Members Present: Chairman William J. (Bill) Kicklighter, Commissioners Ricky C. Jarriel, Bobby Kennedy, Billy Conley, Wayne Tatum, and Wanda S. Allen

Staff Present: County Manager Frank H. Murphy, Certified County Clerk Sheila R. Mills, County Attorney Tom A. Peterson, EMA Director/Fire Chief Walt Rogers, EMS Director Dustin Dasher, County Engineer Dennis Odom, Project Manager Hal Dasher, Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Reese, Animal Control/Code Enforcement Officer Seth Boyett, Animal Control/Code Enforcement Officer Loretta Boyett, and County Extension Coordinator/ANR Agent Aubrey Shirley

Elected Officials Present: Sheriff Kyle Sapp

Chairman Kicklighter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., gave the invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Approval of Agenda:**

Chairman Kicklighter called for a motion to approve the Agenda.

There was a motion by Commissioner Conley and a 2nd by Commissioner Allen to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Chairman Kicklighter next called for approval of the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Regular Commission Meeting Minutes - **March 3, 2025**
2. Special Called Meeting Minutes – **March 18, 2025**
3. Material Storage Easement – **Talmadge Olen Jones Estate**

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Kennedy to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

3. **Proclamation 2025-1: Child Abuse Prevention Month (Attached)**

Tattnall County Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) Director Kelli Altman took the opportunity to introduce new case manager Mr. David Jones and expressed the groups excitement at having a gentleman, as they have not had one in Tattnall County for quite some time. She went on to express her sincere appreciation to each of the supervisors and case managers present who introduced themselves as follows:

- Margaret McCray, Supervisor, Tattnall/Evans County Child Protective Services (CPS)/Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), travels from Jeff Davis County
- Carol Brewton, DFCS Case Manager, Family Preservation & Foster Care, travels from Liberty County
- David Jones, Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigations, travels from Bulloch County

- Yolanda Harper, Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigations, travels from Bulloch County
- Janel Hogans, DFCS Case Manager, Family Preservation & Foster Care, travels from Vidalia

Director Altman again expressed her gratitude to each of these dedicated individuals who are on call 24/7 and committed to taking care of the children and families in Tattnall County and Evans County. She went on to give a brief update regarding services in Tattnall County from January 1, 2025 to present:

- Tattnall County only has six (6) foster homes currently, with two (2) of those being respite homes, meaning they only provide short-term services when the others cannot. Director Altman encouraged anyone interested in becoming a foster parent to call 877-210-KIDS (877-210-5437).
- Twenty-eight (28) children are in foster care, yet only eight (8) of those could be placed in Tattnall County due to the lack of available foster homes. There are some placed near the Tennessee and Alabama borders which is challenging for the case workers who have to travel to them monthly. She added the advantages of not having to relocate the children out of county is that they can continue to attend school, as well as reducing the case managers time away due to travel.
- Fifty-seven (57) reports of abuse and neglect in Tattnall County, with the majority of those being neglect that is substance-abuse related
- The goal is to always place children with relatives if they can be approved, but if not, they must be placed in foster care or group homes

Director Altman closed by sharing fifteen (15) children were adopted last year, and asked everyone to share in the celebration as three (3) more just found out they were being adopted next week. A staggering statistic is that many times these children have been in care for two (2) years or more before they are adopted. She also thanked members for their continued help and support.

Chairman Kicklighter read the proclamation aloud proclaiming April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Tattnall County, Georgia. There were several in attendance who joined Chairman Kicklighter for a picture taken by the local newspaper to commemorate the proclamation.

4. **Resolution 2025-9: 2025 SPLOST Bond**

County Attorney Tom Peterson stated the County is nearing the bond closing deadline set for April 15, 2025. Having met all requirements, approval and adoption of this resolution and validation of the bond at closing as scheduled allows for a seamless transition from the existing SPLOST to the newly reimposed SPLOST. Many have been involved in the lengthy, complicated process and he extended a genuine thank you to County Manager Frank H. Murphy and staff. County Attorney Peterson introduced Mr. Jon Pannell, Bond Counsel, Gray Pannell & Woodward LLP of Savannah and Mr. Trey Monroe, Managing Director, Stifel Investment Services, both of whom were integral to the process.

Mr. Jon Pannell explained this relates to the SPLOST election held in November of 2024 that authorized renewal of the SPLOST and the County issuing a bond secured by that SPLOST. The bond resolution authorizes the issuance of a $6,000,000.00 General Obligation Sales Tax Bond which allows the County to proceed with the designated projects rather than waiting for the six (6) year SPLOST term. Bids were solicited from institutions, including local banks, with JPMorgan Chase Bank winning the award.

Mr. Trey Monroe elaborated the RFP (Request for Proposal) was compiled to solicit bids from potential vendors and sent to nine (9) different financial institutions that generally have interest in buying these types of bonds. Three (3) responses were received back, with JPMorgan Chase being the winner with a 3.58% fixed rate for the term of the bond, which coincides with the same term as the SPLOST.

This means that when the SPLOST term ends the debt will also have been paid. He went on to add the next closest bid was a rate of 3.61% from PNC Bank. Mr. Monroe noted the bids being that close is a good indicator the best rate available was attained. He remarked going into the process early on they were hopeful a rate of 4% would be attainable. He stated Tattnall County's credit quality remains really good, we have great financials, and do an excellent job managing it which is reflected in the level of interest rate responses.

