

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., at the Brooks County Administrative Building, in the Commissioners Chambers, located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mrs. Myra Exum, Chair; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman, Mr. Patrick Folsom; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were Mr. Buddy Johnson, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; and Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney (via telephone), Representatives for City of Quitman, City of Morven, City of Barwick; and City of Pavo; and various residents.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING/WORK SESSION

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Prayer/Pledge – Mr. Larko lead all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

II. 2026 SPLOST #8

1. IGA and Referendum Calling for an Election – The meeting was held to finalize the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) and resolution for the County's 2026 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), in preparation for submission to the elections board. County Administrator explained the urgency due to the timeline imposed by early voting and the desire to separate the SPLOST vote from an upcoming proposed FLOST to avoid voter confusion.

The total anticipated SPLOST amount was increased by 10% to allow for inflation, with the understanding that funds are not to exceed the maximum and early completion would require a new SPLOST vote. Project lists for each municipality should remain broad to maximize flexibility in fund use. Precise language for emergency uses will be standardized for all entities.

James Lawrence, Manager, City of Quitman discussed the percentage allocation for each municipality, particularly the City of Quitman. Discrepancies arose between an older draft copy using 30%, versus the agreed upon percentage of 26.55% based on previous negotiations. It was clarified that all percentage allocations should be based on the 2020 census and prior negotiations, not on outdated drafts. Mr. Lawrence stated that the city council voted and approved 30% instead of 26.55%. Administrator Johnson reminded everyone that during the initial meeting it was emphasized that each municipality was to review the documents and to call if they had questions and/or corrections and to provide a project list. The City of Morven, City of Pavo and City of Barwick called Brooks County or emailed the information to include in the IGA and Resolution as requested. Mr. Lawrence needed an emergency meeting with council to approve the 26.55%.

Corrections to the IGA and Resolution were discussed and corrected. All municipalities and the county will add standardized emergency language to their project lists. Correcting

previous errors in the documentation, the election date for the SPLOST referendum is set for May 19, 2026. The County Clerk will update all documents to reflect the correct election date and emergency project language. Each city will verify and confirm their final percentages as per the 2020 agreement. The IGA and Resolution will be approved with the discussed corrections, contingent upon Quitman's council formally approving the 26.55% allocation.

Madame Chair called for a recess at 9:26am to allow Mr. Lawrence time to speak with his council for a vote to approve the 26.55% percentage allocation, on the motion by Mr. Larko and seconded by Mr. Cody.

Madame Chair called the meeting to order and resumed at 9:40 am.

Madame Chair asked Mr. Lawrence if he had approval from his council for the 26.55% as allocated in the previous SPLOST. Mr. Lawrence responded yes, he had approval.

The finalized allocations for the 2026 SPLOST #8:

Quitman	26.55%
Morven	3.80%
Pavo	1.95%
Barwick	1.35%
Brooks County	66.35%

Mr. Larko made the motion to approve the IGA, with the understanding that prior changes will be made to the date and the wording related to emergency projects, Mr. Maxwell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

On the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Cody, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution Calling for an Election to Impose a County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (2026-R-03), with the prior changes discussed related to the date, wording related to emergency projects, and ensuring the information is matched on the documents.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:46am, on the motion by Mr. Larko, seconded by Mr. Cody.

Mr. Patrick Folsom, Chairman
Mr. James (Buddy) Johnson, County Administrator
Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk