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, Road Superintendent Wayne Martin, EMA Director/Fire Chief Walt Rogers, County Project Manager Hal Dasher, Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Reese, and County Election Administrator Barbie Mock

Elected Officials Present: Sheriff Kyle Sapp, Coroner Herb T. Brown, Jr.

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

Commissioner Billy Conley delivered the invocation.

Chairman Bill Kicklighter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Approval of Agenda:**

Chairman Kicklighter noted a change needed in item #11 that was brought to his attention. Tattnall County Industrial Development Authority (TCIDA) member representing the Glennville Development Authority is incorrectly listed as Suzanna Foster and should be Suzannah Williamson. Chairman Kicklighter next called for a motion to approve the agenda with this change.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to approve the agenda with this change. 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 – **June 1, 2026**

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. **Resolution 2026-15: Support and Recognition of The Underdog Project, Inc. (Attached) Jessica Kicklighter, Founder**

Chairman Bill Kicklighter introduced Ms. Jessica Kicklighter, Founder of The Underdog Project, Inc. in Reidsville, GA. Ms. Kicklighter shared she has operated a pet grooming shop for over thirty (30) years, and has witnessed the ongoing tragedy of stray homeless and discarded animals in the County. The Underdog Project, Inc. is dedicated to animal welfare, community assistance, foster networking, resource distribution, and responsible animal care. The newly formed nonprofit is in the early stages of licensing and establishing its 501(c) (3) status. Ms. Kicklighter expressed her sincere desire to be a community partner in addressing animal welfare needs while working within her legal lane.

Ms. Kicklighter asked members to approve a resolution that supports and recognizes The Underdog Project, Inc. and emphasized that it serves solely as an expression of support and recognition and shall not be interpreted as creating a partnership, agency relationship, employment relationship, or assumption of liability. Furthermore, The Underdog Project, Inc. shall operate as an independent nonprofit organization and not as an agent, employee, contractor, or representative of Tattnall County. Nothing in the resolution creates any legal duty, financial obligation, liability, or responsibility on the part of Tattnall County, their elected officials, employees, agents, or volunteers for their actions, operations, care, custody, transportation, treatment, placement, adoption, fostering, or handling of any animal by The Underdog Project, Inc.

A member in the audience asked if volunteers would be accepted to which Ms. Kicklighter responded "Yes."

Hearing no further questions, Chairman Kicklighter read the resolution aloud then called for a motion to approve.

There was a motion by Commissioner Kennedy and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-15: Support and Recognition of The Underdog Project, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Kicklighter presented Ms. Jessica Kicklighter a framed copy of the signed resolution and a photo was taken by the local newspaper.

4. **Hwy 169 Subdivision Ordinance Variance Request: Mr. Albert Bacon**

County Manager Frank H. Murphy provided details of the variance request. Mr. Bacon's requesting a 30-foot access easement instead of the required 60-foot access easement required by the Tattnall County Subdivision Ordinance in reference to two (2) homes he is building on an approximate seven (7) acre site on Hwy 169. A plat provided shows only two (2) homes, yet appears as a multi-parcel development. Mr. Bacon would need to present the plat as a subdivision and meet all requirements to be approved. Mr. Bacon is alleged to have built and sold homes on the other side of the road without the proper authorizations. Commissioner Billy Conley also expressed concerns regarding whether or not Mr. Bacon held a valid building contractor license in the state of Georgia and was complying with Georgia building laws. After much discussion and upon the advice and recommendation of County Attorney Tom Peterson, members were in agreement to deny the request.

Chairman Kicklighter called for a motion to deny the variance request.

There was motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Allen to deny the variance request. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Senior Judge Glen A. Cheney, Superior Courts of the State of Georgia: Chambers Accommodation Request**

County Manager Frank H. Murphy shared Senior Judge Glen A. Cheney had written a formal letter expressing his gratitude to members for the assistance and support extended to him during his tenure as Judge of the Superior Courts of the Atlantic Judicial Circuit. By order of Governor Brian P. Kemp, he has now been appointed to the office of Senior Judge of the Superior Courts of the State of Georgia.