Hearing no questions, Chairman Kicklighter called for a motion to approve and adopt.

There was a motion by Commissioner Kennedy and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to approve the $6,000,000.00 General Obligation SPLOST Bond and adopt Resolution 2025-9: 2025 SPLOST Bond. Motion carried unanimously.

5. 2nd Reading Chapter 14 Animal Control Ordinance (Attached)

County Attorney Tom Peterson gave a brief review of the Chapter 14 amendment. There are 2 articles:

- Article I – Regulations Regarding Animals Generally
- Article II – Dogs and/or Cats
  Article II Division 2 – Dangerous Dogs

County Manager Frank H. Murphy added the previous regulations only provided for viscous animals and this goes a step further in regulating the humane care and treatment of animals in Tattnall County. He thanked Animal Control/Code Enforcement Officer's Seth Boyett and Loretta Boyett who have worked tirelessly to save animals through adoptions and rescue organizations and again stated the ordinance now enhances what we refer to as animal control with a heart.

There was a motion by Commissioner Kennedy and a 2nd by Commissioner Jarriel to adopt the Chapter 14 Animal Control Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

6. 2025 GFSTC Fireworks Tax Grant Acceptance Consideration & Request to Solicit Bids

EMA Director/Fire Chief Walt Rogers shared we apply for the grant annually and have been awarded $25,000.00 for 2025 with a local ten percent (10%) match required. The grant funding is made available through the sale of fireworks in Georgia with the tax proceeds awarded to the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council (GFSTC) to help fire departments attain turnout gear, SCBA's, hoses, nozzles and fans as well as general firefighting equipment. A portion of the proceeds are also awarded to the Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC) to hep EMS departments purchase trauma-related equipment. EMA Director/Fire Chief Rogers stated the total cost to purchase ten (10) sets of turnout gear, which is a full suit of firefighting gear consisting of boots, pants, a coat, helmet, a hood, and gloves, which is worn on every call, will be approximately $32,030.00, broken down as follows:

• Award	$25,000.00
Local 10% Match	$ 2,500.00
Estimated Overage	$ 4,530.00
Local Funding Est.	$ 7,030.00

He shared Tattnall County just had a class of thirteen (13) new volunteer firefighters complete training. EMA Director/Fire Chief Rogers asked members to approve the grant acceptance and authorize him to solicit bids for the purchase of gear.

There was a motion by Commissioner Allen and a 2nd by Commissioner Tatum to approve the grant acceptance and authorize the solicitation of bids for ten (10) sets of turnout gear. Motion carried unanimously.

7. LMIG-LRA Grant Project List Approval & Bid Request

County Engineer Odom took the opportunity to first commend the Road Superintendent Lynn Cribbs and the Road Department for the great job they have done in repairing and improving our roads. Severe tropical storms created flooding and hurricane force winds caused extensive damage and created many challenges on our roadways, yet most all roads have been, or are scheduled to be fixed. One such road, Levi Kennedy Road, had significant damage and was repaired in October only to have major damages again due to the November 7, 2024 storm flooding. A drainage study conducted by EXP U.S. Services, Inc., our contracted on-call transportation and engineering construction and inspection, conducted a drainage study and recommends in addition to replacing three (3) forty-eight-inch (48") pipes that four (4) sixty-inch (60") pipes also be added. County Engineer Odom prepared a cost estimate for the repair which came to $260,000.00. Fortunately, a few weeks ago he received notification that GDOT (Georgia Department of Transportation) is awarding an FY2025 LMIG (Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant) LRA (Local Road Assistance) Grant in the amount of $1,233,388.91. His recommendation is to use this funding for the following in each district:

• District 1 – Cedar Creek Road – Resurfacing 1.88 miles from Cedar Creek Church Road to Hillview Road	$229,000.00
• District 2 – Levi Kennedy Road Pipe Replacement Replace existing 3-48" pipes and add 4-60" pipes	$260.000.00
• District 3 – Birdford Lake Road – Resurfacing 1.08 miles from John M. Brewton Road to the bridge	$132,000.00
• District 4 – Cyril Burkhalter Road – Widen, Level, & Resurface 1.83 miles from Hwy 144 to Hwy 23	$495,000.00
• District 5 – Harris Kicklighter Road – Resurfacing 1.00 mile from Tully Bland Road to 1 mile north	$122,000.00
Total Estimate	$1,238,000.00

County Engineer Odom asked for approval to apply for the funding for the projects as listed and permission to solicit bids.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to approve the LMIG-LRA grant funding application for the projects as listed and permission to solicit bids. Motion carried unanimously.

8. 2025-23 Rumble Strip Replacement Project Bid Results

County Engineer Dennis Odom presented three (3) bids received for the replacement of rumble strips that were installed in 2016 to be brought to current standards:

• Mid State Construction & Stripeing, Inc.	$ 17,420.00
• Peek Pavement Marking, LLC	$ 20,700.00
• Mid-State Striping, Inc.	$ 33,800.00

His recommendation was to accept the low bid from Mid State Construction & Stripeing, Inc. He went on to note that the approved replacement of rumble strips on Cyril Burkhalter Road will be changed in the contract to reflect the addition of rumble strips on Mile Field Road at Hwy 144 since the resurfacing on Cyril Burkhalter Road that was just approved will include the placement of rumble strips.

There was a motion by Commissioner Conley and a 2nd by Commissioner Tatum to accept and approve the low bid from Mid State Construction & Stripeing, Inc. in the amount of $17,420.00. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Roof Repair/Replace Various County Buildings Bid Results**

Project Manager Hal Dasher stated one (1) bid was received for the roof repair and replacement on the Animal Control building and the Maintenance Shop. Alfa Roofing Solutions, LLC bid as follows:

• Animal Control	$21,150.00
• Maintenance Shop	$ 4,200.00
	$25,350.00

Project Manager Dasher conducted a cost estimate considering all the relevant expenses and based on that his recommendation is to accept the bid presented, as it is a fair price for the project.

Chairman Kicklighter added that the company is also local.

There was a motion by Commissioner Tatum and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to approve and accept the bid from Alfa Roofing Solutions, LLC in the amount of $25,350.00. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **City of Collins Request**

1st District Commissioner Ricky C. Jarriel deferred to County Engineer Dennis Odom for explanation.

County Engineer Odom explained while the City of Collins is requesting our aid to clean out the deep ditch on Hwy 292 East for a sidewalk project using TIA (Transportation Investment Act) funding. He has spoken with someone at GDOT (Georgia Department of Transportation) and they have agreed to clean out the ditch prior to the cities project. After discussion of who would be responsible for acquiring the necessary easements, a recommendation was made by Commissioner Jarriel to table voting, as GDOT has indicated they may complete the clean out.

There was a motion by Commissioner Tatum and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to table the request. Motion carried unanimously.

11. **Tattnall County Board of Education Request**

Chairman Kicklighter stated the Tattnall County Board of Education is requesting loads of dirt delivered to the following locations at the County's convenience:

- South Tattnall Middle School – 2 loads placed behind where the school where buses park
- Tattnall County High School – 4 loads placed at clay pit that the County has been using
- North Tattnall Middle School – 4 loads placed behind the track

Chairman Kicklighter's recommendation is to deliver when the equipment is on rotation in each District. All were in agreement as the board has been very gracious and kind in giving easements and donated pits on their property which have been instrumental in providing the necessary material to repair many roads damaged by recent storms.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Tatum to grant the request as listed and deliver when the equipment is in each respective District. Motion carried unanimously.

12. **City of Reidsville Request**

2nd District Commissioner Bobby Kennedy shared he had spoken with the City of Reidsville Mayor Vickie Nail this morning and recommends tabling a vote until the May 5, 2025 meeting to allow time for further review of the request to provide assistance with a stormwater drainage project on Chandler Avenue.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Kennedy to table a vote until the May 5, 2025 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

13. **Browder Circle Speed Bump Consideration**

2nd District Commissioner Bobby Kennedy stated the Browder's have asked to have speed bumps installed half way down on Browder Circle at the second entrance off Old Reidsville Collins Highway. He shared that several have indicated they are in agreement, and noted there is access coming in on the first entrance free from any speed bumps. He recommends the installation and referred to County Engineer Dennis Odom to provide details.

County Engineer Dennis Odom's recommendation is to install two (2) of the yellow ten foot wide by two-inch high (10' W x 2"H) speed bumps like the ones placed on the square with an estimated cost of less than $1,000.00 installed.

Chairman Kicklighter asked again if all were in favor and Commissioner Kennedy stated he had personally spoken with all but one, who was a renter and not a landowner.

There was a motion by Commissioner Kennedy and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to approve the placement of the speed bumps as detailed. Motion carried unanimously.

14. **Letter of Continued Support: Tattnall County EMS Director Dustin Dasher Region 9 Council Appointee**

County Manager Frank H. Murphy shared that the new Regional Director for the Office of EMS and Trauma for Region 9 has been unable to locate the historical documents from 2015 where Tattnall County EMS Director Dustin Dasher was appointed. As EMS Director Dasher has served admirably since 2015 and continues to exceed expectations, it is his recommendation that members vote in support of his continued endorsement as council appointee for the historical record. Region 9 consists of the following counties; Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Bryan, Bulloch, Brantley, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Pierce, Tattnall, Toombs, Ware, and Wayne.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Kennedy to approve the continued endorsement of EMS Director Dustin Dasher as Region 9 council appointee. Motion carried unanimously.

15. **Resolution 2025-10: Tattnall County Tax Assessor Board Reappointment: Tara Martin Term – Retroactive April 2, 2025 to April 2, 2028 (Attached)**

Hearing no questions Chairman Kicklighter called for a motion to approve.

There was a motion by Commissioner Kennedy and a 2nd by Commissioner Allen to approve the reappointment of Tara Martin to the Tattnall County Tax Assessor Board for the term retroactive April 2, 2025 to April 2, 2028. Motion carried unanimously.

16. **Department Reports**

None

17. **Commission/Staff Comments**

Commissioner Ricky C. Jarriel asked everyone's continued prayers for Road Superintendent Lynn Cribbs as he works through his health challenges. He also encouraged members to work closely and communicate as he, County Manager Murphy, and Chairman Kicklighter will continue to help manage the day-to-day operations while Mr. Cribbs is in and out for appointments.

18. **Public Comments**

Mr. Lenton Brown Jr., founder of the non-profit EE Foundation, shared the 51st Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 19, 2025 at the middle school in Reidsville at 10:00 a.m. He proudly noted his father Lenton Brown Sr., Mr. John Kunney, and Mr. Arthur Tomblin started the tradition and they are in the 8th generation of kids and families attending. He invited everyone out to share in the proud tradition. He noted a citizen from Toombs County reached out to him personally to let him know that the price of eggs had dropped significantly, nearly $10.00, and so he was happy to say that no plastic eggs, aka "Rooster eggs", would be used this year! He expressed regret for the loss of Commissioners Bubba Burkhalter and Mourice Collins, with whom he had known for many years. In closing Mr. Brown shared his appreciation to Commissioner Ricky Jarriel and Commissioner Bobby Kennedy for their part in the work on Hillview Road and Charlton Grove Church Road was in good condition for their recent pastor appreciation day.

