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

Staff Present: County Manager Frank H. Murphy, Certified County Clerk Sheila R. Mills, County Attorney Tom Peterson, PR/HR Administrator Angel Melton, Road Superintendent Wayne Martin, County Project Consultant Dennis Odom, EMA Director/Fire Chief Walt Rogers, EMS Assistant Director Jordan Rushing, and County Election Registrar Philip Cavanaugh

Elected Officials Present: Sheriff Kyle Sapp, Probate Judge Tara Finnerty, and Coroner Herb Brown

Chairman Bill Kicklighter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Chairman Kicklighter delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Approval of Agenda:**

County Attorney Tom Peterson proposed amending the agenda to add a new item for consideration, **2A: 2026-1 AN ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY LIMIT OUTDOOR BURNING DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS.**

Chairman Kicklighter called for a motion to approve.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to approve amending the agenda to add Item 2A: 2026-1 AN ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY LIMIT OUTDOOR BURNING DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Kicklighter next called for a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

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 2, 2026**

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

Old Business:

None

New Business:

2A. **2026-1 AN ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY LIMIT OUTDOOR BURNING DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS (Attached)**

County Attorney Tom Peterson read the proposed temporary ordinance aloud noting if approved, this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the board votes to rescind or repeal.

There was a motion by Commissioner Conley and a 2nd by Commissioner Tatum to adopt 2026-1 An Ordinance to Temporarily Limit Outdoor Burning Due to Drought Conditions. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Kicklighter, members, and County Attorney Peterson urged widespread circulation of the ordinance across all available platforms such as social media, the local newspaper, County website, and on the courthouse steps where other notices are posted given the extreme drought and dangerous fire conditions.

3. New EMA Facility & Other Renovations Architectural Services Selection Review

County Attorney Tom Peterson shared approximately three years ago Tattnall County solicited RFP's (Request for Proposals) for architectural services to construct a new EMA facility and other renovations. In the August 7, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting members voted unanimously to accept the SP Design Group Architects & Engineers Inc. (SPDG) proposal, with the caveat that we ask for a reduction of the 7% proposed rate, but acceptance of 7% if no reduction is granted. SPDG of Macon, GA had been involved in other Tattnall County projects with a very satisfactory performance during the design and engineering process, but given the limited response after multiple attempts to align on the contract terms County Attorney Peterson advised members to consider allowing Chairman Kicklighter, County Manager Murphy, and County Clerk Mills to re-advertise the proposal with the expectation of back-and-forth contract reviews to ensure all terms align with members expectations before the project kickoff.

There was a motion by Commissioner Allen and a 2nd by Commissioner Tatum to allow for re-advertisement of the solicitation and present the final proposals to members for a final vote to award. Motion carried unanimously.

4. RFQ 26-31 Design & Engineering Services Rushing Boone Road TIA Project Committee Recommendation

County Project Consultant Dennis Odom explained TIA (Transportation Investment Act) or TSPLOST is a regional sales tax for transportation purposes and the law allows a region to implement a one percent (1%) regional sales tax over a ten-year period to fund transportation improvements. Tattnall County voters approved extending the program for a second decade of funding in 2024. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) released funding for this TIA Band 2 project and RFQs (Request for Qualifications) were solicited. County Project Consultant Odom presented the following received:

• American Engineers, Inc. dba STV Services	$964,000.00
• EFK*Moen, LLC	$772,922.00
• EMC Engineering Services, Inc.	$273,300.00
• EXP U.S. Services Inc.	$439,000.00
• Holt Consulting Company, LLC	$621,370.00
• Keck & Wood, Inc.	$514,000.00
• Roberts Civil Engineering, LLC	NO FEE SUBMITTED
• Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co.	$450,000.00
• TranSystems Corporation	$528,500.00

