

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF HENRY

The Henry County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Public Meeting *in-person* on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Henry County Administration Building (Community Room), 140 Henry Parkway, McDonough GA. HenryTV also streamed this live online at its website, as well as Charter/Spectrum Channel 180 and Facebook Live.

Carlotta Harrell, Chair
Johnny Wilson, District 1 Commissioner
Neat Robinson, Vice Chair/District 2 Commissioner
Michael T. Price, District 4 Commissioner
Kevin J. Lewis, District 5 Commissioner

Dee Anglyn, District 3 Commissioner – NOT PRESENT

Staff Present: Cheri Hobson-Matthews, County Manager; Kevin Johnson, Deputy County Manager; Rachel Mack, County Attorney; Candance Brown, Staff Attorney; Stephanie Braun, County Clerk and Jasmin Head, Deputy County Clerk.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE

HENRY COUNTY CODE OF CONDUCT

(Sec. 2-2-128: Conduct during public meetings)

INVOCATION

The Invocation was presented.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

CALL TO ORDER

PROCLAMATIONS/ RECOGNITIONS

- A. Proclamation recognizing Rufus Stewart, City of McDonough Councilmember. (*Presenter: Amber Smith, Public Relations Specialist*)
- B. Proclamation honoring Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) for their 20th Anniversary. (*Presenter: Amber Smith, Public Relations Specialist*)
- C. Employee Years of Service Recognition (*Presenter: Holly Lafontaine, HR Director*)
 - **5 Years of Service**
 - Bernita Campbell – Budgets Department
 - Darian Bethea – Police Department

Eugene Nobles – Sheriff’s Office
James Wilson – Sheriff’s Office
Michael Pilcher – Police Department
Morris Bedor – Fire Rescue
Orion Willcut – Police Department
Ryan Black – Police Department
Thomas Overbey – Police Department
William Lindsey – Police Department
Vickie Holland – Clerk of Superior Court

- **10 Years of Service**
Joshua Taylor - Police Department
Stephen Smith – Police Department
- **20 Years of Service**
Glenda Garrison – Clerk of State Court
Jenny Jenkins – Fire Rescue
- **25 Years of Service**
Herbert Dillon – G.I.S.
Tammy Smith – Senior Services

PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Transportation SPLOST (TSPLOST) Update — District 2 (*Presenter: Clayton Carte, Senior Public Relations Specialist Henry County SPLOST*)
- B. SPLOST Update (*Presenter: Clayton Carte, Senior Public Relations Specialists Henry County SPLOST*)

Senior Public Relations Specialist, Clayton Carte provided two presentations: an update on Transportation T-SPLOST projects in Commission District 2 and a year-end review of the overall SPLOST program.

Topics Covered:

1. Transportation T-SPLOST Projects in Commission District 2
 2. Year-End Review of the Overall SPLOST Program
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1. Transportation T-SPLOST Overview
 - Voters approved T-SPLOST in 2021; collections began April 2022.
 - The five-year program is projected to collect \$245 million through Spring 2027, with the County share at approx. \$165 million.
 - County’s project list includes seven major road projects and \$9.75 million allocated for resurfacing.

Commission District 2 Projects

- District 2 includes Stockbridge and Fairview.
- One major road project is located in this district:
Fairview Road Widening – Phase 3 (Hearn Rd to SR 155)
 - Approximately 2.5 miles.
 - Expands roadway from 2 to 4 lanes with a center median.
 - Adds 8-ft sidewalks on both sides.
 - 79% of right-of-way has been acquired; completion expected by Summer 2026.
 - Project includes realignment of Austin Road and installation of a new roundabout at Swan Lake/Fairview/Austin.

2022 T-SPLOST Resurfacing

- Combined funding with SPLOST V for a resurfacing contract.
- Nearly \$5 million invested in District 2 resurfacing, including:
 - Roads such as Pattillo Road and Clark Drive.
 - Multiple subdivisions (shown on project maps).

Commissioner Comments

- Appreciation expressed for the detailed update and acknowledgment that the information has been long awaited by constituents.

2. SPLOST Year-End Review (2025)

Major 2025 Achievements

- North Mount Carmel Recreation Center opened in the spring:
 - Includes basketball & pickleball courts, game room, gym, and walking track.
 - High community excitement, especially within the Dutchtown area.
- Aquatic Center (McDonough):
 - Construction progressing; slides installed and interior work ongoing.
 - Scheduled to open Summer 2026.
- Locust Grove Tag Office (District 1):
 - Groundbreaking completed; foundation poured.
 - Expected opening: Late 2026.