Mr. Alan Volskay, Georgia Power, expressed his delight at being assigned back to this area and looks forward to working closely with members.

19. **Executive Session**

None

16. **Adjournment**

With no further discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Kennedy to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

CLERK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SEAL TATTNALL CO., GA.

William J. (Bill) Kicklighter, Chairman — Sheila R. Mills, Certified County Clerk

2025-1

A PROCLAMATION

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS: Children are key to the County's future success, prosperity, and quality of life and, while children are our most valuable resource, they are also our most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS: Children have a right to be safe and to be provided an opportunity to thrive, learn, and grow; and

WHEREAS: Child Abuse and neglect can be prevented by supporting and strengthening Tattnall County families, thus preventing the far-reaching effects of maltreatment, providing the opportunity for children to develop healthy, trusting family bonds; and consequently, building the foundations of the community; and

WHEREAS: We must come together as partners so that the voices of our children are heard by all, and we as a community are extending a helping hand to children and families in need; and

WHEREAS: By providing safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for our children, free of violence, abuse, and neglect, we can ensure that Tattnall County's children will grow to their full potential as the next generation of leaders, helping to secure the future of this County, state and nation; now

THEREFORE: The TATTNALL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS do hereby proclaim April 2025, as CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in Tattnall County, Georgia.

April 1, 2024

Bill Kicklighter
Chairman

Ricky C. Jarriel
1st District

Bobby Kennedy
2nd District

Billy Conley
3rd District

Wayne Tatum
4th District

Wanda S. Allen
5th District

Attest: *Sheila R. Mills*
Sheila R. Mills, Certified County Clerk

This 7th day of April, 2025.

AN ORDINANCE OF TATTNALL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO AMEND CHAPTER 14 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF TATTNALL COUNTY, BY DELETING THE EXISTING CHAPTER 14 IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING SAME WITH A NEW CHAPTER 14 CONSISTING OF NEW ARTICLES AND DIVISIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER PURPOSES ALLOWED BY LAW.

Whereas, Tattnall County, Georgia ("County") is a body corporate and politic pursuant to Georgia law;

Whereas, Georgia law and the Code of Ordinances of Tattnall County ("Code") authorizes the Tattnall County Board of Commissioners (hereinafter referred to as the "Governing Authority") to provide for the general health, safety and welfare of the public, including the citizens of Tattnall County;

Whereas, Georgia law further authorizes the Governing Authority to establish, amend, implement, administer, regulate and/or enforce reasonable ordinances, rules, regulations and standards regarding animals; and

Whereas, the Governing Authority hereby amends Chapter 14 by replacing the existing Chapter 14 in its entirety and replacing same with a new Chapter 14, consisting new Articles and Divisions, so as to establish, implement, administer, regulate and/or enforce the County's ordinances, rules, regulations and standards regarding animals.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDAINED by the Governing Authority as follows:

SECTION I

ARTICLE I. - REGUATIONS REGARDING ANIMALS GENERALLY.

Sec. 14-1. - Purpose and intent.

This article shall be referred to as the "Animal Control Ordinance" for unincorporated area of Tattnall County. The purpose of this article is to provide for the humane treatment of animals by regulating the control of animals within unincorporated area Tattnall County; to promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the county; and to provide the means by which the proper officers and officials can implement, administer and enforce this ordinance, including but not limited to the abatement of nuisances arising from or in connection with this ordinance. This article sets forth necessary controls on the unrestrained activities of animals which threaten the safety and pleasantness of roads public places, and all areas of unincorporated Tattnall County. The lack of knowledge or intent is not a defense in the violation of this article.

Sec. 14-2. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article and chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

Animal means any living creature, both domestic and wild, except humans. The term "animal" also includes fowl, including chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, pigeons, and similar fowl, as well as fish and reptiles.

Animal control officer means any individual designated by the County as an enforcement official for this article or chapter and shall include, but not be limited to, the county administrator or county manager, any county code enforcement officer and any officer within the Tattnall County Sheriff's Office. These officials shall have the authority to act on behalf of the county in investigating complaints, impounding, issuing citations and taking other lawful action as required to administer or enforce the provisions of this article and chapter. It shall be a violation of this article or chapter to interfere with enforcement official in the performance of their duties.

At large means off the property of an owner or possessor and not under the control of the owner or possessor, or a member of the owner's or possessor's immediate family, either by leash, cord, chain or other control or holding device.

Animal running at large means any animal causing a disturbance while not confined in an enclosure, or while not under the restraint or control of a leash, cord, chain or other control or holding device or while in the vicinity of the owner or possessor and not obedient to such owner's or possessor's commands; provided that, an animal is not running at large when it is confined within the limits of its owner's or possessor's property.

Enclosure means any covered, uncovered parcel of land (or portion of such parcel) where animals are kept.

Fence means any structure of wire, wood, stone or other material, which is of sufficient height and strength to act as a barrier against passage of the animal it is intended to enclose. A fence must be sufficient to prevent the animal from being able to jump, dig or escape confinement.

Public nuisance means anything that harms or inconveniences the public or damages property, and public nuisance is also intended to mean and include, without limitation, any animal which:

(a) is vicious;

(b) causes or contributes to unsanitary conditions;

(c) endangers, attacks, injures or kills another animal;

(d) chases a vehicle or vehicles or creates an unsafe condition for the driver of any such vehicle;

(e) is found repeatedly unrestrained;

(f) excessively produces disturbing noises;

(g) enters the property of a person or entity without the permission of such person or entity;

(h) damages a person's or entity's property or creates an unsafe condition thereon;

(i) annoys or endangers a person or persons; or

(j) interferes with the enjoyment or use of property.

Owner means any natural person or legal entity including, but not limited to a corporation, partnership, firm or trust owning, possessing, harboring, keeping or having custody of an animal.

Possessor means any natural person or legal entity including, but not limited to a corporation, partnership, firm or trust possessing, harboring, keeping or having custody of an animal.

Under restraint means an animal that is securely enclosed or controlled within the boundaries of an owner's or possessor's real property or under the command or control of its owner or possessor.

Sec. 14-3. - Nuisances.

The owner of animals shall be responsible for correcting or abating any nuisance that may arise from the keeping thereof. No person shall own or possess or harbor any animal which howls, barks, or emits audible sounds that are plainly audible or disturbing and which are of such character, intensity and duration as to disturb the peace and quiet of the neighborhood. For the purpose of this article, "barking dog" shall mean a dog that barks, bays, cries, howls or makes any other noise continuously and/or incessantly for a period of ten minutes or barks intermittently for one-half hour or more to the disturbance of any person at any time day or night regardless of whether the dog is physically situated in or upon private property; provided, however, that a dog shall not be deemed a "barking dog" for purposes of this regulation, if at the time the dog is barking or making any other noise, a person is trespassing or threatening to trespass upon private property in or upon which the dog is situated or for any other legitimate cause which teased or provoked the dog.

Sec. 14-4. - Violations.

(a) Animal control officers are responsible for administering and enforcing this article and chapter and are authorized to issue and serve citations for appearance before the court of competent jurisdiction of the county for violations of the provisions of this article and chapter.

(b) Animal control officers who are responsible for administering and enforcing this article and chapter are authorized to investigate and report to the proper officials for appropriate prosecution, any violations of this chapter relating to cruelty to animals or any violations of the Georgia Animal Protection Act (OCGA § 4-11-1 et seq., as amended).

Sec. 14-5. - Legal proceedings.

Except as otherwise required by state law, any judicial or quasi-judicial proceeding initiated in connection with a violation of this article or chapter, whether civil or criminal in nature, will be brought in the court of competent jurisdiction in the county.

Sec. 14-6. - Penalty for violation.

Except as otherwise required by state law, any person who violates any provision of this article or chapter shall be punishable by a fine not exceed a fine of $1,000.00 or a term in incarceration not to exceed six (6) months or both; provided that, the judge shall probate not less than 120 days of any sentence imposed, except as otherwise provided by general law, and shall not exceed the maximum punishment specified by this ordinance. In the event a sentence is revoked, a defendant or violator shall not serve more than sixty (60) days in the county jail.

Sec. 14-7. - Additional penalty for violation of this article.

Notwithstanding any other penalty or remedy authorized by this article, chapter or state law, continuing violations of this article or chapter are hereby further declared to be a public nuisance, harmful to the public health, safety, and welfare, and are subject to abatement or injunction in and by the court of competent jurisdiction in the County or through any other legal or equitable remedy allowed by law.

Sec. 14-8. - Humane treatment and care of animals.

(a) Except to the extent otherwise provided in this article or chapter, and except to the Extent otherwise authorized or allowed by law, no person, except the animal's owner or possessor, a person authorized by the owner or possessor, a licensed veterinarian or an employee, agent or a person acting pursuant to any privilege or authority granted pursuant to federal, state or local law, ordinance, rule or regulation, shall kill any animal within the county. No person shall intentionally kill any animal in any manner or by

any method or means which is inhumane or which causes such animal unnecessary pain or suffering under the circumstances.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person or custodian of any animal to permit or cause unsanitary, offensive or dangerous conditions by virtue of the size or number of domesticated animals maintained at a single location or due to the inadequacy of the facilities.

(c) No person shall release or abandon any domesticated animal, either alive or dead, upon any public or upon the property of any person.

(d) No person shall knowingly by neglect, omission or act allow any domesticated animal to endure unnecessary pain or suffering or aid or assist in the causation of any unnecessary pain, suffering or injury by any such animal.

(e) No person shall by neglect, omission or act leave any poisonous or toxic substance in a manner that permits and domesticated animal to come into contact with such poisonous or toxic substance.

Sec. 14-9. - Distance of enclosures from buildings.

Any enclosure used for the keeping of an animal or animals outside of a building shall be kept at a minimum distance of 100 feet from any occupied building, except the dwelling the owner or possessor.

Sec. 14-10. - Keeping of animals; sanitation.

Any housing or enclosure used for the keeping of animals shall be well-drained, free from accumulation of animal excrement and objectionable odors, and otherwise clean and sanitary.

Sec. 14-11. - Disabled animals.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this article or chapter, licensed veterinarians, state and local law enforcement officers or those authorized by the county to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter or article, and all federal, state and local governmental employees while acting within scope of their authority are empowered to induce the death of any disabled animal by appropriate humane methods, preferably by means of euthanasia. Such officer shall be held harmless for such actions as they relate to humane destruction of any such animal.

Sec. 14-12. - Disposal of dead animals.

(a) All dead animals shall be disposed of 24 hours of the death such dead animal by the owner or possessor of such animal (or the agent thereof) in accordance with requirements

of Georgia law, the rules and regulation of the Georgia Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, and this article including, but not limited to:

(1) the delivery of such dead animal to a livestock dealer, livestock market operator, meat processing plant or rendering plant with consent of the recipient;

(2) the burial of such dead animal in a sanitary manner upon premises of the owner or possessor or upon the property of a third party, with the prior expressed consent of such party, to a sufficient depth and degree so as to prevent the exposure to scavengers with such burial to a depth of not less than three feet of compacted earth over such dead animal;

(3) the cremation of such animal is allowed with proper consent; or

(4) delivery of such dead animal to facility approved for the purpose of disposal of such dead animals.

Sec. 14-13. - Animals or livestock running at large are prohibited.

Notwithstanding anything in this article or chapter to the contrary, it shall be unlawful for any animal or livestock to run loose or at large within the unincorporated Tattnall County on any property without permission of the owner of such property.

Sec. 14-14. - Exceptions.

Notwithstanding any other provision, the provisions of this article or chapter shall not apply to:

(1) the eradication or control of rats, mice, gophers, moles, or other pests or coyotes, beaver, poisonous snakes and insects and other animals and birds which have been determined by appropriate governmental officials to constitute nuisances;

(2) the medical, research and educational activities of legitimate medical, research and educational institutions and agencies and the employees, agents and servants of the same while acting within the scope of their employment;

(3) activities of the holder of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license in compliance with the federal and state game and fish laws; and

(4) employees of federal, state and local governmental entities, agencies and instrumentalities while acting within the scope of their employment.

Sec. 14-15. - Seizure and forfeiture of animals for repeated violations.

(a) Any animal may be seized by an animal control officer where there is a violation of this chapter or article on two or more occasions during any twelve-month period of time, or where there is a violation of state or federal law regarding animals, and in such event, the seizure shall be conclusive evidence of abandonment and forfeiture of the animal by its owner and possessor. Following the seizure of the animal, it may be delivered to the Tattnall County Animal Shelter or any other appropriate agency or entity for disposition, disposal or destruction.

(b) Any animal that has been seized under the provisions of this section shall be returned to its owner or possessor upon such owner's or possessor's: 1) compliance with provisions of this article, 2) payment of seizure costs, which include boarding of the animal the rate of $50.00 per day, plus a pickup fee of $50.00, and 3) payment of the current cost of a rabies vaccination, if the animal's owner or possessor does not produce proof of a current rabies vaccination. If the animal's owner or possessor has not complied with the provisions of this article within the twelve (12) days of the date of seizure of the animal, the County is authorized to dispose of or destroy the animal.

Sec. 14-16. - Forfeiture for inhumane treatment.

(a) The owner or possessor of an animal seized pursuant to this article or chapter, or for violation of OCGA § 16-12-4, as amended, or OCGA § 4-11-10, as amended, or any other statute, law or ordinance requiring humane treatment of animals, who shall plead guilty or nolo contendere to any such offense or who shall be found guilty of such offense shall be conclusively deemed to have abandoned and forfeited such animal. Such animal thereafter may be delivered to the Tattnall County Animal Shelter or other appropriate agency or entity for disposition, disposal or destruction.

(b) The failure of the owner or possessor of any such animal, that has been seized pursuant to the provisions of this article or chapter, to strictly comply with any condition, limitation, prohibition or restriction imposed with respect to such animal by a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be conclusively deemed to have abandoned and forfeited such animal, and thereafter such animal may be delivered to the Tattnall County Animal Shelter or other appropriate agency or entity for disposition, disposal or destruction.

Secs. 14-17 through 14-40. - *Reserved.*

ARTICLE II. - DOGS AND/OR CATS

DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY

Sec. 14-41. - Inoculation and registration required.

(a) *Generally.* Every dog and cat shall be inoculated by its owner or possessor.

(b) *Tag and collar.* Every dog shall wear a collar with a badge showing the fact of its inoculation.

(c) *Exemptions.* The provisions of this section shall not be construed to apply to dogs whose owners or possessors are non-residents temporarily within the unincorporated area of the county, nor to dogs brought in the unincorporated area of the county for the purpose of participating in any dog show, nor to seeing eye dogs properly trained to assist blind persons when such dogs are actually being used by blind persons for the purpose of aiding them in going from place to place.

Sec. 14-42. - Animal cruelty.

(a) It shall be unlawful for the owner or possessor of any dog to refuse or fail to provide such dog with sufficient wholesome and nutritious food, humane care, potable water adequate shelter (24 hours, seven days a week) and treatment needed to prevent suffering.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person or possessor of any dog to permit or cause unsanitary, offensive or dangerous conditions by virtue of the size or number of dogs maintained at a single location or due to the inadequacy of the facilities.

(c) It shall be unlawful for the owner or possessor of any dog to willfully abandon such animal on any street, road, lane, alleys, public place or private property within the unincorporated area of the County.

(d) It shall be unlawful for a person to allow any dog in their possession or under their control to run at large upon the streets, roads, lanes, public places or alleys of within the unincorporated area of the County.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person to place or allow the placement of any poison within the unincorporated area of the County for the purpose of killing of any dog or other animal.

