



Baker County Board of Commissioners



Regular Meeting
July 7th, 2026
07:30 P.M.

Connie C. Hobbs – Chairperson
Matt Bryan – Commissioner

Vann Irvin – Vice Chairman
Chris Moore – Commissioner

Tommy Rentz, Commissioner

Minutes

The Baker County Board of Commissioners met on the above date with Commissioners Vann Irvin, Tommy Rentz, Matt Bryan, Chris Moore, and Connie Hobbs in attendance. County Manager, Marie Howard, was also in attendance.

Chair Hobbs called the meeting to order.

Chair Hobbs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Moore delivered the invocation.

Chair Hobbs presented the agenda and requested the agenda be amended with the addition of Resolution 2026-0707B. Commissioner Moore made a motion of adopt the agenda with the amendment. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Commissioners Irvin, Bryan, Rentz, Moore, and Hobbs voted to approve the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Hobbs presented the minutes of June 2nd, 2026, Regular Meeting. Commissioner Bryan made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. Commissioners Irvin, Moore, Bryan, Rentz, and Hobbs voted to approve the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Hobbs presented the minutes of June 8th, 2026, Called Meeting. Commissioner Rentz made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Bryan seconded the motion. Commissioners Irvin, Rentz, Bryan, Moore, and Hobbs voted to approve the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Hobbs presented the minutes of June 23rd, 2026, Called Meeting. Commissioner Moore made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Rentz seconded the motion. Commissioners Irvin, Rentz, Bryan, Moore, and Hobbs voted to approve the motion. Motion carried.

Speaker Requests:

- Chair Hobbs recognized Mr. Andrew Jones to address the Commission. Mr. Jones provided a written request and a written letter of support from Mr. Stacey Heard to close approximately 600 feet of Lee Heard Road. After discussion, Commissioner Irvin made a motion to move forward with Mr. Jones' request. Commissioner Rentz seconded the motion. Commissioners Irvin, Rentz, Bryan, Moore, and Hobbs voted to approve the motion. Motion carried.



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- Chair Hobbs recognized Ms. Jessica Craft, Tax Commissioner, to address the Commission. Ms. Craft presented the following mobile homes for Commission approval to have these properties written off the tax digest.
 - Defendant – Rosa Jones, (deceased) - 1991, 14X76 Horton Mobile Home located at 2886 Tom Sheffield Road, Damascus, Ga. 39841
 - Defendant – Elizabeth Freeman – 1989, 14X52 Fleetwood Weston Mobile Home located at 148 Roosevelt Avenue, Newton, Ga 39870
 - Defendant – Barney Benton, Jr. – 1987, 14X56 Manufactured Home located at 410 Milton Miller Rd., Colquitt, Ga. 39837
 - Defendant – Pendland James – 1973, 14X52 Guerdon Embassy Mobile Home located at 1719 Holt Quarters Road, Newton, Ga. 39870

Ms. Craft stated all four manufactured homes are uninhabitable, have no titles, and have been taken to Tax Sale for 2 years in a row with no bids received. Commissioner Rentz made a motion to approve Tax Commissioner Craft's request. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bryan. Commissioners Irvin, Rentz, Bryan, Moore, and Hobbs all agreed. Motion carried.

Chair Hobbs recognized Ms. Holly Phillips, Director of DeSoto Trail, who provided an overview of the library services provided at the Baker County Library to include 2,125 annual visits and a total of 1,173 items borrowed.

Chair Hobbs reported there are currently two (2) vacant positions on the Baker County Library Board. Commissioner Rentz made a motion to appoint Ms. Jessica Craft and Ms. Marie Howard to fill the two (2) vacant board positions. Commissioner Irvin seconded the motion. Commissioners Irvin, Rentz, Bryan, Moore and Hobbs all agreed. Motion carried.

Golden Triangle Resource, Conservation and Development submitted a \$75,000 Fire Grant on behalf of the Newton-Baker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.

Resolution 2026-0707A, FY 2026 Budget Amendment, was presented by Chair Hobbs. Commissioner Bryan made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-0707A. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. Commissioners Irvin, Rentz, Bryan, Moore, and Hobbs all voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Local Legislation to provide a homestead exemption from county ad valorem taxes based on proceeds from a new local homestead option sales tax was introduced by Representative Gerald Greene during the 2026 special session of the General Assembly of Georgia. Chair Hobbs advised the board the legislation did not pass.



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Chair Hobbs reported that a Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. to receive public comment on the proposed Data Center Land Use Ordinance and an informational meeting on Data Centers is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Hobbs reported a Called Meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. with the City of Newton to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement regarding the reimposition of a county one percent special purpose local option sales tax.

Resolution 2026-0707B, a resolution establishing a 90-day moratorium on the construction and operation of a data center in the unincorporated area of Baker County was presented for consideration. Commissioner Rentz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-0707B. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bryan. Commissioners Irvin, Rentz, Bryan, Moore, and Hobbs all voted to approve the motion. Motion carried.

County Manager, Ms. Howard, provided the following updates:

- The Road Department is working very hard to address several road issues identified.
- A website administrator needs to be identified to manage the county website.

Being no further business, Commissioner Rentz made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Irvin seconded the motion. Commissioners Irvin, Rentz, Bryan, Moore, and Hobbs all voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Attest

Marie Howard

Clerk

Dennis L. Hall

Chairman

Chris Moore

Tommy Rentz

Angela R...