Road & Transportation Progress

- Advancements on Berg Road and Dutchtown Road improvement projects.
- Construction underway on:
 - McDonough Parkway Extension
 - Rock Quarry Road Widening
- More T-SPLOST projects expected to advance in 2026.

Countywide Resurfacing

- Three resurfacing contracts initiated, covering nearly 200 county roads.
- Early resurfacing examples: Eagle's Landing Parkway, Keys Ferry Road, Westridge Parkway, Rocky Creek Road.
- Additional resurfacing items appear later in the agenda.

Upcoming 2026 Highlights

- Start of construction:
 - State Route 81 Widening
 - Jonesboro Road Widening
 - Intersection: Henry Parkway at Industrial Blvd
- GDOT beginning construction on the Bethlehem Road interstate exit in Locust Grove (a former county-led project now partnered with GDOT).

Additional Note

- GDOT's Janine Miller announced that managed lanes in Henry County will always operate north-south, eliminating reversible-lane configurations.

APPOINTMENTS

- A. Resolution appointing members to the Henry County Building & Facilities Authority: (Term: 12/2/25 - 12/2/27)

Resolution 25-363

Chairperson Harrell announced the resolution for the appointment of the members of the Henry County Building and Facilities Authority and asked for a motion.

Authority Member:
Vacant/BOC Chair
Donald L. Mason/District I
Randy Williams/District II
David Curry/District III
George Patterson/District IV
Kenyatta A. Bush/District V

Vice Chair Robinson made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

- B. Veteran's Advisory Board Appointment for District 4: Timothy Greene (*Term: Effective immediately — December 31, 2026*)

Resolution 25-364

Chairperson Harrell announced the resolution for the appointment of the District 4 Veteran's Advisory Board member and asked for a motion.

Commissioner Price made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Cheri Hobson-Matthews, County Manager read the consent agenda as follows:

CAPITAL PROJECTS:

- A. Resolution approving a contract with RoofConnect National Roofing Services for a new membrane roof at Fire Station #7 (**District 3**) 1800 GA-155 N, McDonough; F.S. #10 (**District 3**) 1059 Upchurch Rd., McDonough; F.S. #11 (**District 2**) 792 Flat Rock Rd., Stockbridge; F.S. #12 (**District 1**) 1123 Old Jackson Rd., Locust Grove; F.S. #13 (**District 3**) 2815 Conyers Rd., McDonough, in the amount of \$1,150,527 through Omnia Partners utilizing Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Bond Funds. *(Presenter: Hutch Purvis, Executive Director)(Exhibit 1)*
Resolution 25-365
- B. Resolution approving the Quote from Com-Tech for Low Voltage Data Cabling Installation at the Henry County Judicial Annex (**District 3**) 12 N. Zack Hinton Pkwy., McDonough, in the amount of \$129,923.00 through Contract #RFP 22-60 utilizing Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Bond Funds. *(Presenter: Lynn Planchon, Capital Projects Director)(Exhibit 2)*
Resolution 25-366
- C. Resolution approving the purchase of a new Mobile LED Screen Trailer with Audio/Visual Controls and Generator for Parks and Recreation from Insane Impact in the amount of \$232,940.12 through GSA, using Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Funds. **Countywide.** *(Presenter: Jonathon Penn, Executive Director)(Exhibit 3)*
Resolution 25-367

COUNTY CLERK

- A. Resolution approving Board of Commission Meetings for 2026 *(Presenter: Stephanie Braun, County Clerk)(Exhibit 4)*
Resolution 25-368

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- A. Resolution awarding RFP 22-06 to A-Action Facility Services, Inc, Lithonia, GA. in the amount of \$681,436.44 for janitorial services countywide *(Presenter: Susan Harris, Deputy Director of Purchasing)(Exhibit 5)*
Resolution 25-369

LEISURE SERVICES

- A. Resolution approving the easement agreement with McDonough Senior Center, LLC for installation of a sewer line at Heritage Park located at 99 Lake Dow Road, McDonough, GA 30252. *(Presenter: Jonathon Penn, Executive Director)(Exhibit 6)*
Resolution 25-370

PARKS AND RECREATION

- A. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners awarding RFP #26-02 for concession operations at N. Mt. Carmel Recreation Center to EdTech Integrations, LLC DBA The EdTech Group. *(Presenter: Jonathon Penn, Executive Director)(Exhibit 7)*
Resolution 25-371
- B. Resolution awarding RFP #26-04 to Duncans Green Team LLC, Jonesboro, GA in the amount of \$15,264.00 for the turf chemical treatment program *(Presenter: Jonathon Penn, Executive Director)(Exhibit 8)*
Resolution 25-372
- C. Resolution approving an agreement between Henry County Parks and Recreation Department and SportsEngine, LLC to install cameras to stream games at recreation centers. *(Presenter: Jonathon Penn, Executive Director)(Exhibit 9)*
Resolution 25-373