County Project Consultant Odom's recommendation is to award EMC Engineering Services, Inc. with the proposed fee of $276,300.00. He noted the company has under construction or completed similar projects within a fifty (50) mile radius consistently delivering quality standards.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to award Design & Engineering Services of the Rushing Boone Road TIA Project to EMC Engineering Services, Inc. with the low proposed fee of $273,300.00. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Tattnall County Senior Center Request (Attached)**

County Manager Frank H. Murphy shared Action Pact Coordinator Suzanna Foster was in attendance and he praised their exceptional efforts at the Tattnall Senior Center. The many programs available to Tattnall County citizens are invaluable. He went on to share a request letter and petition from the Tattnall Senior Center asking members to consider helping with the purchase of a passenger van to be used by the seniors to attend outings and events. As they expressed in the letter, community socializing and interaction are essential to combat isolation, improve mental health, and foster a sense of belonging. He explained they currently utilize two (2) small SUVs for the Meals on Wheels program, but a larger van would allow for increased accessibility and more ease in facilitating group outings. County Manager Murphy proposed members consider utilizing the remaining approximate $40,000.00 in LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund) appropriations received during COVID, noting of the $100,000.00 LATCF received, approximately $60,000.00 was used to purchase a 15-passenger van for use by the Tattnall County 4-H last year. Furthermore, he proposed the remaining $20,000.00 could be allocated from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding. If members agree to proceed authorization is requested to solicit bids for the van via telephone for presentation at the May 4, 2026 Regular Commission Meeting.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to grant authorization for the solicitation of telephone bids for presentation at the May meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Reidsville Recreation Department Request**

County Road Superintendent Wayne Martin shared Reidsville Recreation Director Darien Renfoe formally requested assistance from the County Road Department to transport a few loads of red clay that is a proprietary material for baseball field maintenance and the nearest availability is Hawkinsville, GA. Road Superintendent Martin expressed his willingness to help the community and noted his recollection of this being done in the past for the Tattnall County High School and Glennville Recreation Department.

There was a motion by Commissioner Tatum and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to approve the transportation request, with the cost of material being paid by the Reidsville Recreation Department. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Request to Solicit Bids: New Motor Grader**

County Road Superintendent Wayne Martin asked permission to solicit bids for a new motor grader.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Tatum to grant the request to solicit bids for a new motor grader. Motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion on the existing motor grader inventory with no other motions made or votes cast at this time.

8. **Request to Solicit Bids: New 15' Bat Wing Rotary Mowers**

County Road Superintendent Wayne Martin asked permission to solicit bids for two (2) new 15' bat wing rotary mowers. He stated the mowers are in dire need of replacement.

Commissioner Ricky C. Jarriel reminded members of the September 2024 decision to defer replacing until the older ones had been advertised and we were closer to the spring mowing season. Tattnall County then experienced Tropical Storm Debby in August, Hurricane Helene in September, and unprecedented flooding in November so the older ones were retained for another season to protect new equipment from heavy storm debris cleanup, making the replacement long overdue.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Tatum to grant the request to solicit bids for two (2) new bat wing rotary mowers. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Request to Surplus: 2009 Volvo Dump Truck VIN:9472**

County Road Superintendent Wayne Martin asked permission to surplus a 2009 Volvo dump truck that in his opinion is no longer cost effective to repair.

After considerable deliberation regarding the repairs and maintenance expenditures to date and future serviceability, members were still divided.

There was a motion by Commissioner Tatum and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to list the 2009 Volvo on GovDeals with a set reserve of $15,000.00. For clarification Chairman Kicklighter conducted a roll call vote; Commissioner Jarriel – "Nay", Commissioner Kennedy – "Nay", Commissioner Conley – "Yea", Commissioner Tatum – "Yea", Commissioner Allen – "Yea". The motion carried 3-2.

10. **Department Reports**

Tattnall County Election Registrar Philip Cavanaugh gave an update regarding the General Primary/Nonpartisan election on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. The registration deadline is Monday, April 20, 2026. The mail in deadline is Friday, May 8, 2026. Early voting will begin on Monday, April 27, 2026 through Friday, May 15, 2026 at the Tattnall County Elections Office in Reidsville.

EMA Director/Fire Chief Walt Rogers thanked members for adopting the ordinance to temporarily limit outdoor burning due to drought conditions.

11. **Commission/Staff Comments**

Commissioner Jarriel extended a welcome on behalf of all members to newly appointed Tattnall County Coroner Herb Brown who will serve out the remaining term of Bradley B. Anderson who resigned upon qualifying to run for Georgia State House District 157.

12. **Public Comments**

Mr. Sydney Clifton commented on the dilapidated fence skirting surrounding the Reidsville Convenience Center on Chandler Avenue and the number of tires there.

Mr. Lenton Butler asked members to evaluate a drainage problem on Tom Rogers Road and to also consider widening the road as it is currently impossible for two cars to pass in some areas. Road Superintendent Martin and County Project Consultant Odom agreed to go out and access the situation.

Mr. Dennis Waters stated a neighboring property owner had installed a fence blocking access to his property off of Old Hwy 250 and Bayfield Road. A portion of the road was closed years prior and County Attorney Peterson agreed to review and evaluate if there is legal recourse for access based on the findings.

13. **Executive Session**

Chairman Kicklighter called for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss real estate and personnel matters.

There was a motion by Commissioner Conley and a 2nd by Commissioner Tatum to go into executive session at 9:55 a.m. to discuss real estate and personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously. **(Affidavit signed by Chairman Kicklighter and made part of the Official Record)**

There was motion by Commissioner Conley and a 2nd by Commissioner Jarriel to go back into open session at 10:08 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a motion by Commissioner Conley and a 2nd by Commissioner Jarriel to approve advertising the County Road Department Crew Leader position. Motion carried unanimously.

14. **Adjournment**

With no further discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

William (Bill) J. Kicklighter, Chairman

Sheila R. Mills, Certified County Clerk

CLERK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SEAL TATTNALL CO., GA.

TATTNALL COUNTY
Board of Commissioners

WILLIAM J. (BILL) KICKLIGHTER
Chairman

FRANK H. MURPHY
County Manager

SHEILA R. MILLS
County Clerk

TOM A. PETERSON IV
County Attorney

RICKY C. JARRIEL
District 1
BOBBY KENNEDY
District 2
BILLY CONLEY
District 3
WAYNE TATUM
District 4
WANDA S. ALLEN
District 5

2026-1

AN ORDINANCE
TO TEMPORARILY LIMIT OUTDOOR BURNING DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, Tattnall County has experienced prolonged dry weather resulting in drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, these drought conditions have significantly increased the risk of wildfires and the spread of uncontrolled fires; and

WHEREAS, open burning of yard debris poses a serious threat to public safety, property, and natural resources during periods of extreme dryness; and

WHEREAS, Tattnall County desires to take reasonable and necessary measures to reduce fire hazards and protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Tattnall County that:

1. Temporary Restriction.
All open burning of yard debris, including leaves, limbs, grass, and other vegetative matter, is hereby restricted within the unincorporated area of Tattnall County effective April 6, 2026.

2. Prohibited Activities.
No person shall ignite or allow the burning of yard debris outdoors except as provided in this Ordinance.

3. Exemptions.
This Ordinance shall not apply to:
- controlled burns conducted by government agencies or authorized personnel for forestry or public safety purposes,
- fires used for cooking in approved grills or fire pits, provided they are attended and comply with applicable safety regulations, or

- agricultural or forestry burns conducted under a valid permit and in accordance with state law and Georgia Forestry Commission guidelines.

4. Enforcement.
This Ordinance shall be enforced by Tattnall County officials and their designated departments, including but not limited to the Tattnall County Fire and Rescue and Tattnall County Code Enforcement.

5. Violations.
Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance or who fails to do anything required by this Ordinance shall be amenable to the process of the Magistrate Court of Tattnall County. The maximum punishment for a violation of this Ordinance shall be a fine of $1,000 or imprisonment for six months, or both.

6. Additional Remedies.
In the event any provision of this Ordinance has been violated or is being violated, in addition to any other remedies, the County may institute injunction or other appropriate action or proceeding to prevent or abate such violation.

7. Duration.
This Ordinance shall remain in effect until drought conditions improve and the Board of Commissioners formally rescinds this Ordinance.

8. Prior Ordinances and Resolutions.
The provision of this Ordinance shall apply in addition to and shall not repeal any prior ordinance or resolution regarding this same subject.

9. Public Notice.
Tattnall County shall provide notice of this Ordinance through appropriate public channels including the County website, social media, and local news outlets.

SO ADOPTED this 6th day of April, 2026.

William J. Kicklighter, Chairman

ATTEST:
Sheila R. Mills, Clerk



108 W Brazell Street * Reidsville, GA 30453
Mail: P.O. Box 25 * Reidsville, GA 30453
Telephone (912) 557-4335 * Fax (912) 557-6088
www.tattnallcountyga.com

To whom it may concern:

We are submitting this letter to the Tattnall County Commissioners Office to request consideration for the purchase of a vehicle for the seniors to attend outings and events. We would need a van that is usable by the different abilities of everyone who attends the center. Some of us have difficulty going up stairs or maneuvering small aisles and some use walking devices or wheelchairs.

Currently, we are unable to go out into the community and enjoy socializing and visiting places within our town and surrounding towns. Outings are essential for our mental health. Being part of the community provides us with a sense of belonging.

Interacting with the community helps us to feel like we are still accounted for. Some of the seniors who attend the center do not have the opportunity to go out and interact with the community. They sit at home until the transportation provided to get to and from the center comes and picks them up each day. For us seniors, the less we get out and interact with the world, the more likely we are to lose our thinking, social skills, or the desire to interact with others. We become sedentary.

We continue to request a vehicle so that we can improve our relationships and participate within the community. Having our own transportation would give us freedom to do more and be more active. Having a vehicle will open doors for us to be more involved. It would be a great asset to have for the center.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

The Tattnall Senior Center

[illegible]	Bobby Sapp
Vicki Frey	
Jean Olmer	
wayne medlin	
Juneth Girton	
[illegible]	
Maria Martinez	
Jeanette Atkinson	
Reba Mi[illegible]	
Gloria Harris	
Laura Mincey	
[illegible]	
Wick Yoe	
David Bacon	
Gail Arnold	
neil joyce	
Roberta Gatteny	
Glynda Hamel	
Neil Yoyce	

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF TATTNALL

AFFIDAVIT OF CHAIRMAN

I, William J. (Bill) Kicklighter, Chairman of the Tattnall County Board of Commissioners, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief:

1.
The Tattnall County Board of Commissioners met in a duly advertised meeting on April 6, 2026.

2.
During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.

3.
The executive session was called to order at 10:00 a.m./p.m.

4.
The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter (s) within the exceptions provided in the open meeting law:

_____ Consultation with the County Attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer may be directly Involved in O.C.G.A. 50-14-2(1);

_____Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-2(2) And _____.

✓ _____Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (4);

✓ _____Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6);

_____ Other_____
_____
_____
As provided in _____

This 6th day of April, 2026.

William J. (Bill) Kicklighter, Chairman
Tattnall County Board of Commissioners

Sworn to and subscribed
Before me this 6th
Day of April, 2026.

Notary Public

LAREN DASHER NOTARY PUBLIC Comm. Exp. 09/11/27 TATTNALL COUNTY, GA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Tatum, Commissioner Jarriel, Commissioner Kennedy, County Atty. Tom Peterson, Co. Mgr. Murphy, County Clerk Mills, HR/PR Admin. Melton,