Senior Judge Cheney will continue to preside over matters within the circuit, including matters arising in Tattnall County. As the County graciously provided chambers throughout his term as sitting Superior Court Judge, he respectfully asked that the County permit him to continue to use his present chambers in connection with his duties as Senior Judge, as long as it remains available. If any other Superior Court Judges request the chambers for their use, he will relinquish the office.

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

There was a motion by Commissioner Kennedy and a 2nd by Commissioner Jarriel to approve granting Senior Judge Glen A. Cheney's request to continue using the chambers until a superseding request is submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Greater Tattnall Chamber of Commerce (GTCC) Wiregrass Trail Festival Request**

After discussion concerning event insurance coverage County Attorney Tom Peterson advised members to table the request until GTCC provides proof of short-term liability insurance with Tattnall County listed as an additional insured.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Kennedy to table the vote pending the receipt of the event insurance certificate. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **DFCS (Division of Family & Children Services) Board Appointments: Donnie Levant & Charla Nail**

County Manager Frank H. Murphy noted that according to Georgia law the county commissioners are tasked with appointing members to the local DFCS oversite board. Ms. Faye Balkcom Way and Mr. Jessie Rhodes submitted retirement letters after serving sixteen (16) years and thirty (30) years respectively. They also gave appointment recommendations of Ms. Charla Nail and Mr. Donnie Levant, who both said they would be honored and agreed to serve if appointed.

Hearing no questions, Chairman Kicklighter called for a motion to approve the appointments as recommended.

There was a motion by Commissioner Allen and a 2nd by Commissioner Tatum to approve the appoint of Ms. Charla Nail and Mr. Donnie Levant to the Tattnall County DFCS Board for the term of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **2019 Caterpillar 12M3 Motor Grader SN: 1171 Repair Estimate**

Road Superintendent Wayne Martin explained this motor grader is one that had a new engine installed back in 2024 while it was still under warranty and subsequently, an additional 2-year, 2,000 hour extended warranty was purchased. The members voted back in January 2024 to exercise the purchase option at lease end in March 2026 knowing it had the new engine. Unfortunately, the warranty hours have expired and once again, there are shavings in the oil pan indicating another engine replacement is needed. Road Superintendent Martin secured a quote from Yancey for the repair in the amount of $63,693.80. His recommendation is to fix this machine and maintain it in the fleet, noting it comes with a one (1) year warranty and unlimited hours.

Commissioner Jarriel added it would be most beneficial to fix this machine which is nearly a quarter of what a new machine would cost.

County Manager Frank H. Murphy added there is funding available in the SPLOST Roads & Bridges which could be used as the expenditure can be capitalized and amortized over its estimated five-year useful life extension.

After considerable discussion of our manpower and equipment fleet, including downtime and asset utilization, members were in agreement to repair the motor grader.

Chairman Kicklighter called for a motion to accept the quote and approve the repair.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Conley to accept the quote from Yancey in the amount of $63,693.80 and approve the repair. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **2020 John Deere 6105E Tractor SN: 1746 Repair Estimate**

Road Superintendent Wayne Martin presented a quote from Lasseter Tractor Company in the amount of 7,193.59 with a one (1) year warranty for the replacement of a PTO pump on the tractor. He recommends getting this repair as the tractor operates daily maintaining the roadsides.

Chairman Kicklighter called for a motion to accept the quote and approve the repair.

There was a motion by Commissioner Tatum and a 2nd by Commissioner Jarriel to accept the quote from Lasseter Tractor Company in the amount of $7,193.59 and approve the repair with the explicit condition that the old pump be returned to us. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **2026 Spot Leveling Estimate (Attached)**

County Manager Frank H. Murphy read aloud the proposed list and noted the $56,694.00 estimate is within budget.

There was a motion by Commissioner Conley and a 2nd by Commissioner Tatum to approve the 2026 Spot Leveling Estimate. Motion carried unanimously.

11. **2026 Tattnall County Industrial Development Authority (TCIDA) Board Appointment Term July 6, 2026 – December 31, 2026**
(One motion for appointment change in bold, all other appointments remain unchanged.)

