

AGENDA  
GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
REGULAR MEETING  
**OCTOBER 9, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**  
**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
**PREVIOUS MONTH BILLS**  
**APPROVAL OF BILLS**  
**MINUTES**

**6:30 p.m.**

(Time allocated 10 minutes total)

Check Registers  
OCTOBER 2023  
Public Hearing meeting minutes September 12, 2023  
Regular meeting minutes September 12, 2023  
Called meeting minutes September 20, 2023

**REPORTS**

MANAGER'S REPORT / EMS

ELECTED OFFICIALS

TAX COMMISSIONER  
PROBATE  
SUPERIOR COURT CLERK  
SHERIFF

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

LIBRARY

FIRE

EMA DIRECTOR

4-H Coordinator

**OLD BUSINESS**

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

**NEW BUSINESS**

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

Trunk or Treat, Kids Christmas, Employee Christmas dinner, and  
Board members Christmas reception dates

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

Resolution R14-2023 Retirement Amendment

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

C5-2023 ACCG Retirement agreement Amendment

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

Resolution R13-2023 Mental Health Services

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

DFCS Board Appointment

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

Tax Assessor Board appointment-Norma Hayes

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

Water & Sewer Authority Board appointment

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

Golden Triangle RC&D membership

**\*ACTION ITEM\***

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**APPEARANCES**

**MEETING ADJOURN**

**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023  
6:00 p.m.**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The public hearing was called to order by Vice Chairman Blackmon at 6:01 p.m. followed with a prayer. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Blackmon, Hayes, Kinsey, and Bussey. Financial Officer Teri Odom, and County Clerk Carolyn Wilson. (County Manager Weeks was not present.) Chairman Lewis arrived during the public hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING-**

Vice Chairman Blackmon opened the public hearing for GA Patel Bait LLC. Beer and Wine application. A citizen in the audience asked a couple of questions regarding the nature of this business and the location. Chairman Lewis stated that the nature of the business is questionable at the moment and Vice Chairman Blackmon answered that the business will be located where the Central Point boat building is located. Another question was asked about how the County is going to benefit from this business. Vice Chairman Blackmon stated that the County would receive the funds for the Beer & Wine License annually and any sales tax that is generated. Vice Chairman Blackmon closed the public hearing at 6:28 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-  
MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 6:28 p.m.

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Carvel Lewis, Chairman

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Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

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Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

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David Kinsey, Commissioner

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Jim Hayes, Commissioner

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Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager

**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 12, 2023**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 6:30 p.m. with a prayer. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Blackmon, Hayes, Kinsey and Bussey. Financial Officer Teri Odom, and County Clerk Carolyn Wilson. (County Manager Weeks was not present.)

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS-** Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add executive session to discuss personnel and possible litigation. **Motion made by Bussey to approve the amended agenda to add executive session to discuss personnel and possible litigation. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS-** Chairman Lewis asked for any public comments at this time. No comments were made at this time.

**PREVIOUS MONTH CHECK REGISTER**

**Motion made by Kinsey to approve the previous month's check register. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Motion made by Kinsey to approve the bills. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**MINUTES**

August 8, 2023 Called meeting minutes-**Motion made by Hayes to approve the Called meeting minutes. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

August 8, 2023 Regular meeting minutes-**Motion made by Blackmon to approve the Regular meeting minutes. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

August 17, 2023 Called meeting minutes-**Motion made by Blackmon to approve the Called meeting minutes. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis

**MANAGER'S REPORT-** Chairman Lewis gave County Manager Weeks report because he was not present at the meeting. Chairman Lewis gave the EMS report for August total calls 27, transports 14, refusals 8, and cancelation 5. Average response time was 9 minutes.

**LMIG-** Chairman Lewis stated that the 2022-2023 LMIG project is complete and closed out.

**FORESTER PONTOON-** Chairman Lewis explained that County Manager Weeks stated in his report that this project will be complete on Thursday September 14, 2023.

**RIVER BLUFF BRIDGE UPDATE-** Chairman Lewis updated everyone that Weeks has spoken with Carrie Litteken with U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers concerning the bridge at River Bluff Park. Ms. Litteken is scheduling a zoom meeting with our Engineer Chad Griffin and the Corp Bridge Engineer to get the repair plan approved.

**FAMILY DOLLAR/DOLLAR TREE STORE**-Chairman Lewis stated that Weeks reported that the property closing for the Family Dollar/Dollar Tree store was yesterday, Monday September 11, 2023, and the store should be built and ready for business in six months.