Sec. 14-43 - Tethering of dogs.

(a) The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this code section, unless otherwise specifically stated:

Direct point chaining means a dog attached to a stationary object by a chain, cable or similar device commonly used for the size and type of dog involved.

Electronic animal confinement system shall mean a commercially produced, functioning electronic fence which utilizes an invisible electrically generated perimeter, in which the animal within the perimeter wears an electronic collar that produces an electric shock when the animal approaches or exceeds the perimeter.

(b) It shall be the duty of every owner of a dog to ensure that the dog is securely and humanely enclosed within a proper enclosure as a means of primary restraint. Such enclosure must be securely locked and any time the dog is left unattended. When outside the proper enclosure but on the owner's property, it shall be the duty of every owner of a dog to ensure that the dog is humanely secured by a leash or lead and under the control of a responsible and competent person; or off leash but under the direct control of a responsible and competent person who is physically present with the dog, provided that such dog is obedient to that person's command.

(c) Any dog that is housed outside of its owner's house shall be housed in a proper enclosure that complies with the provisions of this Code.

(d) Direct point chaining of a dog is prohibited, except for limited periods of four hours or less in humane conditions.

(e) As a secondary means of restraint to or within a proper enclosure, a dog may be attached to a running cable line or trolley system that conforms with the following guidelines:

(1) Only one dog may be attached to each running cable line or trolley system;

(2) Cables attaching the dog to the running cable line or trolley system must be made of a substance which cannot be chewed through by the dog and shall not weigh more than 25 percent of the body weight of the dog tethered;

(3) A running cable line or trolley system must have a swivel installed at each end and be attached to a stationary object that cannot be moved by the dog;

(4) The running cable line or trolley system must be at least fifteen feet in length and positioned at sufficient distance from any other objects to prohibit the tangling of the cable/lead line; must not extend over an object or an edge that could result in injury of strangulation of the dog; and must be of sufficient distance from any fence as to prohibit the dog from access to the fence;

(5) The length of the lead line from the running cable line or trolley system to the dog's harness should allow access to the maximum available exercise area and allow the animal free access to food, water, and shelter. In no event shall the length of the lead line allow for access to less than the square footage allowed within a proper enclosure; and

(6) The lead line must be attached to a properly fitted harness not used for the display of a current rabies tag and other identification. Collars are prohibited for the purpose of securing a dog to a running cable line or trolley system.

(f) If an electronic animal confinement system is used to confine a dog, it shall provide a properly fitted and working signal device that will be worn by the dog to be enclosed.

Sec. 14-44. - Dog bites.

Whenever any dog bites a person, the owner of such animal shall immediately notify an animal control officer, who shall order the animal held on the owner's premises or shall order the animal impounded for quarantine, at the owner's expense, for a period of time as determined in the sole discretion of an official with the Tattnall County Health Department or an animal control officer. At the end of any impound period, if a veterinarian is satisfied that the dog is free from rabies, the dog may be released from impound.

Secs. 14-45 through 14-70. - *Reserved.*

DIVISION 2. - DANGEROUS DOGS

Sec. 14-71. - Investigation by local authorities; notice of classification.

(a) Upon receiving a report of a dangerous dog within the unincorporated area of the county, an animal control officer shall make such investigation regarding such report as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this article.

(b) When an animal control officer determines that a dog as a dangerous dog, within 72 hours of such determination, such officer shall notify the dog's owner in writing by certified mail to the owner's last known address of such classification or reclassification. Such notice shall be deemed complete mailing.

(c) As used herein, the term "dangerous dog" shall mean any dog which without provocation bites, inflicts serious injury upon, or attacks a human being on public or private property.

Sec. 14-72. - Procedures for classification as dangerous dog; notice; hearing.

(a) When a dangerous dog is classified as such, an animal control officer shall notify the dog's owner of such classification.

(b) The notice to the owner will meet the following requirements:

(1) it will be in writing and mailed by certified mail to the owner's last known address;

(2) it will include a summary of the animal control officer's findings that formed the basis of the dog's classification as a dangerous dog;

(3) it will be dated and will state that the owner, within 15 days after the date shown on the notice, has a right to request a hearing on such officer's determination that the dog is a dangerous dog;

(4) it will state that the hearing, if requested, shall be before the county magistrate court;

(5) it will state that if a hearing is not requested, such officer's determination that the dog is a dangerous dog shall become effective for all purposes under this article on a date specified in the notice, which shall be after the last day on which the owner has a right to request a hearing; and

(6) it will include a form to request a hearing as provided in subsection (b) of this section, and it will schedule such hearing within 30 days after receiving the request.

(c) The magistrate court shall notify the dog owner in writing by certified mail of the date, time, and place of the hearing, and such notice will be mailed to the address of the dog owner shown on the request for hearing at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing. At the hearing the owner of the dog shall be given the opportunity to testify and present evidence and in addition thereto the court shall receive such other evidence and hear such other testimony as the court may find reasonable and necessary to make a determination either to sustain, modify, or overrule the animal control officer's determination that a dog is a dangerous dog.

(d) Within ten days after the date of the hearing, the court shall issue a final order, notifying the dog owner of its ruling on the matter, and the court shall mail such order via certified mail to the owner's address as shown on the request for hearing. If such order is that the dog is a dangerous dog, the order shall specify the date upon which the order is effective.

Sec. 14-73. - Requirements for possession.