PLANNING AND ZONING:

- A. Resolution approving a request for a new streetlight district for the Norman Estates (Phase 1) Subdivision on Highway 81 East. **District 3** *(Presenter: Kamau As-Salaam, Deputy Director)(Exhibit 10)*
Resolution 25-374
- B. Resolution approving a request for a new streetlight district for the Trinity Park (Phase 2) Subdivision on Highway 20 East. **District 3** *(Presenter: Kamau As-Salaam, Deputy Director)(Exhibit 11)*
Resolution 25-375
- C. Resolution approving a request for a new streetlight district for Aspen Meadows (Phase 1) Subdivision on Lake Amah Lee Road. **District 5** *(Presenter: Kamau As-Salaam, Deputy Director)(Exhibit 12)*
Resolution 25-376
- D. Resolution approving a request for a new streetlight district for the Quinn Residences Subdivision on Snapping Shoals Road. **District 3** *(Presenter: Kamau As-Salaam, Deputy Director)(Exhibit 13)*
Resolution 25-377
- E. Resolution approving a request for a new streetlight district for Brighton (Phase 1) Subdivision on Locust Road. **District 1** *(Presenter: Kamau As-Salaam, Deputy Director)(Exhibit 14)*
Resolution 25-378

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

- A. Resolution approving an amendment to the agreement with Axon Enterprises, Inc. to upgrade the Henry County Police Department's electronic control devices to the Taser 10 platform at no cost, and to purchase the Taser 10 virtual reality training system with all associated equipment, services, and warranties for \$303,144.32 (*Presenter: Captain W. Powell, HCPD*)(*Exhibit 15*)
Resolution 25-379

SPLOST:

- A. Resolution to authorize the acquisition of 15,733.69 square feet of Temporary Easement in Land Lot 82 of the 6th District, Henry County, Georgia, by negotiated contract or condemnation pursuant to provision of O.C.G.A. Section 32-3-4 through Section 32-3-19 (Jonesboro Road Widening Project-Parcel 84 (TSPLOST) **District 5** (*Presenter: Bert Bivins, Interim SPLOST Director*)(*Exhibit 16*)
Resolution 25-380
- B. Resolution to authorize a permanent easement of 1,347.11 square feet in Land Lot 111 of the 6th District, Henry County, Georgia, by negotiated contract or condemnation pursuant to provisions of O.C.G.A. Section 32-3-4 through Section 32-3-19. Jonesboro Road Widening, Parcel 92 (TSPLOST). **District 5.** (*Presenter: Bert Bivins, IV, SPLOST Interim Director*) (*Exhibit 17*)
Resolution 25-381

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES:

- A. Resolution to Approve a Managed Services Contract for the Avigilon Camera System Used across Henry County for yearly maintenance at a cost of \$328,408.92 per year, using state contract #99999-SPD0000172-004, utilizing funding from Technology Services Repairs/Maintenance Account. (*Presenter: Jamie Pownall, Tech Services Director*)(*Exhibit 18*)
Resolution 25-381
- B. Resolution authorizing the recycling of technology surplus items and equipment. (*Presenter: Jamie Pownall, Tech Services Director*)(*Exhibit 19*)
Resolution 25-382
- C. Resolution to approve a 5-Year Contract with LBTechnology for GPS/Road and Driver cameras through 791 Co-Op with an estimated cost of \$101,009.00 for the remainder of FY'26 and \$307,432.00 for FY'27, utilizing funding from Technology Services Repairs/Maintenance Account. (*Presenter: Rhett Wheeler, Fleet Services Interim Director*)(*Exhibit 20*)
Resolution 25-382

STORMWATER:

- A. Resolution approving Bid Award #26-09 for waste-wood grinding services as an annual contract, one (1) year with two (2) mutually agreed upon one-year terms. (*Presenter: Toussaint Kirk, Executive Director*)(*Exhibit 21*)
Resolution 25-382

(This Ends the Consent Agenda)

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; **Commissioner Anglyn** seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

SPLOST:

- A. Resolution approving the bid award for the resurfacing of East Atlanta Road to E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc. in the amount of \$1,240,097.00. **District 2 SPLOST VI.** (*Presenter: Bert Bivins, Interim SPLOST Director*)(*Exhibit 22*)
Resolution 25-386

Bert Bivins, Interim SPLOST Director, presented recommendation to award the construction contract for the resurfacing of East Atlanta Road to E. R. Snell Contractor. Funding for this project includes \$850,000 from Congressman David Scott's office and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which was formally accepted by the Board of Commissioners on January 7, 2025.

The County solicited bids for the project and received 11 sealed bids. E. R. Snell Contractor submitted the lowest bid at \$1,240,097.00. Funding to cover the project will come from:

- Federal HUD funds: \$850,000
- District 2 resurfacing account: \$390,097

Recommendation: Staff recommended approval of the contract award to E. R. Snell Contractor for \$1,240,097.00 for the resurfacing of East Atlanta Road.

Commissioner Robinson noted this was long overdue.

Vice Chair Robinson made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

- B. A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners Authorizing the Chair to sign a Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Application for fiscal year 2026. (*Bert Bivins, Interim SPLOST Director*)(*Exhibit 23*)
Resolution 25-387

Bert Bivins, Interim SPLOST Director, presented the Board with a request to authorize the County Chair's signature to accept Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) funds from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for fiscal year 2026.

Henry County is slated to receive \$2,982,621.45 in LMIG funds. The grant requires a 30% local match, totaling \$867,786.44, bringing the combined funding to approximately \$3,850,407.89, which will be allocated across the county's districts.

County staff have identified roads with the most critical maintenance needs using a road rating system ranging from 0 (worst condition) to 100 (best condition). These ratings are publicly available on the Henry County website under the DOT page under Road Condition Scores.

The roads selected for this LMIG program are shown by district in the accompanying slides and are highlighted in magenta. Roads highlighted in other colors have been slated for resurfacing through separate programs or funding sources. Most selected roads fall in the marginal or poor condition categories.

Recommendation: Approval of the County Chair's signature to accept LMIG funds for FY 2026 and implement resurfacing projects as identified.

Vice Chair Robinson asked that staff look into the Swan Lake area when we're looking at future funding because there's definitely a need in that Swan Lake community.

Commissioner Price made a motion to approve; **Vice Chair Robinson** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

- C. Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of McDonough, re: Utility Relocation costs for the State Route 81 widening project, phase I. **District 3 and District 5 (TSPLOST)** (*Presenter: Bert Bivins, SPLOST Interim Director*)(*Exhibit 24*)
Resolution 25-388

Bert Bivins, Interim SPLOST Director, presented the Board with a request to approve an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the City of McDonough for utility relocations associated with the widening of State Route 81, Phase 1.

- Project Location: State Route 81, from Postmaster Drive to Bethany Road. Phase 2 (Bethany Road to Keys Ferry) is currently in design.

- GDOT Role: Georgia Department of Transportation plans to solicit bids for this construction contract in January 2026.
- Utility Relocation: Certain water and sewer utilities owned by the City of McDonough must be relocated to accommodate the road widening.
- Cost Estimate: GDOT provided an estimated cost of \$3,730,312.38 for the utility relocations.
- Funding Responsibility:
 - City of McDonough: up to \$3,290,960 (pending City Council approval)
 - Henry County: up to \$439,352.38, funded from the TSPLOST account for SR 81 Phase 1 widening.

The project image highlights the general location and scope of Phase 1. Approval of this IGA allows coordination of utility relocations in alignment with the planned construction schedule.

Recommendation: Approval of the intergovernmental agreement with the City of McDonough to share costs for utility relocations on SR 81 Phase 1.

During discussion of the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the City of McDonough for utility relocations associated with State Route 81, Phase 1, the Board requested clarification on funding responsibilities, project delays, and tentative approvals. Key points include:

1. Updated Cost Estimate:
 - Original projected cost: \$3,290,960 (City of McDonough share)
 - Updated GDOT estimate: \$3,730,312.38
 - Henry County proposes to cover the difference (~\$439,352.38) from T-SPLOST funds to prevent project delays.
2. Funding Responsibility:
 - The proposed arrangement effectively has Henry County paying for the portion of utility relocation normally assigned to the City of McDonough.
 - This is necessary to ensure the project proceeds on schedule and to avoid a 3–6 month delay.
 - The City of McDonough tentatively agreed to their share, pending formal approval by their City Council on December 15.
3. Project Delays and Negotiations:
 - Delays were caused by:
 1. Revisions and approvals required by GDOT, including plan modifications, omissions, and inclusions during the design process.
 2. Negotiations regarding utility cost responsibility between Henry County and the City of McDonough.
 - Cost increases from \$3.2 million to \$3.7 million are primarily due to material and labor price escalation over the last three years.
4. GDOT Role:
 - GDOT will not provide funding for the utility relocation, only oversight.
 - If the Board does not approve the IGA, GDOT will delay project letting by 3–6 months.
5. T-SPLOST Funding Impact:
 - Current projections indicate no adverse impact on other projects funded by T-SPLOST across districts, assuming the utility relocation cost remains as estimated.

6. Tentative Approval:

- The IGA is tentative pending formal approval from the City of McDonough Council on December 15.
- Staff expressed confidence that the City Council will approve the funding arrangement based on prior discussions with the City Administrator and SPLAS Coordinator.

Action/Recommendation: Proceed with the IGA as proposed, utilizing T-SPLOST funds to cover the difference, with the understanding that approval is contingent upon the City of McDonough Council's ratification. Approval ensures the project can proceed on schedule without delay.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to amend the IGA with the City of McDonough (wherein the County commits \$32M; and City commits \$7.7M to the above-referenced project); **Vice Chair Robinson** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

- D. Resolution approving the purchase of new Matrix Fitness Equipment through OMNIA Contract #156948, and new Ecore Rubber Sports Flooring through OMNIA Contract #08-28 for J.P. Moseley Recreation Center (**District 4**) 1041 Millers Mill Rd., Stockbridge, from Ready Fitness in the amount of \$117,697.59 using SPLOST VI Funds (SP6007). (*Presenter: Lynn Planchon, Capital Projects Director*)(*Exhibit 25*)
- Resolution 25-389**

Lynn Planchon, Capital Projects Director presented the Board with a resolution to approve the purchase of new Matrix fitness equipment and E-Core rubber sports flooring for the J. P. Mosley Park Recreation Center located at 1041 Millers Mill Road, Stockbridge (District 4).

- Vendor: Ready Fitness
- Funding Source: SPLOST 6 funds
- Total Cost: \$117,697.59
- Contracts Utilized:
 - Matrix Fitness Equipment – OMNIA Contract 156948
 - E-Core Rubber Sports Flooring – OMNIA Contract 08-28

Purpose and Justification:

- Existing fitness equipment and flooring are at the end of their life cycle and require replacement.
- Replacement aligns with the parks comprehensive master plan completed in March 2024.
- The purchase includes all listed equipment, materials, freight, delivery, and installation.
- New equipment and flooring will bring the recreation center up to current standards, enhancing community enjoyment and supporting recreational programming.

Sample pictures of the equipment and flooring were provided to illustrate the planned upgrades.

Recommendation: Approval of the resolution to purchase the new fitness equipment and flooring as proposed, funded through SPLOST 6.

Commissioner Price made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- A. Resolution to award bid number 26-07 to Blount Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$825,636.27 for Resurfacing of Greenview Homes & Saratoga Woods Subdivision Roads. Henry County DOT requests an additional \$205,363.73 for contingencies, totaling \$1,031,000.00. Funding is available in the DOT Budget. **District 4** (*Presenter: Steven Cariola, Engineer II for DOT*)(*Exhibit 26*)
Resolution 25-390

Steven Cariola, Engineer II for DOT, presented a resolution to award the construction contract for the resurfacing of roads in the Greenview Homes and Saratoga Woods Subdivisions in District 4 (Willow Lane).

- Background:
 - The subdivisions were built in the 1970s, and the infrastructure is aging.
 - Recent stormwater infrastructure repairs were completed; however, road conditions remain poor due to insufficient base and sub-base layers.
 - Standard pothole or strip patching is inadequate, requiring full resurfacing.
- Bidding Process:
 - Solicited through Bid 26-07 via the Purchasing Department
 - Five sealed bids were received and reviewed
 - Lowest bid: Blunt Construction – \$825,636.27
- Contingency:
 - Due to age of subdivisions, unknown subsurface conditions, and limited right-of-way, a contingency of \$205,363.73 is requested.
 - Total projected cost: \$1,031,000
- Funding Source: DOT budget

Recommendation: Approval to award the resurfacing project to Blunt Construction in the amount of \$1,031,000, including contingencies.

Commissioner Price provided comments regarding the **Greenview Homes and Saratoga Woods Subdivisions resurfacing project**, emphasizing the importance of maintaining older communities amidst new development. Key points include:

- The subdivisions, built in the 1970s, represent older communities that require attention alongside newer development projects.
- Acknowledged the complexities and contingencies involved, including challenges uncovered during stormwater system upgrades.
- Recognized the efforts of the stormwater staff and contractor in addressing on-site issues and ensuring work quality.
- Expressed gratitude to residents for their patience during construction, noting ongoing challenges such as tree roots affecting the roadway.
- Conveyed optimism that the project is progressing toward completion and will significantly improve living conditions for residents.