**Tax Commissioner Report-**

**Probate Report-**

**SUPERIOR CLERK OF COURT-**

**SHERIFF REPORT-**

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS-**

**Library-** Chairman Lewis asked Liberian Mrs. Betty Fair for an update on the library. Mrs. Fair let everyone know they are having adult coloring and conversations at the library each month. She also stated that they are trying something new on Saturday. They are going to have a game day. She is really hoping this will be successful. Mrs. Fair also wanted to let everyone know that card registration is up since moving to the new location. Chairman Lewis thanked Mrs. Fair for the update and her hard work at the library.

**Fire Dept. Report-**

**CHAIRMAN REPORT-**

**OLD BUSINESS-**

**ORDINANCE O3-2023 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ORDINANCE 2nd READING-**

Chairman Lewis read Ordinance O3-2023 Alcoholic Beverage ordinance for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

**Motion made by Blackmon to approve Ordinance O3-2023 Alcoholic Beverage ordinance.**

**Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

**BEER & WINE APPLICATON GA PATEL BAIT LLC-** Chairman Lewis called for a

motion to request the owners to come to a work session to further discuss their business plan.

**Motion made by Hayes to have the business owner come to a work session to further**

**discuss their business plan. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENT-** Chairman Lewis asked if anyone had a suggestion for someone to add to the Recreation board. Chairman Lewis asked to discuss this at the next work session.

**RESCHEDULE OCTOBER REGULAR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING-** Chairman

Lewis explained that all the Commissioners would be out of town for training on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of October. Chairman Lewis asked everyone to look at their calendars to reschedule the Regular Commission meeting, everyone agreed to reschedule the meeting on October 9, 2023. **Motion**

**made by Blackmon to reschedule the October Regular meeting to October 9, 2023. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**VENDORS ALLOWED AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER, PAVILION, AND**

**BALLPARK-** Chairman Lewis stated to everyone that this has been a recent question if vendors are allowed at events at the Community Center, Pavilion, and Ball Park when it is rented. After a brief discussion, a **Motion was made by Kinsey for this to be voted on by the Commission as**

**a case-by-case situation. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**4-H UPDATE-** Chairman Lewis asked Mrs. Cassie Young the 4-H coordinator if she had an update. Mrs. Young told everyone that the back-to-school event that they recently had was a great success. They had a large turnout which she was very excited about. She went onto say that she has been to the school several times now and met with different grade levels and is very pleased with the response she has received from the children. She has lots of things planned for 4-H.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** **Motion made by Blackmon to go into executive session to discuss personnel and possible litigation. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis. **Motion made by Bussey to close executive session. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis. **Motion made by Bussey to reopen regular session. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis. Chairman Lewis stated that nothing was done in executive session that required a vote.

**APPEARANCES** –Chairman Lewis asked Ms. Rhonda Gordon Executive director with Golden Triangle RC&D (Resource, Conservation, and Development) to come forward. Ms. Gordon introduced herself to everyone and explained a little about what Golden Triangle RC&D does. She stated they are a 501 © 3 non-profit organization made up of action-oriented volunteers and local leaders. They currently serve 17 counties in Southwest Georgia. Ms. Gordon went over a few things that she felt like Georgetown-Quitman County could benefit from. She first went over a \$2000.00 grant for Fire Depts. or EMS. They also have a \$1000.00 grant for Community outreach. These two grants are offered every year. The next thing that she felt like the County would be interested in is a pilot project they are trying to get started that would help with being able to purchase heavy equipment and materials to maintain dirt roads. She stated that there is a meeting coming up November 9, 2023, for this project and she would love to have a couple of our county officials attend if they should decide to become members. The last thing she spoke about was their Household water bill grant for low-income citizens or families. This is a loan for the customer at a 1% interest rate. This is for households that need water and can also be used for septic tanks. Ms. Gordon explained that the cost of membership is \$250.00 annually and that will allow 2 people to join and attend quarterly meetings. They provide lunch at the meetings. She also added that they are currently trying to add a grant writer and grant administrator for the Counties they serve. The meetings are held in Miller County at Moby Dick restaurant.

Chairman Lewis asked if anyone had anything else to address the board about before closing the Regular meeting. Mr. Lester Bussey was present and asked if he could voice his concern on a couple of issues. Mr. Bussey wanted to first thank the Commissioners, County Manger Weeks, and the Road Dept. for their work on Bussey Rd. by adding a culvert pipe. He praised the Road Dept. for their hard work and the excellent job that they did. He went onto to ask if it would be possible for a second culvert pipe to be installed on Bussey Rd. because the water that comes across the road as soon as you turn onto Busey rd. is creating a large wash out. He also mentioned that as he has been traveling on Lower Lumpkin Rd., he has noticed that the road is very narrow. The last item on his list was a question about the Emergency Service assessment that is applied on the property tax bill in the amount of \$240.00. Mr. Bussey wanted to know how the County came up with that amount. Chairman Lewis explained that Lower Lumpkin Rd.

is already approved and on the project list to be widen and repaved by TSPLOST. Chairman Lewis asked Mr. Bussey to stay after the meeting to discuss the Emergency Service assessment.

