



# Cook County Georgia

## Board of Commissioners

December 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Debra Robinson-McKenney, Commissioner

Lindsey Parrish, Chairman

Randy Lane, County Manager

Jeff Lane, Vice-Chairman

Dewanna Robinson, County Clerk

Audie Rowe, Commissioner

Daniel Connell, County Attorney

Guy Daughtrey, Commissioner

Stefanie Dobransky, CFO

Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Lane led the group in prayer.

The Commission led the pledge to the American Flag.

Commissioner Robinson-McKenney moved to approve the minutes, as presented. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lane moved to open a public hearing with the right to return to regular session. Commissioner Robinson-McKenney seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC HEARING

1. **VFD Recovery Mitigation Rates-** Johnny West explained that, insurance companies, not individuals, would be charged for some fire services. He clarified that the mitigation rates would not be tax, and the VFD Recovery Mitigation Rates agreement was a sample that the Board of Commissioners could amend for Cook County. Johnny stated that the objective of implementing a recovery mitigation rates program would be to off-set rising costs for the county fire department. Commissioner Lane inquired about a letter to confirm that Cook County residents would not be billed for fire services. Johnny West stated that the Board of Commissioners could amend the agreement to include a statement exclaiming individuals would not be billed the recovery mitigation rates. Johnny West and the Board of Commissioners agreed that the Recovery Mitigation Rates Agreement would need to be further discussed and

amended before moving forward. Chairman Parrish asked for public comments. Several citizens spoke unfavorably about the implementation of VFD recovery mitigation rates, as presented. Greg Holton expressed his dissatisfaction with the handling of the budget and the lack of structural and technological advancement in Cook County. Jody Meeler suggested the insurance premium tax proceeds for the county be used for the volunteer fire department. Kelley Felts expressed gratitude for the volunteer fire department and inquired about the use of resources and management of the budget. Austin Weeks expressed concern with the potential charge to the insurance company and the impact to the citizen's insurance premium. Scott Dillard spoke in opposition of implementing any recovery mitigation rates plan, he stated that property taxes should be used to fund the county fire department. Michael Felts raised concerns with insurance companies that would not pay recovery mitigation rates.

2. **Cook County Landfill Tonnage Rate Increase-** County Manager, Randy Lane, explained that according to Hayes Hofstadter, the Cook County Landfill engineer, there was a 65% increase in tonnage to the landfill within ten years. Some of the increase can be attributed to out-of-county trash. Jody Meeler spoke in favor of increasing the landfill tonnage rate.
3. **Rezoning and Special exception request-** Eric and Sherri Croft, property located at Map # 0026-Parcel 016 (Hwy 37) Adel Ga. 31620 rezoning from residential to agriculture and request special exception for a daycare. Building and Zoning Administrator Jess Permenter, explained that the Crofts would like to establish a daycare on their property to care for approximately 40 children. Jess informed the board that if the rezoning and special exception were approved, the property would remain zoned as agriculture even if sold. Eric Croft spoke in favor of the rezoning and stated that legally they would be able to care for approximately 40 children. There were no comments in opposition to the rezoning and special exception request.

Commissioner Rowe moved to close the public hearing and return to regular session. Commissioner Robinson-McKenney seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

#### **MOTION: APPROVE/DENY REZONING AND SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUEST**

Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the rezoning and special exception request stipulating; the property, except for the authorized daycare, could not be used for another business without the permission of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Lane seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

#### **MOTION: APPROVE/DENY VFD RECOVERY MITIGATION RATES**

Commissioner Lane moved to table the decision to implement a VFD Recovery Mitigation Rates plan. Commissioner Daughtrey seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION: APPROVE/DENY LANDFILL TONNAGE RATE INCREASE**

Commissioner Lane moved to approve the landfill tonnage rate increase from \$40.00 to \$60.00 per ton, effective April 1, 2025. Commissioner Daughtrey seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION: APPROVE/DENY HERZOG INVOICE FOR HURRICANE HELENE DEBRIS PICK UP.**

Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the payment to Herzog Solutions, in the amount of \$349,445.20, for Hurricane Helene debris pick up. Commissioner Daughtrey seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION: APPOINT TERESA BARBER TO THE COOK COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD**

Commissioner Daughtrey moved to appoint Teresa Barber to the Cook County Library Board to fill the unexpired term of Michelle Siler, term to expire June 30, 2026. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION: APPROVE/DENY THE PURCHASE OF A NEW LANDFILL PUMP**

Commissioner Lane moved to approve the purchase of the new landfill pump in the amount of \$28,508.00. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION: APPROVE/DENY CHIEF WEST'S REQUEST TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FOR EQUIPMENT.**

Commissioner Lane moved to authorize Chief West to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant for equipment. Commissioner Robinson-McKenney seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION: EXTENSION LETTER TO EXTEND THOMPSON CONSULTING SERVICES**

Commissioner Rowe moved to authorize the Chairman's endorsement of the extension letter for Thompson Consulting Services, LLC for 45 days. Chairman Robinson-McKenney seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION: BITCOIN, SOLAR FARMS, and AI FACILITIES MORATORIUM**

Commissioner Rowe moved to approve a moratorium on solar farms, AI facilities, and Bitcoin operations in Cook County. Commissioner Daughtrey seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

With all business concluded, the meeting adjourned

COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

This the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025

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Jeff Lane, Chairman

Dewanna Robinson, County Clerk