizing Friday, March 20, 2026 through Sunday, March 22, 2026 as the 23rd Annual Grady Young Foundation Memorial Scholarship Weekend.

Commissioner Stowe presented Janice Young with the Proclamation.

Commissioner Stowe/Commissioner Poole — approve — Vote: 5 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

- 5 Approve the proclamation recognizing March 23-27, 2026 as Government Finance Professionals Week.

Commissioner Powell presented Financial Services Director Taylor Samples and staff members Gail Ramey, Rachel Pearson, Sommer Green, Patti Roy, Andrew Youngblood, Elizabeth White, Traci Babcock, Lynn King, Savannah Swing, Kari Simonds, Amanda Maize, Dana Harris, Shannon Martin, Diana Avalos and Carlos Martinez with the Proclamation.

Commissioner Poole/Commissioner Stowe — approve — Vote: 5 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Powell/Commissioner Stowe — approve — Vote: 5 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

- 6 Approve the March 9, 2026 Work Session minutes.
- 7 Approve the March 9, 2026 Executive Session minutes.
- 8 Approve the February 26, 2026 Voting Meeting minutes.
- 9 Approve the re-appointment of Emily Bagwell to the Chicopee Woods Area Park Commission to serve a term from March 27, 2026 to March 26, 2029.
Commission District 2.
- 10 Approve Change Order #2 to Task Order #2026-013 under RFP/Q #42-002 Demand Services for Minor Resurfacing, Paving, and Full Depth Reclamation for the FY 2026 Base and Pave program to add 1.94 additional miles of base and paving to Allied Paving Contractors, Inc. of Pendergrass, GA, in the amount of \$460,545.00.

Other Business - Community Services and Parks

Lisa MacKinney, Director of the Hall County Library System, addressed the Board.

- 11 Approve the award of RFQ/P #46-028 East Hall Library Opening Day Collection for the Hall County Library System to Childrens Plus, Inc. (dba Libraria) of Beecher, IL, in the estimated amount of \$205,320.00 and Midwest Tape, LLC of Holland, OH, in the estimated amount of \$39,015.00.

Ms. MacKinney announced that the Library System received the award of "2025 Library of the Year". A celebration will be held on March 30, 2026 at 4:00 pm at the Gainesville Library . The event will also be livestreamed at all other library branches for those who would like to attend at their local library.

Commissioner Stowe/Commissioner Poole — approve — Vote: 5 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

Public Hearing to amend Hall County's Zoning Map as follows:

Katie Ahmed, Planning & Zoning Administrator, addressed the Board.

- 12 **7355 Tribble Gap Road | Special Use |** for Institutional Residential | on a 1.70± acre tract located on the west side of Tribble Gap Road approximately 1,100 feet from its intersection with Cornelia Highway | Zoned AR-1; Tax Parcel 09030 000022 | **Proposed Use: Institutional Residential** | Commission District 3 | **Haley Stapleton, applicant** *Note: Tabled at the February 26, 2026 Voting Meeting until the March 12, 2026 Voting Meeting.*

Mr. Anderson introduced the item.

Commissioner Poole/Commissioner Stowe — approve removing item 12 from the table — Vote: 5 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

Ms. Ahmed discussed the item.

Commissioner Poole/Commissioner Stowe — approve withdrawal of item 12 — Vote: 5 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

- 13 **2785 Athens Highway | Special Use |** to move a site-built house more than 7 years old into the County | on a proposed 0.91± acre tract located on the east side of Athens Highway at its intersection with Wallace Road | Zoned AR-1; Tax Parcel 15023A000024 (pt) | **Proposed Use: Single family dwelling |** Commission District 3 | **Daniel Jaimes, applicant**

Mr. Anderson introduced the item. Ms. Ahmed discussed the item.

*Commissioner Poole/Commissioner Stowe — approve withdrawal of item 13 —
Vote: 5 to 0*

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

*Commissioner Stowe stated he was recusing himself from items 14 and 15.
Commissioner Stowe exited the meeting at 6:25 pm.*

- 14 **1780 Candler Road | Special Use** | for outdoor storage, major in Gateway Corridor Overlay District (GCOD) | on a 2.23± acre tract located on the southwest side of Candler Road approximately 340 feet south of its intersection with Construction Drive | Zoned I-1 and AR-1; Tax Parcel 15031A000058 |
Proposed Use: Equipment sales and repair | Commission District 4 |
JenSto Equipment LLC, applicant

Mr. Anderson introduced items 14 and 15, which were heard together. Ms. Ahmed discussed the items. Mr. Anderson conducted the Public Hearing.

The following people addressed the Board regarding both items 14 and 15:

Favor:

- *Taylor Stowe, 1780 Candler Road, Gainesville*

Commissioner Cooper/Commissioner Poole — approve items 14 and 15 with the four (4) conditions listed below — Vote: 3 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — recused

Motion passed.