Chairman Lewis asked everyone to look at their calendars to schedule a work session to meet with the County auditor. The work session is scheduled for September 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

**MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

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Carvel Lewis, Chairman

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Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

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Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

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David Kinsey, Commissioner

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Jim Hayes, Commissioner

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Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager

**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION  
CALLED MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Blackmon at 10:03 a.m. followed with a prayer. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Blackmon, Hayes, Kinsey, and Bussey. Financial Officer Teri Odom, County Manager Jason Weeks, and County Clerk Carolyn Wilson. County Auditor Richard Wingate with R.W. Wingate & Company. Family Connections Coordinator Ms. Sara Lee Crumbs, Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste Office Manager Ashaki Cunningham, and Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste Authority Board member Mrs. Joyce Jones.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion made by Hayes to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon.

**FY 2022 AUDIT-** Chairman Lewis opened the floor for County Auditor Mr. Richard Wingate. Mr. Wingate explained the purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. Mr. Wingate went onto state the following findings:

FINDING 2022-1

We noted the following deficiencies in internal control design which could adversely affect the County's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements.

1. Absence of appropriate segregation of duties consistent with appropriate control objectives.

Recommendations:

1. The cost of providing for adequate segregation of duties would probably exceed the expected benefit to the County. However, we feel it is necessary to report this deficiency to management.

Management agrees with the above finding and has addressed the finding in the corrective action plan.

FINDING 2022-2

We noted the following deficiencies in the operation of internal control which could adversely affect the County's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements.

1. Evidence of failure to sufficiently document monitoring procedures in relation to grant requirements with Family Connections.

Recommendations:

1. The County should require a responsible individual to review and document individual grant requirements ensuring compliance.

Management agrees with the above finding and has addressed the finding in the corrective action plan.

**GA PATEL BAIT LLC BEER & WINE APPLICATION-** Chairman Lewis asked Mr. Patel of GA Patel Bait LLC if he would come forward to go over his business plan with the Board of Commissioners. Vice Chairman Blackmon asked a question about question #9 on the application pertaining to the property owner and “is the commercial space where the business is to be located rented or leased”. Mr. Patel stated that he is the property owner, and his mother is the lessee on the application for the Beer and Wine. Commissioner Hayes asked if they were going to install gas pumps. Mr. Patel stated that they do plan to add gas pumps in the near future. Several Commissioners explained that they were told this was going to be a vape and smoke shop. Mr. Patel stated that this is not true. He went onto say that they own one of the largest Bait and Tackle businesses in Georgia, Buford Bait and Tackle. They also have four other stores like they desire to have here in Georgetown-Quitman County. After some discussion, Mr. Patel stated that they do not plan on opening until February of 2024. Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve the Beer and Wine application for GA Patel Bait LLC for the year 2024. **Motion made by Kinsey to approve the Beer and Wine application for GA Patel Bait LLC for the year 2024. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**DFACS BOARD APPOINTMENT-** Chairman Lewis asked to table this until the next meeting.

**RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENT-** Chairman Lewis stated that he knew of someone that expressed an interest in being appointed to the Recreation board. County Manager Weeks stated that Shelby Weeks from the 4-H office has also expressed an interest in being added to this board. This was tabled for the next meeting.

**RIVER BLUFF PARK BRIDGE UPDATE-** County Manager Weeks explained to everyone that he is waiting to have a Webex meeting with the Corp of Engineers to discuss the bridge



repair plans. Weeks stated that the Corp of Engineers have approved the plans, but they wanted to have this meeting with Weeks, and Chad Griffin with Stillwater Engineering. Weeks asked the Commissioners if they would go ahead and approve the funds for this project to be paid out of TSPLOST funds. **Motion made by Blackmon to approve the funding to repair the bridge at River Bluff Park out of TSPLOST funds. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis. Weeks also stated that he would like the public to know that the County Commission is responsible for getting this bridge repaired and getting it back open.

**BANKING OPERATIONS-** Chairman Lewis asked Vice Chairman Blackmon to open the discussion on the banking operations. Vice Chairman Blackmon suggested that 20% of the interest earnings on the General fund account be earmarked for employees' retirement and 80% will go to the Reserve account. After a brief discussion, **Hayes made a motion to approve 20% of interest earnings on the General fund account be earmarked for employees' retirement and 80% will go to the Reserve account. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-**

**MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 11:20 a.m.

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Carvel Lewis, Chairman

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Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

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Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

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David Kinsey, Commissioner

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Jim Hayes, Commissioner

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Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager