

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Minutes of December 2, 2025

Regular Meeting

6:00 P.M.

Present:

Alan Gibbs, Chairman

John Ambrose, Vice-Chairman

Lamarcus Davis, District 1

Eddie Rowland, District 2

Al Turner, District 4

Staff:

Jim Hedges, County Manager

Lorri Robinson, Finance Director/Deputy County Manager

Ben Vaughn, County Attorney

Janet Abbott, County Clerk

Richard Dumas, Public Information Officer

Kelsey Fortner, Community Development Manager

Welcome

Chairman Gibbs welcomed everyone in attendance.

Prayer

Mike Jones Riverside Baptist Church gave the invocation

Pledge

Chairman Gibbs led the pledge.

Roll Call

County Clerk Janet Abbott called roll.

Call to Order

Chairman Gibbs called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

New Business

Approve Agenda

Chairman Gibbs presented the agenda for approval with the removal of the minutes and the addition of item j moratorium for data centers.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Minutes-October 21, 2025, 9 a.m. Regular meeting, October 21, 2025, Called Meeting,

Removed from the agenda.

Library Board Appointments

1. Library Board Member Term Expirations:

- Four members of the Library Board will have their terms expire on December 31, 2025:
 - Ralph Bass (City of Forsyth appointee) – Term restricted.
 - Lauri English (Board of Education appointee) – Term restricted. Dr. Jim Finch confirmed that Mrs. Ronna DeMichiel, Instructional Coach at Hubbard Elementary, will replace her as the BOE appointee.
 - Cassandra Ogletree (County appointee) – Does not wish to be reappointed.
 - Taylor Bittick (County appointee) – Term restricted.

2. Upcoming Appointments:

- Two new County appointees are required for 4-year terms beginning January 1, 2026, to replace Cassandra Ogletree and Taylor Bittick.
- Potential appointees were discussed on November 18, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting:
 - Joan Whitehead-Freeman
 - Tabitha Floyd (removed her name from consideration)
 - Valerie Grier
 - Richard Holden

3. Library Board Recommendations:

- If the Board of Commissioners seeks input from the Library Board, the following individuals are recommended:
 - Joe Reed
 - Joan Whitehead-Freeman

- Chelsia Ogletree
 - Valerie Grier
 - Amanda Bernard
 - Jennie Ridley
 - Tamarkis Taylor
- Joe Reed and Joan Whitehead-Freeman have previously agreed to serve, as they are frequent library volunteers. The willingness of other recommended individuals is yet to be confirmed.

Commissioner Rowland motioned to appoint Richard Holland.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Davis motioned to appoint Joan Whitehead Freeman.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Central Georgia Joint Development Authority Appointment

The Middle Georgia Regional Commission has notified us that the appointment of Kerri Swearingen's term on the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority will expire on December 31, 2025, and Mrs. Swearingen is willing to be reappointed. This is a four-year appointment.

Chairman Gibbs motioned to reappoint Kerri Swearingen to the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority for a four-year term.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0.

Recreation Facility Master Plan

1. Background:

- The north portion of the county's recreation facility spans 114.22 acres and has undergone four Master Plans for development.
- The latest Master Plan, developed by Harbin Engineering in 2023, is recommended to be declared void due to recent developments, including the expansion of Dan Pitts Road, near-completion of the new gymnasium, and ongoing construction of the horse arena cover.

2. Current Developments:

- The agriculture and services building are under consideration for construction in the northwestern corner of the recreation facility.

- 2026-2031 SPLOST allocates \$10,178,200 (31% of the total SPLOST fund) to the Recreation Department, primarily for the development of the north portion of the facility.

3. Recommendations:

- Recreation Director Landon Sparks suggests voiding the current Master Plan and creating a new one to accommodate recent changes and future needs.
- Triple Point Engineering, led by Dan Wallace, is recommended to develop the new Master Plan, funded by the 2026-2031 SPLOST.

4. Additional Considerations:

- Relocation of the agriculture center to the area originally designated for soccer fields is being discussed. Soil conditions and parking requirements are key factors in determining the final location.
- Concepts for redesigning the existing site to optimize parking and facility layouts have been proposed.
- The RFQ process for selecting a contractor for the agriculture center is ongoing, with a decision expected by year-end.

5. Next Steps:

- The Board of Commissioners will review the proposal to void the current Master Plan and engage Triple Point Engineering during the December 2, 2025, meeting.
- Final decisions on the agriculture center location and contractor selection are pending further input and cost analysis.

Commissioner Ambrose asked whether the \$25,000 would include both the borings and the new master plan.

Mr. Hedges replied yes, the \$25,000 is intended to include engineering work (borings, evaluation) and the new master plan.

Chairman Gibbs motioned proceed with the soil borings and soil scientist evaluation and to engage Triple Point Engineering/Dan Wallace to develop a new master plan for the 114 acres, with funding to come from SPLOST.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0.

2026 Budget

Budget Presentation – Fiscal Year 2026

County Manager Jim Hedges presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and provided an overview of major changes, financial highlights, and required appropriations. Mr. Hedges stated budget books were provided to commissioners in early November, and a detailed budget presentation and public hearing was held at the November 18th commissioners' meeting.

Budget Summary

Mr. Hedges reported that for the fourth consecutive year, balancing the FY 2026 Budget requires an appropriation from Fund Balance. The total combined FY 2026 Budget for all funds, including capital expenditures, is **\$56,635,831**, representing an increase of **\$5,808,538** over the FY 2025 Budget.

Fund Overview

- **General Fund:** \$46,928,480 (increase of \$4,039,683)
- **Special Revenue Funds:** \$2,702,915 (increase of \$439,957)
- **Enterprise Funds:** \$7,004,436 (increase of \$1,328,898)
- **Capital Projects Fund:** \$306,225 (decrease of \$1,323,145 due to accounting reclassification)

Highlights and Notable Adjustments

- The Commissioners' budget includes a **\$500,000 contingency** for unforeseen expenditures.
- A **\$1,375,000 contingency** is included for the upcoming Evergreen Solutions salary study expected in late December.
- **Salaries and benefits total \$28,935,899**, representing **51% of the overall budget**, with Public Safety departments (Sheriff, Jail, E-911, MCES) accounting for a combined increase of **\$1,989,811**.
- Accounting changes include:
 - Increasing the capital expenditure threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
 - Recording certain Special Revenue and Enterprise Fund capital expenses as operating expenses per auditor recommendations.
- Appropriation of Fund Balance decreases from **\$7,404,079 in FY 2025** to **\$4,918,702 in FY 2026**, a reduction of **\$2,485,377 (34%)**.

General Fund Revenues and Expenditures

The FY 2026 General Fund Budget totals **\$46,928,480** in both revenues and expenditures. Revenue growth is primarily driven by increases in property taxes, fines and forfeitures, interest earnings, and

excess SPLOST collections. Expenditure increases are noted in Commissioners, IT, General Government, Sheriff, Jail, MCES, Fleet Management, and Recreation

Enterprise and Special Revenue Funds

Mr. Hedges reviewed major changes within the Enterprise Funds, including increases in the Water Fund due to higher MWA purchases and contingencies, and equipment and landfill investments within the Solid Waste Fund. The Conference Center Fund reflects minor operational increases.

Special Revenue Funds, including the DARE Fund, Care Cottage Fund, and E-911 Fund, were presented as part of the overall FY 2026 Budget structure.

Budget Resolution

The proposed **Resolution to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget** was presented, including the adoption of the General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Enterprise Funds, and Special Revenue Funds. The Resolution designates Insurance Premium Tax revenue to support Fire/EMS operations. The FY 2025 Budget Resolution will be repealed effective January 1, 2026.

Commissioner Turner motioned to approve the 2026 Budget and adopt the resolution.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

P&Z Hearing-Zoning Map Update

Zoning Map Amendment – Monroe County Planning & Zoning Application 2025-25

Commissioner Davis motioned to open a public hearing at 6:23 p.m. to consider a Planning and Zoning Application **2025-25**, an amendment to the Monroe County Official Zoning Map.

Commissioner Turner seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Background

Community Development Manager Kelsey Fortner stated the Board adopted the **Monroe County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)** on September 5, 2023, which replaced prior zoning provisions and included the adoption of a new Official Zoning Map. During subsequent review, it was determined that parcels owned and operated by the rock quarry located at **3582 Pea Ridge Road, Juliette, Georgia 31046** were zoned Industrial; however, they were not classified under the proper level of industrial zoning as intended under the UDO.

Action Taken

The Board of Commissioners exercised its authority to amend the Official Zoning Map in order to properly classify the zoning levels for **Vulcan's Macon Quarry** and adjoining parcels. The Board

approved updating the zoning map to reflect the appropriate industrial zoning designation of **M-3 with Special Use (SU)** for the following parcels:

- 111 018
- 107 010
- 107 009A
- 107 010A
- 107 009H
- 107 009M
- 107 009L
- 107 009K
- 107 009V
- 107 009N
- 107 009W
- 111 019
- 111 032A
- 111 033A
- 111 035
- 111 037
- 111 033
- 111 034
- 111 036

All parcels listed above were officially amended to **M-3 Industrial with Special Use (SU)** on the Monroe County Official Zoning Map.

Explanation

Mrs. Fortner explained that these parcels were already zoned Industrial, but the **M-1 designation was not sufficient** given the operational needs and intensity of activities associated with the quarry. The UDO established new industrial zoning levels, and these parcels required updating to align with the zoning structure adopted in 2023. The amendment ensures proper zoning designation and regulatory consistency for the quarry's operations.

Mrs. Fortner further noted that **additional zoning map amendments** will be brought forward in the future as part of the effort to align all parcels countywide with the adopted UDO.

BV also a resolution but did not send to CM can approve at the next meeting.

Vulcan Representative Amanda Larsen spoke on behalf of the zoning map amendments. Ms. Larsen stated Vulcan supports the change. No one spoke against the application

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval.

No one spoke in favor or in opposition.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to close the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried

County Attorney Ben Vaughn stated the resolution to amend will be at the next meeting for formal adoption after the commissioners have reviewed it.

P&Z Hearing-Package Store-Juliette Road

Commissioner motioned to enter a public hearing at 6:30 pm to review a Special Use Application **2025-23**, submitted by **Cara & Jessiah Inc. / Lachu S. Punjabi**, requesting approval to operate a **package store** within an existing building located at **5196 Juliette Road, Juliette, Georgia 31046 (Map 096, Parcel 004)**. The structure has historically been used as a small retail store similar to a convenience store without fuel pumps.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0

Planning & Zoning Recommendation

The Monroe County Planning and Zoning Commission **recommended denial** of the request. The applicant did not appear at the scheduled Planning & Zoning meeting, and the Commission declined to recommend approval in the applicant's absence.

Request Summary

- **Zoning District:** C-1 (Commercial)
- **Special Use Requested:** Operation of a package store
- **Existing Structure:** Previously used for general retail; currently vacant
- **Applicant's Intent:** To reopen the building as a package store

The applicant was not present.

There was no one present in opposition.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to close the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to deny the application.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0

P&Z Hearing-Atkinson Drive-Rezoning

Commissioner Davis motioned to enter a public hearing at 6:33 p.m. to consider a rezoning request.

Commissioner Turner seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0

Rezoning Request – Application 2025-22

Property: 83 Atkinson Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029 (Map 039B, Parcel 008A)

Applicant/Owner: Joshua Lundy

Request: Rezoning from **R-1 to R-3** to allow placement of a manufactured home.

Summary:

The property owner seeks to place a manufactured home on a 1-acre lot. The previous zoning ordinance would have permitted this use; however, the current UDO does not allow manufactured homes in R-1. The lot frontage and acreage are consistent with R-3 standards. Rezoning the property to R-3 would create a conforming zoning designation and allow the applicant to proceed.

Planning & Zoning Recommendation: Approval

The applicant Josh Lundy was present and stated this is family land and his mother had transferred the land to him this year. Mr. Lundy stated he plans to place a manufactured home for family use on the property.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

Carol Edge spoke, stating she was speaking on behalf of Rob Law who could not be present, stating that Mr. Law suggested the following at the Planning and Zoning meeting:

- The entire road/area be rezoned as a mobile home district (R3), since multiple manufactured homes are already there.
- Recognized the practical difficulty of rezoning the entire street quickly and the need for notice to all property owners.
- Supported this particular re-zoning but pointed out the broader inconsistency on the street.

The board discussed the following:

- There are at least two manufactured homes on that road now.
- Broader street-wide rezoning might be complex and require consent of multiple owners.
- For now, it is appropriate to address the single parcel request, given its context and family nature.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to close the public hearing at 6:38 p.m.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Gibbs motioned to approve the rezoning request.

Commissioner Ambrose seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Data Center Moratorium

County Attorney Ben Vaughn stepped away from representing the Board for the discussion due to a conflict of interest.

Chairman Gibbs motioned to establish a moratorium on Data Centers in Monroe County effective immediately and to remain in place until the UDO changes regarding data centers can be completed and for Community Development Director Kelsey Fortner to start the process to modify the UDO for Data Centers and to be placed on the agenda for the first meeting in March 2026.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion for discussion.

Chairman Gibbs stated the rationale for the moratorium is:

- Data Center issues keep arising.
- The Board wants to ensure the County is fully protected via clear UDO standards before new proposals are accepted.
- The intent is not to kick the can down the road but to pause while a solution is developed.

Commissioner Davis stated he previously drafted 10 conditions to regulate data centers and shared them with the board weeks earlier during the discussion at the Fine Arts Center. Commissioner Davis said the following:

- The Board already has workable conditions that can be refined (add, subtract, adjust).
- Placing a moratorium is equivalent to doing “nothing for two weeks”.
- The County has not been approached again by new data centers since the last major application.
- Even if a new proposal appeared now, the process would likely take past February anyway.
- There is already a moratorium on major residential subdivisions (placed in February and extended multiple times) which remains unresolved.
- Instead of layering moratoriums, the Board should finish the existing subdivision moratorium and actively work on the UDO language using the existing draft conditions.

Commissioner Davis clarified stating his reluctance to support a moratorium does not mean he is for data centers; he is focused on process and responsibility, not pro-data-center advocacy.

Commissioner Rowland stated he and Chairman Gibbs have discussed this over the last two weeks and have come to a reasonable negotiation:

1. Adopt a short-term moratorium on data centers:

- A. Purpose: prevent any new applications from getting in over Christmas and early months while rules are in flux.

2. Simultaneously direct staff (Kelsey) to:

- B. Initiate UDO text amendments specifically addressing data centers:
 - a. Criteria such as size, noise (decibels), power usage, location standards, etc.
 - b. Keep the language initially open-ended to allow incorporation of:
 - c. State-level guidance.
 - d. Citizen-proposed conditions.
 - e. Emerging best practices.

3. Timeline:

- C. Process to go through:
 - a. Drafting.
 - b. Legal review.
 - c. Public notice and P&Z hearing (targeting February P&Z– with a key deadline of Feb 13).
 - d. Final Board consideration at the first meeting in March.
 - e. At that meeting, two things happen together:
 - i. UDO changes are adopted.
 - ii. The moratorium is automatically lifted.

Commissioner Ambrose stated he supports a moratorium but suggested being cautious about locking in March as a hard end date because ACCG is hosting a data center webinar and expected to present additional recommendations for managing data centers. Commissioner Ambrose stated he would like flexibility to incorporate ACCG's guidance and community suggestions.

Community Development Director Kelsey Fortner clarified that final text and direction must be in place by February 13th for the required advertising and Planning and Zoning Hearing.

Chairman Gibbs restated his motion:

- Impose a moratorium on data centers in Monroe County effective immediately.
- Simultaneously:
 - Begin the UDO amendment process tonight focusing on data centers using:
 - Conditions previously drafted by Commissioner Davis.
 - Additional items suggested by Chairman and others.

- Direct Community Development (Kelsey) to manage:
 - Drafting.
 - P&Z public hearing.
 - Scheduling so that:
- UDO amendments return to the Board by the first meeting in March, at which time:
 - The UDO changes will be adopted, and
 - The moratorium will be lifted.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-1 with Chairman Gibbs, Commissioner Rowland, Commissioner Ambrose and Commissioner Turner in favor and Commissioner Davis opposed. Commissioner Davis stated the current moratorium on subdivisions should be completed prior to imposing a new one.

Public Comment

Chairman Gibbs read the “Public Access to Meetings Ordinance-Section 7 (Decorum).

Carol Edge

Address: 1544 Stokes Store Road

Comments:

- **Landfill Maintenance:** Reported historical lack of maintenance on inactive portions of the landfill, potentially contributing to current repair needs (~\$250,000). Asked whether **preventive maintenance** could be scheduled and budgeted to avoid large future expenses.
- **Subdivision Moratorium:** Requested an **extension** of the major subdivision moratorium. Noted limited discussion among departments and **no standalone public meetings** regarding UDO changes.
- **Subdivision Process Concerns:** Questioned the handling of a recent large subdivision application near her home. Asserted that 20 acres split into 3-acre lots were presented as part of a larger subdivision concept and should have been included under the moratorium.
- **Multiple Readings:** Recommended the County adopt a **multi-reading process** for major proposals, similar to the City Council, to allow citizens time to understand and respond.

Bronwyn Morgan

Address: 1592 Towaliga Lake Drive, High Falls

Comments:

- Requested the Board revisit the **October 2023 P&Z recommendation** to establish a **Technology Zone** and **remove data centers from C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial)** zoning.
- Stated that data centers are inconsistent with the intent of Neighborhood Commercial zoning and that prior professional recommendations should guide the current UDO amendment process.

Joshua Pruitt

Address: 516 Brushy Creek Circle

Comments:

- **Data Center Strategy:** Stated Monroe County is at a **crossroads** with multiple large-scale data center interests. Warned against addressing projects **one rezoning at a time**.
- **Public Sentiment:** Cited a poll showing **over 90% opposition** to additional data centers, stating the public message is: **“We are full.”**
- **Legal Model (Groton, CT):** Recommended adopting a zoning text amendment similar to Groton’s **12,500 sq. ft. maximum size** for data centers (equivalent to a CVS), which allows data centers but makes hyperscale development economically unviable.
- **Board Alignment:** Noted prior statements by multiple commissioners indicating limited desire for additional large data centers.
- **Action Requested:** Asked that staff prepare a **UDO text amendment** implementing a square-footage cap.

County Attorney Ben Vaughn exited the meeting prior to Ms. Deaton speaking to avoid any appearance of interference and stated he was not waiving his legal rights regarding any defamatory statements toward him that may be made by Ms. Deaton.

Stephanie Deaton

Address: 200 Cedar Breeze Drive

Comments:

Context: County Attorney exited prior to her remarks to avoid any appearance of interference.

- **Truth & Records:** Emphasized that **public records and metadata** reflect truth.

- **NDA Concerns:** Reported receiving **multiple inconsistent versions** of the Google-related NDA, including differing PDFs, metadata, and a printed copy with no electronic source. Stated, no native file has been produced despite open records requests.
- **Document Irregularities:** Claimed certain documents were uploaded by a **non-employee username**, then blocked or removed, but she had already **captured timestamps and archives**.
- **Record Preservation:** Indicated that she has provided all files and metadata to **state-level authorities**.
- **Conduct Issues:** Reported filing documentation regarding a commissioner's conduct toward residents.
- **Message to Google:** Stated that community members are not the problem; rather, alleged secrecy, conflicts of interest, and record irregularities are.
- **Conclusion:** Urged transparency, stating **"the people are watching."**

Russ Edge

Address: 1168 Edge Road

Comments:

- **Budget Availability:** Asked whether the full budget was available to the public. Staff confirmed copies were posted and available electronically or via flash drive.
- **"Other Financing Uses":** Questioned the purpose of a recurring budget line showing millions of dollars annually. Requested clearer definition and transparency.
- **Vehicle Spending:** Raised concerns about vehicle purchases (often \$50,000 each) and asked whether better fleet management or use of existing vehicles could reduce costs.
- **General Budget Growth:** Expressed concern that the budget continues to grow despite recommendations that departments prepare for reduced spending.

Percy Freeman

Address: 108 Todd Creek Place

Comments:

- Thanked the Board for appointing his wife to the Library Board.
- Shared her background and academic achievements.
- Requested future references identify her as **"Dr. Freeman."**

Candy Mountain

Address: 582 Bar None Road

Comments:

- **Data Center Risks:** Thanked the Board for the moratorium. Expressed concern over rapid industry expansion and the increasing sizes of proposed projects.
- **Water Supply:** Warned that limited water resources could be strained, especially since Monroe County purchases water from **Butts County** and **Macon**. Stated large data centers elsewhere could compromise Monroe's supply.
- **Residential Growth:** Cautioned against uncontrolled subdivision growth and potential strain on the school system.
- **Quality of Life:** Urged commissioners to consider whether they would want to live **500 feet** from a data center and to prioritize rural character in UDO updates.

Reed Thomas

Address: 121 Belmont Way

Comments:

- Supported earlier comments made by **Joshua Pruitt** regarding data centers.
- **Annexation Concerns:** Highlighted the example of annexation on Smith Road using a **public right-of-way corridor** to reach non-contiguous property. Stated this expanded city limits significantly and placed unincorporated residents under decisions made by city officials.
- **Request:** Asked the County to explore legal or policy measures to prevent such **leapfrog annexations** and work with state partners to close related loopholes.

Commissioner's Comments

District 1 Lamarcus Davis

- On public opinion/polls
 - Questioned statements like "90% of the community" opposing data centers.
 - Emphasized the 90% of how many people matters: a small, non-representative poll shouldn't be treated as the voice of all Monroe County.
- On Annexation
 - Noted that when city property touches unincorporated property, state law heavily favors the city's right to annex.
 - Stressed this is a state-level issue, not unique to Monroe, and the commissioners have limited tools to stop it.
- On personal attacks and social media

- Said he has deliberately avoided engaging with negativity and online drama.
- Observed that his name is repeatedly pulled into unproductive conversations and that this has become obsessive and concerning.
- Warned against confusing social media narratives with reality, likening them to old supermarket tabloids.
- Stated that no that no twisted narrative, character attack, or false gate can outweigh:
 - The truth,
 - The work being done, and
 - The purpose he believes God gave him.
- Said he speaks not from anger, but to set boundaries and keep focus on:
 - His calling,
 - County progress, and
 - His family's peace.
- On future engagement
 - Announced he will not engage further in online back-and-forth.
 - Reaffirmed commitment to serving Monroe County with integrity, dedication, and heart.
- On Community Service
 - Promoted the "Men Making a Difference" toy drive on December 20 at the Monroe County Conference Center.
 - Mentioned a partnership with Big Peach Car Wash.
 - Donate \$10 or bring a toy and you're entered to win a free car wash for a year.
 - Noted detractors won't highlight efforts like this, but these events matter for families in need.

District 2 Eddie Rowland

- ACCG and data centers
 - Explained he and Commissioner Davis serve as Legislative Leadership Coordinators with ACCG.
 - Said ACCG will host a data center webinar to help counties manage fast moving data center issues.
 - Committed to using that information in shaping Monroe County's UDO data center rules.
- ACCG and annexation

- Said ACCG annually lobbies to tighten or limit city annexation powers, which now strongly favor cities.
- Recognized this is a statewide fight between county and city interests, and they are working that angle for Monroe County.
- Christmas reflection
 - Shared a story about his granddaughter initially thinking Christmas was only about presents.
 - After building a manger scene with her, she now says: “Christmas is Jesus’ birthday”
 - Urged everyone to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

District 3 John Ambrose

- On annexation (Smith Road)
 - Confirmed the Board fought hard against the Smith Road annexation.
 - Reiterated that state law lets the city annex if property is contiguous, even if the county residents strongly object.
- On his role and style
 - Noted he’s been a commissioner for 11 years.
 - Joked colleagues won’t appoint him to boards because he’s a “country bumpkin,” but stressed he has common sense even if he doesn’t speak gracefully.
- Closing message
 - Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and hoped they’d had a great Thanksgiving.
 - Thanked the public for attending and stated:
 - Commissioners do listen to what citizens say, even if it may not always appear that way.

Commissioner Al Turner

- On Public involvement
 - Thanked the public for attending.
- Data Center moratorium
 - Stated he is not against data centers but would like to see how the one on Rumble Road does for the county.

Chairman Alan Gibbs

- On the subdivision moratorium

- Recalled a prior 3-hour meeting on the residential subdivision moratorium.
- Clarified it covers major subdivisions only, so smaller lot splits and builds have continued legally.
- On budget process
 - Corrected the record: there was one public hearing on the budget (not three).
- On data centers and the “900 acres” assumption
 - Admitted that when the UDO first addressed data centers, he believed there weren’t other 900-acre tracts available, so future large projects were unlikely.
 - Said he was wrong; more large tracts existed than expected.
 - Used a lighthearted reference to his wife’s long list of his past mistakes but emphasized:
 - The Board is learning, adjusting, and taking this seriously.
- On public involvement
 - Expressed strong appreciation for the full room and active public comment.
 - Encouraged residents to:
 - Keep attending, especially as data center UDO changes and subdivision issues return.
 - Stressed:
 - Commissioners listen and want to represent people well, even if they can’t talk to all 30,000 resident’s one-on-ones.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Action from Executive Session

There was no executive session therefor no action.

Adjourn

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Commissioner Rowland seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

Respectively Submitted by:

Janet Abbott, County Clerk