County Manager Frank H. Murphy read the names of the members aloud, noting who each one represented;

Members:
Suzannah Williamson – Glennville Development Authority
Danny Ray Collins – Mayor, City of Cobbtown
Sandra Spikes – Mayor Pro Tem, City of Collins
Tonya Edwards – Mayor, City of Manassas
Jackie C. Trim – Greater Tattnall Chamber of Commerce
Ed Nelson – Reidsville Airport Authority
Officers:
Wayne Dasher, Chairman – Tattnall County Board of Commissioners
Ophelia Gaines, Treasurer – Tattnall County Board of Commissioners
Susan Thomas, Clerk – Reidsville Development Authority

There was a motion by Commissioner Conley and a 2nd by Commissioner Tatum to approve the appointment of Sandra Spikes, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Collins. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ricky C. Jarriel asked for continued prayers for the City of Collins and its citizens during this difficult time as they work to replace the late mayor, Charles Rushton.

12. **Department Reports**

Tattnall County Coroner Herb T. Brown, Jr. reviewed a 6-Month Operational & Case Load Report. **(Attached)** He noted that while overall expenses have stayed within budget for the first six (6) months, transportation costs are on the rise. He thanked members for their support.

County Manager Frank H. Murphy expressed his sincere appreciation to Coroner Brown, but followed by saying, "I hope you slow down a little!"

County Election Administrator Barbie Mock shared the election office is updating registration on a standard form, but advised citizens that a mailer is circulating that has not been issued by the Tattnall County Election Office. Anyone with questions should contact the office directly at 912-557-6417.

13. **Commission/Staff Comments**

Chairman Bill Kicklighter commended Road Superintendent Wayne Martin for participating in an informal equipment demonstration at Dobbs Equipment on June 23, 2026. He exhibited exceptional excavator skills, precision, and operational mastery during the event while operating a John Deere 300.

14. **Public Comments**

City of Glennville Public Works Director Rob Fravel introduced new Glennville City Manager Jeremy Anderson.

15. **Executive Session**

County Attorney Tom Peterson stated executive session was needed to discuss real estate matters.

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

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Kennedy to go into executive session at 9:55 a.m. to discuss real estate 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 Kennedy to go back into open session at 10:15 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Kennedy to approve authorizing County Attorney Tom Peterson to consult with the Georgia Heirs Property Law Center, Inc. concerning the three (3) parcels with defective titles on Lincoln Street and report back in August. Motion carried unanimously.

16. **Adjournment**

With no further discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner Jarriel and a 2nd by Commissioner Kennedy to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

William (Bill) J. Kicklighter, Chairman

Sheila R. Mills, Certified County Clerk

CLERK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT • TATTNALL CO., GA. • SEAL

STATE OF GEORGIA

TATTNALL COUNTY

RESOLUTION 2026-15:
SUPPORT & RECOGNITION OF THE UNDERDOG PROJECT, INC.

A resolution recognizing The Underdog Project, Inc. as a community partner in addressing animal welfare needs in Tattnall County, Georgia.

WHEREAS, stray, abandoned, and at-risk animals present ongoing challenges to the community; and

WHEREAS, The Underdog Project, Inc. is a Georgia nonprofit organization dedicated to animal welfare, community assistance, foster networking, resource distribution, and responsible animal care; and

WHEREAS, The Underdog Project, Inc. seeks to assist local government by providing support for the humane handling of stray and abandoned animals; and

WHEREAS, cooperation between local government and community organizations can improve outcomes for both animals and residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tattnall County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes The Underdog Project, Inc. as a valued community partner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tattnall County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Tattnall County, support cooperative efforts between local officials and The Underdog Project, Inc. to assist with animal welfare initiatives, public education, foster development, resource assistance programs, and the humane handling of stray and abandoned animals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Underdog Project, Inc. shall operate as an independent nonprofit organization and not as an agent, employee, contractor, or representative of Tattnall County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing contained in this Resolution shall create any legal duty, financial obligation, liability, or responsibility on the part of Tattnall County, their elected officials, employees, agents, or volunteers for their actions, operations, care, custody, transportation, treatment, placement, adoption, fostering, or handling of any animal by The Underdog Project, Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution serves solely as an expression of support and recognition and shall not be interpreted as creating a partnership, agency relationship, employment relationship, or assumption of liability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be spread on the Official Minutes of the Tattnall County Board of Commissioners and a framed copy be presented to Jessica Kicklighter, Founder, The Underdog Project, Inc.

This 6th day of July 2026.