Conditions:

- 1. The property shall be developed in accordance with the site plan dated February 16, 2026, and as described in the project narrative dated February 15, 2026, modified as necessary for compliance with conditions herein and development standards enforced at the time of site plan approval.*
- 2. The storage of wrecked, junk, and/or inoperable vehicles shall be prohibited.*
- 3. No variances or development exceptions are granted as part of this request that are not explicitly granted by board approval. The development shall be compliant with the Unified Development Code of Hall County, as well as any other agencies or reviewing departments, including, but not limited to Environmental Health, the Fire Marshal, and Hall County Engineering.*
- 4. All conditions of zoning shall be made a part of any plats or construction plans created for the property.*

15 **1780 Candler Road | Variance to Section 6.2 |** Gateway Corridor Overlay District (GCOD) standards | on a 2.23± acre tract located on the southwest side of Candler Road approximately 340 feet south of its intersection with Construction Drive | Zoned I-1 and AR-1; Tax Parcel 15031A000058 | **Proposed Use: Equipment sales and repair |** Commission District 4 | **JenSto Equipment LLC, applicant**

Items 14 and 15 were heard together. See item 14 for public hearing details and motion approving this item.

Commissioner Stowe re-entered the meeting at 6:33 pm.

16 **1658 & 1700 Candler Road | Rezone** | from Light Industrial 1 (I-1) and Agricultural Residential (AR-1) to Light Industrial (I-1) | on a combined 132± acre tract located on the west side of Candler Road at its intersection with Oakbrook Drive | Zoned AR-1 & I-1; Tax parcels 15031 000026; 15031 000025A | **Proposed use: Private gun club** | Commission District 4 | **Cherokee Gun Club, Inc., applicant**

Mr. Anderson introduced items 16 and 17, which were heard together. Ms. Ahmed discussed the items. Mr. Anderson conducted the Public Hearing.

The following people addressed the Board regarding both items 16 and 17:

Favor:

- *Tyler Smith, 340 Jesse Jewell Parkway, Suite 300, Gainesville*

Commissioner Stowe/Commissioner Powell — approve with the three (3) conditions listed below — Vote: 4 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

Conditions:

- 1. Any expansion to the outdoor shooting ranges shall be subject to the review and approval of the Board of Commissioners.*
- 2. The days of operation are limited to Monday through Saturday, opening 30 minutes after sunrise and closing 30 minutes after sunset. Sunday operating hours are 12:30 p.m. until 30 minutes after sunset.*
- 3. All conditions of zoning shall be made a part of any plats or construction plans created for the property.*

17 **1658 & 1700 Candler Road | Special Use** | for an outdoor shooting range | on a combined 132± acre tract located on the west side of Candler Road at its intersection with Oakbrook Drive | Zoned AR-1 & I-1; Tax parcels 15031 000026; 15031 000025A; | **Proposed use: Outdoor shooting range** | Commission District 4 | **Cherokee Gun Club, Inc., applicant**

Items 16 and 17 were heard together. See item 16 for public hearing details.

Commissioner Stowe/Commissioner Poole — approve with the three (3) conditions listed below — Vote: 4 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

Conditions:

- 1. Any expansion to the outdoor shooting ranges shall be subject to the review and approval of the Board of Commissioners.*
- 2. The days of operation are limited to Monday through Saturday, opening 30 minutes after sunrise and closing 30 minutes after sunset. Sunday operating hours are 12:30 p.m. until 30 minutes after sunset.*
- 3. All conditions of zoning shall be made a part of any plats or construction plans created for the property.*

- 18 **6962 Spout Springs Road | Rezone** | from Agricultural Residential (AR-1) to Agricultural (AG-1) | on a 4.39± acre tract located on the west side of Spout Springs Road approximately 150 feet south of its intersection with Deaton Henry Road | Zoned AR-1; Tax Parcel 15042 000120 | **Proposed Use: Second dwelling** | Commission District 1 | **Scott & Brandy Weaver, applicant**

Mr. Anderson introduced the item. Ms. Ahmed discussed the item. Mr. Anderson conducted the Public Hearing.

The following people addressed the Board:

Favor:

- *Brandy Weaver, 6962 Spout Springs Road, Flowery Branch*

Commissioner Cooper/Commissioner Powell — approve — Vote: 4 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

- 19 **2485 Dawsonville Highway | Variance to Section 3.2 |** to reduce the minimum yards | on a 4.87± acre tract located on the south side of Dawsonville Highway approximately 315 feet from its intersection with Vaughndale Circle | Zoned AR-1; Tax Parcel 10085 000054 | **Proposed Use: Accessory building |** Commission District 2 | **Cole Burchardt, applicant**

Mr. Anderson introduced the item. Ms. Ahmed discussed the item. Mr. Anderson conducted the Public Hearing.

The following people addressed the Board:

Favor:

- *Cole Burchardt, 2485 Dawsonville Highway, Gainesville*

Commissioner Powell/Commissioner Stowe — approve — Vote: 4 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

- 20 **3113 Shelter Cove | Variance to Section 4.3 |** to reduce the minimum yards | on a 0.46± acre tract located on the east side of Shelter Cove approximately 465 feet south of its intersection with Chestatee Road | Zoned R-1; Tax Parcel 10072 002100 | **Proposed Use: Accessory structure |** Commission District 2 | **Michael Reid Daniel, applicant**

Mr. Anderson introduced the item. Ms. Ahmed discussed the item. Mr. Anderson conducted the Public Hearing.

The following people addressed the Board:

Favor:

- *Reid Daniel, 3113 Shelter Cove, Gainesville*
- *Ronnie Fouts, 3107 Shelter Cove, Gainesville*

Commissioner Powell/Commissioner Stowe — approve — Vote: 4 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

- 21 **5001 Bryant Quarter Road | Variance to Section 9.2.4 |** to reduce the required road frontage | on a proposed 4.96± acre tract located on the northwest side of Bryant Quarter Road approximately 1180 feet southwest of its intersection with Emory Griffin Road | Zoned AR-1; Tax Parcel 15003 000193 (pt) | **Proposed Use: Minor subdivision |** Commission District 3 | **Yajaira Rodriguez, applicant**

Mr. Anderson introduced the item. Ms. Ahmed discussed the item. Mr. Anderson conducted the Public Hearing.

The following people addressed the Board:

Favor:

- *Yajaira Rodriguez, 5001 Bryant Quarter Road, Gillsville*

Opposition:

- *John Clouse, 4965 Bryant Quarter Road, Gillsville*

Commissioner Poole/Commissioner Stowe — approve — Vote: 4 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

Other Business

Mr. Lawhon addressed the Board.

- 22 Approval and authorization for the Chairman to execute a resolution suspending the compensation of the remaining members of the Planning Commission, subject to review and approval by the County Attorney.

Mr. Lawhon introduced the item.

Commissioner Poole/Commissioner Stowe — approve with the modification that retroactive pay be removed from the resolution — Vote: 5 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

- 23 Approval of a correction to the Board's meeting minutes of December 11, 2025, regarding the approved conditions of zoning for 5111 Old Winder Highway, which was item 33 of that Voting Meeting agenda.

Mr. Lawhon discussed the item.

Commissioner Cooper/Commissioner Powell — motion to correct the minutes of the December 11, 2025 Voting Meeting regarding 5111 Old Winder Highway to remove condition 26— Vote: 5 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

County Administrator

Mr. Gentry expressed thanks to the Commission as a Post 7 member and 32 year veteran for recognizing the American Legion. Mr. Gentry summarized a meeting held earlier in the day with Representative McCormick and the US Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Commander at Sardis Creek Park, where a newly renovated structure (future home of Parks Administrative Offices) was showcased. Hall County will enter into an agreement to co-manage 11 additional parks with the Army Corps to keep them open and accessible year round. Mr. Gentry thanked Representative McCormick, Parks Director Brnt Holloway and staff for facility preparation. Stated that the Corps and Representative McCormick intend to use Hall County's agreements as a national model for Corps-managed facilities.

Commission Time

Commissioner Billy Powell, District 2, acknowledged current members of Leadership Hall. The following members addressed the Board:

- *Rebecca Thurmond (Georgia Mountain Food Bank)*
- *Alejandra Carrillo (L. A. Automotive)*
- *Isaac Teasley (All-N-One Auto Repair)*

Commissioner Gregg Poole, District 3, requested the Board's consideration that at the next Voting Meeting on a resolution to call for local delegation to introduce legislation to amend the Act that created the Hall County Board of Commissioners, first approved in 1935, to add provisions similar to what Dekalb County has as part of its Organizational Act that changed its form of government in 1981. Currently, Dekalb County's Act provides that "no planning or zoning ordinances shall become law unless approved by the member of the Commission representing the district in which the subject property is located, or by one of the members of the Commission elected from the County at large." In 2000, the Georgia Court of Appeals in Head v. Dekalb County upheld that provision as binding in the face of a legal challenge. Commissioner Poole further stated that other District Commissioners can approve developments in a district against that District Commissioner's position without any accountability to that district's voters. Proposed change would ensure accountability or alternatively require countywide elections.

Chairman David Gibbs reflected on the preciousness of time after a North Hall teacher, Jason Ryan Hughes, was tragically and accidentally ran over, leaving a spouse and young children. He noted Mr. Hughes' role and impact, and requested thoughts and prayers for his family.

A moment of silence was held.

Adjourn

Commissioner Powell/Commissioner Stowe — adjourn at 7:23 p.m. — Vote: 5 to 0

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.