Commissioner emphasized the balance of “pain before pleasure”, acknowledging the difficulties of construction while highlighting the ultimate benefits for the community.

Commissioner Price made a motion to approve; **Vice Chair Robinson** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- A. Resolution to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Clark Atlanta University (CAU) to enhance educational opportunities for CAU students, foster civic and community engagement and promote professional development. (*Presenter: Shannan Sagnot, Executive Director*)(*Exhibit 27*)
Resolution 25-391

Shannan Sagnot, Executive Director of Human Resources presented the Board with a resolution to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Clark Atlanta University (CAU) and Henry County Government. The MOU aims to enhance educational opportunities for students, foster civic and community engagement, and promote professional development.

Objectives of the MOU include:

- Provision of internship opportunities for CAU students within Henry County Government.
- Facilitation of career development and skill-building experiences.
- Establishment of a framework for mutual support and resource sharing on community-oriented projects.

Responsibilities of Henry County Government under the agreement include:

- Informing CAU of available internship opportunities.
- Conducting interviews with eligible candidates pre-screened and recommended by the university.
- Coordinating students' schoolwork, assignments, and schedules in alignment with county needs.
- Providing an orientation to the work environment and meaningful assignments.
- Assisting students in developing specific learning objectives that align with career goals and academic programs.

Additional Notes:

- Henry County maintains existing partnerships and apprenticeship programs with other institutions, including Southern Crescent Technical College, and remains open to future collaborations with other universities and programs of higher learning.

Recommendation: Approval of the MOU to formalize collaboration with Clark Atlanta University and support educational and professional development initiatives for students.

Commissioner Lewis provided remarks on the MOU with Clark Atlanta University, highlighting the following points:

- Expressed gratitude to staff and collaborators for their contributions in developing the agreement.
- Noted that the project has been in development for approximately a year and a half, with the goal of establishing a pipeline of qualified students and potential employees into Henry County Government.
- Emphasized the mutual benefits of the partnership: providing practical opportunities for CAU students while addressing workforce needs for Henry County.
- Expressed pride in achieving a formalized, long-term collaboration with a reputable professional school.
- Acknowledged plans for a celebratory event with the university to mark the partnership.

Additional comments by Board members:

- Positive recognition of the MOU as outstanding work, particularly for youth engagement and professional development.
- Encouragement to expand similar opportunities with other universities, including Morris Brown College, to further benefit Henry County students.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve; **Vice Chair Robinson** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

LEISURE SERVICES:

- A. Resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding between Georgia Golden Olympics, Inc. and Henry County, Georgia, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, acting by and through its Henry County Leisure and Public Services (including Henry County Senior Services and Henry County Parks and Recreation Department). (*Presenter: Shawn Norris, Senior Service Director*)(*Exhibit 28*)
Resolution 25-392

Senior Services Director, Shawn Norris presented the Board with a resolution to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Georgia Golden Olympics, Inc. (GGO) and Henry County Government, involving Senior Services and Parks & Recreation.

Event Overview:

- The Georgia Golden Olympics is a statewide competition for adults age 50 and older, promoting active lifestyles, wellness, and athletic engagement.
- Provides opportunities to participate in amateur sports competitions designed for a wide range of ages and physical abilities.
- The event is a sanctioned qualifying competition for the National Senior Games. Winners from the 2026 event will advance to the National Senior Games in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 2027.

Event Details:

- Scheduled for the week of September 21–27, 2026 in Clayton County.
- GGO is requesting collaboration with Henry County to serve as host sites for selected events, utilizing Senior Services and Parks & Recreation facilities.
- Event types and photos from previous competitions were presented to illustrate the program.

Objective:

- Promote healthy and active lifestyles among older adults.
- Provide local support and facilities for statewide and national-level senior athletic competitions.

Recommendation: Approval of the MOU to formally collaborate with Georgia Golden Olympics, Inc., and serve as host sites for selected 2026 events.

Vice Chair Robinson made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

- A. Resolution approving the purchase of sports lighting and infrastructure upgrades at Richard Craig Park from Georgia Power in the amount of \$250,000.00 prepayment utilizing Impact Fees and \$15,327.50 monthly service agreement utilizing the department budget. (*Presenter: Donna Holder, Parks & Rec Deputy Director*)(*Exhibit 29*)

Resolution 25-393

Donna Holder, Parks and Rec Deputy Director provided the Board with the resolution to approve the purchase of sports lighting and infrastructure upgrades at Richard Craig Park from Georgia Power.

Financial Details:

- Prepayment Amount: \$250,000 using impact fees
- Monthly Service Agreement: \$15,327.50 funded through the department budget

Project Scope:

- Lighting upgrades at Richard Craig Park
- Future planned improvements include:
 - Sunshine League field renovation
 - Field laser grading
 - Concrete work and fencing
 - New batting cage
 - New restroom and concession facility

Purpose and Timing:

- Upgrades support the park's facilities and align with the upcoming 20th anniversary of the America's Wheelchair Tennis Tournament.
- Planned improvements aim to complete key infrastructure upgrades in time for the tournament.

Recommendation: Approval of the purchase and service agreement to enhance lighting and infrastructure at Richard Craig Park.

Commissioner Lewis and staff discussed the funding and scope of the planned upgrades at Richard Craig Park. Key points include:

1. Impact Fees:
 - Questions were raised regarding impact fee contributions from the City of McDonough.
 - Staff confirmed that invoices have been sent, but as of the meeting date, no payments have been received.
 - The only city from which impact fees have been received to date is Locust Grove.
2. Project Background:
 - Discussions and planning for Richard Craig Park upgrades have been ongoing for several years.
 - The park is located in Commissioner Lewis's district, and improvements aim to bring all county parks to a consistent, high-quality standard.
 - Upgrades include lighting improvements, field renovations, fencing, batting cages, and restroom/concession facilities, totaling approximately \$2.7 million.
3. Lighting Upgrades:
 - The contract with Georgia Power includes provisions for automatic replacement of lighting technology as new innovations become available, eliminating the need for repeated future requests for funding.
4. Project Timeline:
 - Full implementation of all planned upgrades is expected to take approximately one year.
 - Phase one focuses on sports lighting, with subsequent phases addressing the Sunshine League field renovation and other park infrastructure improvements.

Remarks: Commissioner Lewis emphasized the importance of providing first-class facilities for the residents of Richard Craig Park and the Blacksville area, expressing excitement for the project's progress.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Price** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

- B. Resolution approving the Memorandum of Understanding between Briggs & Associates and Henry County Government (Parks & Recreation Department) to establish a partnership in order to facilitate and support the Special Needs Employment Program. (*Presenter: Donna Holder, Parks & Rec Deputy Director*)(Exhibit 30)
Resolution 25-394

Terry Nash, Therapeutic Recreation Superintendent; Thomas White, Deputy Administrator of Recreation presented the Board with a presentation and resolution seeking approval for the Exceptional Needs Employment Program, an extension of the County's Therapeutic Recreation Services.

Program Overview:

- Therapeutic Recreation is a systematic, activity-based approach to support individuals with special needs and disabilities, promoting social development, skill-building, and community integration.
- The program encompasses several components, including:
 - Exceptional Needs Employment Program – structured employment opportunities for special needs individuals
 - Circle of Friends Program – social engagement and lifelong support

- Therapeutic Recreation Camps – serving 70–80 youth participants, expanding countywide to locations such as J. P. Mosley Recreation Center
- Sunshine League and Special Olympics – competitive athletic programs, including national and international participation (e.g., Alpine skier to Korea, unified softball team to Minneapolis)
- Social events and trips to enhance inclusion, family engagement, and personal development (e.g., Thanksgiving feast with 115 participants)

Program Philosophy:

- Focus on lifelong engagement, ensuring services are consistent and inclusive across ages and abilities.
- Emphasis on challenging norms and fostering independence, skill development, and confidence in participants.
- Integration of adults as well as youth, highlighting the continuity of care and recreation throughout life.

Briggs & Associates Partnership:

- Briggs & Associates, one of the largest supportive employment agencies, will assist Henry County in creating and expanding the Special Needs Employment Program using existing county positions.
- Agency responsibilities include:
 - Training staff to work alongside special needs employees
 - Supporting the employment process, including interviews and on-the-job training
 - Providing ongoing support for the success of special needs employees
- Program is state- and federally funded, with no cost to Henry County; the county provides positions only.

Objectives:

- Expand employment and recreational opportunities for individuals with special needs across multiple county departments.
- Enhance inclusion, independence, and skill development for participants.
- Build upon prior successes with Briggs & Associates to scale the program efficiently.

Recommendation: Approval of the MOU with Briggs & Associates to facilitate and expand the Special Needs Employment Program, supporting lifelong engagement, skill-building, and community participation for special needs residents of Henry County.

Chair Harrell made a motion to approve; **Vice Chair Robinson** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

- A. Resolution accepting the donation of a K-9 ballistic vest valued at \$3,836.00 from Georgia Piedmont Region K-9 Search and Rescue, Inc. to the Henry County Police Department
(Presenter: Captain W. Powell, HCPD)(Exhibit 31)
Resolution 25-395

Captain W. Powell (HCPD) presented a request from the Henry County Police Department to approve the acceptance of a donated canine ballistic vest.

Donation Details:

- Donor: Georgia Piedmont Region Canine Search and Rescue, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization providing trained canine teams for law enforcement search and rescue operations.
- In Honor Of: William M. Hillsman, a former member of the organization and Henry County resident from McDonough, who served in leadership roles and held certifications through the National Association for Search and Rescue, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, and the National Search Dog Alliance.
- Item Donated: K-9 patrol ballistic vest, valued at \$3,836.
- Purpose: The ballistic vest will protect Henry County Police K-9 officers from serious injury or death while performing law enforcement duties.

Recommendation: Approval for the Henry County Police Department to accept the donated K-9 ballistic vest.

Vice Chair Robinson made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

PLANNING AND ZONING:

- A. HC-CODE-AM-25-01 (Not a Public Hearing)
An Ordinance amending *Chapter 3-4 Subchapter 1, Article I* of the Code of Ordinances of Henry County, Georgia regarding the regulation of tethering of animals in Henry County.
Countywide (Presenter: Toussaint Kirk, Executive Director, Planning and Zoning; and Captain Michael Hobgood, Animal Care and Control Director)(Exhibit 32)

Animal Care and Control, Captain Michael Hopgood presented that previously at the September 23rd Board of Commissioners meeting, Commissioner Price requested a discussion regarding the county's animal tethering standards. In 2021, Animal Care and Control amended the ordinance to include provisions for tethering in response to community feedback. The proposed amendment would remove these provisions, effectively reverting to the pre-2021 ordinance, which does not specifically address tethering. Animal Care and Control expressed concerns, citing potential negative impacts on public safety, animal welfare, and staff workload, and does not recommend the change at this time.

Discussion Highlights:

- **Animal Care and Control Concerns:**
 - Reverting to pre-2021 ordinance may endanger animals and residents in certain housing situations or with limited resources.
 - Increased enforcement workload could result in higher intake at shelters and potentially more euthanasia.
 - Court and city coordination may be required to enforce changes, as city ordinances may not align with county codes.
 - Temporary or minor tethering for essential purposes (e.g., bathroom breaks, grooming) could be allowed.
- **Board Member Input:**
 - Some commissioners emphasized prioritizing animal welfare over enforcement challenges.
 - Temporary tethering exceptions were proposed for situations where animals need brief, supervised tethering.
 - Reference made to neighboring counties that have successfully implemented stricter tethering ordinances without overwhelming Animal Control.

Public Comment: James Curtillo, a resident of Locust Grove, expressed support for responsible, temporary tethering and highlighted the need for public awareness of the ordinance.

Next Steps:

- The Board agreed to table the item to allow staff to work with city managers, refine ordinance language, and incorporate temporary tethering provisions while ensuring enforceability.
- Staff to return with a recommendation in the first quarter of the following year, with required public advertisement and board review.

Commissioner Price made a motion to table (to a Board Meeting during the first quarter of 2026); **Vice Chair Robinson** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

County Manager Comments:

Public Comments

1) James Kokotilo

Note: He was speaking on the Tethering Ordinance (HC-CODE-AM-25-01) so Chair Harrell allowed him to speak during the item when it was presented.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

A. Canceled December 16, 2025 Regular BOC Meeting at 6:30PM

C. January 6, 2026 at 9:00AM is a Regular BOC Meeting

Executive Session (Re: Personnel) - Added Litigation and Real Estate – 11:31AM

Vice Chair Robinson made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Reconvene from Executive Session

Commissioner Price made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-1 with Chair Harrell not being present for the vote.

Approval of an Affidavit and Resolution pertaining to Executive Session

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Price** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

(ADDED after Executive Session): Resolution to amend the Adoption Agreement for Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Defined Benefit Plan (Amendment #12) for Henry County Employees (re: County Coroner and Deputy County Coroner)

Resolution 25-396

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Wilson** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Chairperson Harrell adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

*Carlotta Harrell, Chair
Henry County Board of Commissioners*

*Stephanie Braun
County Clerk*