

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON NOVEMBER 4TH, 2025 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM IN THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Hon. Jamie Handley, Chairman; Hon. Clay Reid, Vice Chairman; and Hon. Jowan Johnson, Commissioner;

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Pomirko, County Manager; Toni Sawyer, County Attorney; Man Furguson; Rochelle City Councilman Larry Brown, Abbeville Fire Chief; Scotty Keene, Abbeville Fire; James Thompson, citizen, Dr. Michael Frazier, Wilcox County Development Authority Chairman; Shane Rhodes, Wilcox County Development Authority Vice Chairman; Lynn Brown, Candidate GA District 20 Senate; and Lucas Allison, Cordele Dispatch.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Handley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Chairman Jamie Handley gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Board of Commissioners and public stood for and recited the pledge of allegiance.

PRIOR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES: Vice Chairman Clay Reid made a motion to approve the prior monthly meeting minutes. The motion was second by Commissioner Kerney Hair with a unanimous vote.

GUEST WITH PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Proclamation – Farm Week

Chairman Handley opened new business with discussion regarding the *Proclamation of Farm Week* sponsored by the Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Michelle Lamb attended the meeting and provided a summary of the Farm Week initiative, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and appreciating local farmers. She noted that the proclamation would come at no cost to the county or cities, and requested the support of all city councils and the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners.

Farm Week will be recognized November 19–27, 2025.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner **Jowan Johnson** to adopt the proclamation recognizing *Farm Week, November 19–27, 2025*, under Farm Bureau. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Kerney Hair** and passed unanimously.

(2) Memorandum of Understanding – Silicon Ranch Project II

Chairman Handley introduced discussion regarding the *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* for *Silicon Ranch Project II*.

Dr. Michael Frazier, Chairman of the Wilcox County Development Authority, and Mr. Shane Rhodes, Vice Chairman, provided updates on the upcoming solar project. Dr. Frazier discussed the Development Authority's efforts to strengthen its operations through improved bylaws and structured application processes to attract industrial and commercial projects.

He explained that the new tax abatement agreement reflected a reduction from 65% in Project I to 50% in Project II, providing increased revenue for both the County and the Board of Education. Additionally, Silicon Ranch will host a local job fair and encourage bids from local businesses.

The liability coverage requirement for site restoration increased from \$50,000 to \$5,000,000 to ensure proper land reclamation should the company vacate the site.

Mr. Rhodes emphasized the Development Authority's goal of ensuring a balanced agreement that benefits both the County and the school system. Silicon Ranch also plans to offer an annual \$10,000 scholarship for a Wilcox County student.

Dr. Frazier requested that the Board refrain from taking immediate action until a joint meeting could be scheduled with Silicon Ranch representatives.

Action:

No action was taken. A *Special Called Meeting* will be scheduled with Silicon Ranch and the Wilcox County Development Authority for further discussion.

(3) RYZY Communication Agreement – Text Message System (Dodge E-911)

Chairman Handley introduced discussion regarding the new *RYZY Comm "Communication Agreement"* for a text message alert system utilized by Wilcox County EMS, the Sheriff's Office, and Cedar Creek.

County Manager **Michael Pomirko** explained that the system, previously offered as a free trial, provides real-time alerts with GPS coordinates for emergency responders—saving valuable seconds in critical situations.

County Attorney **Toni Sawyer** presented an amended *Fire Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)* incorporating the new communication system. She clarified the legal updates made to ensure clarity and future compliance.

Mr. Pomirko recommended adoption of the amendment to strengthen emergency response coordination and establish a baseline for future improvements. This would cover the cost of each city Fire Department if the city agrees to the FIRE IGA.

Action:

A motion was made by Commissioner **Jowan Johnson** to approve the amended *FIRE IGA* to include the RYZY Communication System, effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Kerney Hair** and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

(1) County Manager Ordinance 05-02

Chairman Handley opened discussion on Ordinance 05-02.

County Attorney **Toni Sawyer** informed the Board that additional details still need to be finalized before adopting the ordinance.

Action:

No action taken.

(2) Timber Ordinance Update

Chairman Handley opened discussion regarding the *Timber Ordinance Update*.

County Attorney **Toni Sawyer** reported that a review of prior meeting minutes revealed no record of adoption of the 2023 update. She provided copies of the proposed ordinance for review and requested that the Board review the document for consideration at a future meeting.

Action:

No action taken.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

No Report

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT:

County Manager **Michael Pomirko** provided updates on the following:

- Recent meetings attended with **Adam Dowdy** focused on bridge maintenance and longevity.
- Fiscal Year 2025 data was being submitted to **Eckler CPA** to begin financial preparation.
- The new accounting system in the Commissioners' Office will go live on **November 10, 2025**.
- The Democratic Party appointed **Linda Lawson** to the Election Board, replacing **Leroy Dantely**.
- The Wilcox County Recreation Department's **12 & Under Baseball Team** won the state championship and was featured in the GRPA magazine. Mr. Pomirko commended the players, coaches, and parents for their accomplishment.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney **Toni Sawyer** requested an *Executive Session* for litigation, consultation with counsel, and personnel matters.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS: Chairman Handley addressed recent procedural issues related to the *FLOST* and *E-SPLOST* referendums. He explained that while the required affidavits and documentation for the FLOST were properly submitted to the *Cordele Dispatch*, the publication failed to meet state requirements for multiple publication dates, delaying the special election.

Similarly, an administrative oversight by the Board of Elections Office resulted in the *E-SPLOST* notice not being properly published, voiding that election. Chairman Handley stated that both issues are being corrected to ensure the referendums are rescheduled promptly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OPEN:

Entered:

A motion was made by **Vice Chairman Clay Reid** to enter Executive Session for litigation, attorney consultation, and personnel matters. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Jowan Johnson** and passed unanimously.

Time Entered: 7:17 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION CLOSE:

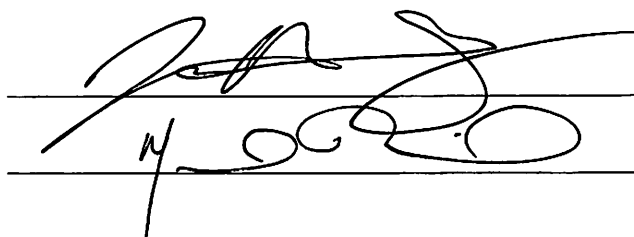
Exited:

A motion was made by **Commissioner Jowan Johnson** to exit Executive Session. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Kerney Hair** and passed unanimously.

Time Exited: 8:10 p.m.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Kerney Hair made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Vice Chairman Clay Reid seconded the motion. All voted in favor. 8:11 p.m.



Jamie Handley, Chairman

Michael Pomirko, County Manager