William (Bill) J. Kicklighter, Jr. Chairman

Ricky C. Jarriel, 1st District Commissioner

Bobby Kennedy, 2nd District Commissioner

Billy D. Conley, 3rd District Commissioner

Wayne Tatum, 4th District Commissioner

Wanda S. Allen, 5th District Commissioner

ATTEST:

Sheila R. Mills, Certified County Clerk

TATTNALL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COURT SEAL TATTNALL CO., GA.

SPOT LEVELING ESTIMATE - July 2026

ROAD	FROM	BEGIN STATION	END STATION	LENGTH PLUS 25'	STRIPE LENGTH	SIDE	ASPHALT TONS
Ronnie Collins Rd	Bill Sikes Rd (east)	2037	2689	677	1354		65.2
Ronnie Collins Rd	Bill Sikes Rd (east)	2037	2689	677	1354		65.2
Sam Green Rd	Tim Odum Rd (north)	496	540	69	228		6.6
Courthouse Parking Lot	15.1 X 30.75 - 2"						6.0
Joe Brewton Rd	Birdford Lake Rd - 610' *	0	610	635	1220		61.1
	* Fill in area at end of road						
	on left and radiuses at						
	intersection with 2"						
	Stripe on each side with						
	white stripe						
TOTAL LENGTH & ASPHALT				**2058**	**4156**		**204**
	Quantity	Price	Total	0% over			
Asphalt Cost	204	$222.00	$45,306				
Striping	4156	$1.50	$6,234	ESTIMATE + 10%			
Total Estimate			$51,540	$56,694			
TOTAL ESTIMATE							**$56,694**

OFFICE OF THE CORONER
TATTNALL COUNTY
403 West Barnard Street • Glennville, Georgia 30427

Herbert T. Brown, Jr., *Coroner* | Office: (912) 237-4963 | Fax: (912) 557-6784 | hbrown@tattnallcountyga.gov

Tattnall County Coroner's Office: 6-Month Operational & Case Load Report

Report Overview

- **Reporting Period**: January 01, 2026 – June 30, 2026
- **Submitting Official**: Herbert T. Brown Jr., Tattnall County Coroner

Official Opening Statement

"As the Tattnall County Coroner, I am pleased to present the semi-annual Operational and Case Load Report for the first half of 2026. This report highlights our commitment to conducting thorough, independent, and timely death investigations. By optimizing our on-scene presence and leveraging digital state databases, our office continues to deliver accurate findings for families, law enforcement, and public health tracking, while managing evolving resource demands."

Operational Efficiency Metrics

- **Scene Investigation Time**: 3.21 hours average per incident.
- **Administrative Case Time**: 7.25 hours average per case.
- **Administrative Scope**: Subpoena management, medical record reviews, and Georgia State Coroner Database filing.

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Case Load Breakdown (Total Cases: 53)

- **Natural Deaths**: 37 (69.8%)
- **Motor Vehicle Accidents**: 4 (7.5%)
- **Firearm-Related Deaths**: 3 (5.7%)
- **Other Trauma (Suspected)**: 3 (5.7%)
- **Suspected Overdose / Illicit Drugs**: 3 (5.7%)
- **Accidental Falls**: 1 (1.9%)
- **Hanging / Asphyxia**: 1 (1.9%)
- **Aviation Accidents**: 1 (1.9%)

Laboratory & Logistics Summary

- **GBI Coastal Crime Lab Consultations**: 21 calls
- **Autopsy & Examination Transports**: 19 bodies
- **Medical Supplies Utilized**: 22 body bags

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Operational Recommendations for Q3–Q4 2026

- **Resource Optimization**: Evaluate medical supply procurement cycles to ensure inventory like body bags matches the projected case load.
- **Administrative Workflow**: Streamline data entry protocols for the State Coroner Database to reduce the 7.25-hour administrative average per case.
- **Inter-Agency Coordination**: Maintain strong communications channels with the GBI Coastal Crime Lab to safeguard steady turnaround times for autopsy and examination reports.

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 7/16/2026.

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 July, 2026.

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

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

Notary Public

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William (Bill) J. Kicklighter
Commissioners Ricky C. Jarriel, Bobby Kennedy, Billy Cooley, Wayne Tatum, & Wanda S. Cullen
County Attorney Tom Peterson
County manager Frank H. Murphy
Certified County Clerk Sheila R. Mills