



HALL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING SUMMARY 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
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 - 03:00 PM**

Call to Order

Chairman Gibbs at 3:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Also present were County Administrator Zach Propes, Assistant County Administrators Casey Ramsey and John Gentry, Commission Clerk Jennifer Rivera, Deputy Commission Clerk Ana Dominguez and County Attorney Justin Lawhon

Approve Agenda

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.

County Attorney

Mr. Lawhon addressed the Board.

- 1 Consider the adoption of a resolution regarding members of the Hall County Planning Commission.

Mr. Lawhon discussed the item as follows:

The item on the agenda is for consideration of a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Hall County, Georgia for the appointment of Thomas M. Mitchell Esq., as Special Counsel for Hall County for the purpose of drafting and

serving written charges upon certain members of the Hall County Planning Commission to determine whether they should be removed for cause and to provide for the scheduling of a hearing before a hearing officer designated by the Board to receive evidence pertaining thereto.

The Unified Development Code (UDC) of Hall County provides for the creation of the Hall County Planning Commission, an appointed board delegated certain quasi-judicial zoning and land use review powers.

Section 11.1.1(B)(3) of our UDC expressly authorizes the Board to remove any member of the Planning Commission for cause on written charges after a public hearing.

The Board was recently made aware of the conduct of certain members of the Planning Commission that may have been in violation of Georgia's Open Meetings Act. The Board authorized an independent investigation of the actions of the Planning Commission and that investigation has uncovered at least five possible violations of the Open Meetings Act this year in which three members of that body (including Chairman Chris Braswell, Planning Commission Member Stan Hunt, and Planning Commission Member Frank Sosebee) met as a quorum and discussed official business of the Planning Commission or had the same presented to them by Planning staff without having providing public notice of the meeting or posting an agenda as required.

The resolution, if adopted, would acknowledge that based on the investigation to date, a reasonable belief exists that Chairman Braswell, Mr. Hunt, and Mr. Sosebee did violate provisions of Georgia's Open Meetings Act and, for that reason, may be subject to termination and removal from office for cause upon written charges and after a public hearing.

The resolution would appoint Thomas Mitchell of Carothers & Mitchell, LLC to act as Special Counsel for Hall County for the purpose drafting and serving written charges upon Chairman Braswell, Mr. Hunt, and Mr. Sosebee, setting forth their alleged violations of the Open Meetings Act and any applicable county or state ethical standards, and to present the same before a neutral Hearing Office to be designated by the Board to receive evidence and conduct a public hearing on the charges as required by Hall County's code. The named Planning Commissioners shall be afforded the opportunity to present a defense to the charges and may be represented by counsel of their choice at the proceeding.

Upon conclusion of the hearing, which shall be scheduled to occur within thirty days of the date of this resolution, the Hearing Officer shall forward his or her findings of fact and recommendations to the Board for final approval and action which could include removal of those Planning Commissioners from office for cause.

Commissioner Poole inquired as to if the evidence would be made public. Mr. Lawhon confirmed that the evidence would be available for the public at the hearing.

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

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — abstained

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.

Adjourn

*Commissioner Stowe/Commissioner Poole — adjourn the Meeting at 3:05 p.m.
—Vote: 5 to 0*

Commissioner Cooper — aye

Commissioner Powell — aye

Chairman Gibbs — aye

Commissioner Poole — aye

Commissioner Stowe — aye

Motion passed.