(a) It is unlawful for an owner to have or possess within the unincorporated area of the county a dangerous dog without a certificate of registration issued in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(b) Subject to the additional requirements of subsection (c) of this section for dangerous dogs, an animal control officer will issue a certificate of registration to the owner of such dog if the owner presents to the code enforcement officer or police officer sufficient evidence of:

(1) a proper enclosure to confine the dangerous dog; and

(2) the posting of the premises where the dangerous dog is located with a clearly visible sign warning that there is a dangerous dog present (such sign shall prominently display the dangerous dog symbol designed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources).

(c) In addition to the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, the owner of a dangerous dog shall present to the Governing Authority, or its designee, evidence of:

(1) a policy of insurance in the minimum amount of $50,000.00 issued by an insurer authorized to transact business in this state insuring the owner of the dangerous dog against liability for any personal injuries inflicted by the dangerous dog; or

(2) A security bond in the amount of $50,000.00 or more issued by a surely company authorized to transact business in this state payable to any person or persons injured by the dangerous dog.

(d) The owner of a dangerous dog shall notify the Governing Authority within 24 hours if the dog is on the loose, is confined, has attacked a human, has died or has been sold, donated, or disposed of, and if the dog has been sold, donated or disposed of, the owner shall provide the Governing Authority, or its designee, with the name, address, email address and telephone number of the new owner of the dog.

(e) The owner of the dangerous dog shall notify the Governing Authority, or its designee, if the owner is moving from the unincorporated area of the county, and the owner of a dangerous dog who is a new resident of the unincorporated area of the county shall register the dog as required in this section within thirty (30) days after becoming a resident.

(f) Issuance of a certificate of registration or the renewal of a certificate of registration by the Governing Authority, or its designee, does not warrant or guarantee that the requirements specified in subsection (b) and (c) of this section were met or are maintained by the owner of a dangerous dog.

(g) An animal control officer is authorized to make whatever inquiry is deemed necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of this article.

Sec. 14-74. - Restrictions on permitting dangerous dogs to be outside proper enclosure.

It is unlawful for an owner of a dangerous dog to permit the dog to be outside a proper enclosure unless the dog is muzzled and restrained by a proper chain or leash and is under the physical restraint of a responsible person. The muzzle shall be made in a manner that will not cause injury to the dog or interfere with its vision or respiration but will prevent it from biting any person.

Sec. 14-75. - Confiscation of dangerous dogs; grounds, disposition.

(a) A dangerous dog shall be immediately confiscated by an animal control officer if the:

(1) owner of such dog does not secure or maintain the liability insurance or bond required by this article;

(2) the dog is not validly registered as required by this article;

(3) the dog is not maintained in the proper enclosure, or

(4) the dog is outside a proper enclosure in violation of this article.

(b) Any dog that has been confiscated under the provisions of this section shall be returned to its owner upon the owner's compliance with provisions of this article and upon the payment of reasonable confiscation costs including the boarding at a rate (current rate as set by Governing Authority), per day, plus a pickup fee of $50.00 and the current cost of rabies vaccination if the animal's owner does not produce proof of a current rabies vaccination. In the event the owner has not complied with the provisions of this article within the 20 days of the date the dog was confiscated, said dog shall be destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner.

Secs. 14-76 through 14-100. - *Reserved.*

SECTION II

A. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Governing Authority that all sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance are or were, upon their enactment, believed by said governing authority to be fully valid, enforceable, and constitutional.

B. It is hereby declared to be the intention of Governing Authority that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is severable from every other section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance. It is hereby further declared to be the intention of said governing authority that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, no section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is mutually dependent upon any other section paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance.

C. In the event that any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional, or otherwise unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of said governing authority that such invalidity, unconstitutionality, or unenforceability shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, not render invalid, unconstitutional, or otherwise unenforceable any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases of the Ordinance and that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, all remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases of the Ordinance shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable, and of full force and effect.

SECTION III

All provisions of the Code of Ordinances of Tattnall County or parts thereof that are in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed.

SECTION IV

This Ordinance shall be codified and shall become effective upon its adoption in a manner consistent with the laws of the State of Georgia and the ordinances, regulations, and rules of Tattnall County.

SECTION V

It is the intention of the Governing Authority, and it is hereby ordained, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made part of the Code of Ordinances of Tattnall County, and the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered to accomplish such intention.

SECTION VI

The effective date of this Ordinance shall be upon adoption and approval by the Governing Authority.

So approved and ordained by the Governing Authority of Tattnall County, Georgia, this 10 day of April, 2025.

Tattnall County Board of Commissioners

By: _____
William (Bill) J. Kicklighter, Chairman

Attest: _____
Sheila Mills, County Clerk

[SEAL]

COUNTY OF TATTNALL

STATE OF GEORGIA

2025-10

RESOLUTION FOR APPOINTMENT

TATTNALL COUNTY BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the Board of Assessors; and

WHEREAS, the law requires that the County Commission must appoint a successor when a vacancy occurs; and

WHEREAS, the person appointed will serve a term of three years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Tattnall County Board of Commissioners reappoints Tara Martin to the Tattnall County Board of Tax Assessors with the term of office to begin on April 2, 2025 and expire on April 2, 2028.

Adopted this 7th day of April, 2025, retroactive April 2, 2025.

TATTNALL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WILLIAM J. (BILL) KICKLIGHTER, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: Sheila R. Mills

SHEILA R. MILLS, CERTIFIED COUNTY CLERK