



Whitfield County, Georgia

May 12, 2025



Board of
Commissioners

Proclamation

National Day of Prayer

May 1, 2025

- **DRAFT MOTION:**
Ratify proclamation.



PROCLAMATION

"NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER" – MAY 1, 2025

WHEREAS, Our state and nation were founded upon a deep belief in and commitment to God, and over the years, our citizens have found strength, comfort and inspiration through prayer; and

WHEREAS, Since 1775, the National Day of Prayer has been a part of our heritage and the spiritual foundation which has guarded the well-being of our country; and

WHEREAS, In keeping with the tradition started by the Continental Congress, the United States Congress in 1952 approved a Joint Resolution setting aside a particular day each year as National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we as Americans and Georgians pause and join in this important observance to gain a greater sense of direction, purpose and renewed commitment to ourselves, our duties, and our fellow citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Whitfield County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim, *Thursday, May 1, 2025* as ***"NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER"*** throughout Whitfield County in honor of this special day.

Alcohol Beverage Public Hearings

**Request has been made for an alcohol beverage license
by the following business:**

(1) 2025 Alcohol Application

Business Owner: Ali 1026 LLC

Applicant: Imran Ali

Business Address: 3064 Cleveland Hwy

Type: Package Beer

Disposition: Change of Ownership

(2) 2025 Alcohol Application

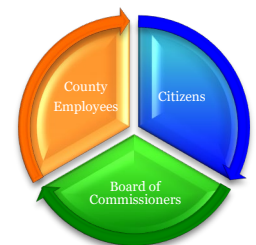
Business Owner: Arenas El Sueno Mexican Restaurant LLC

Applicant: Luis A. Salinas Ortiz

Business Address: 4109 S. Dixie Hwy.

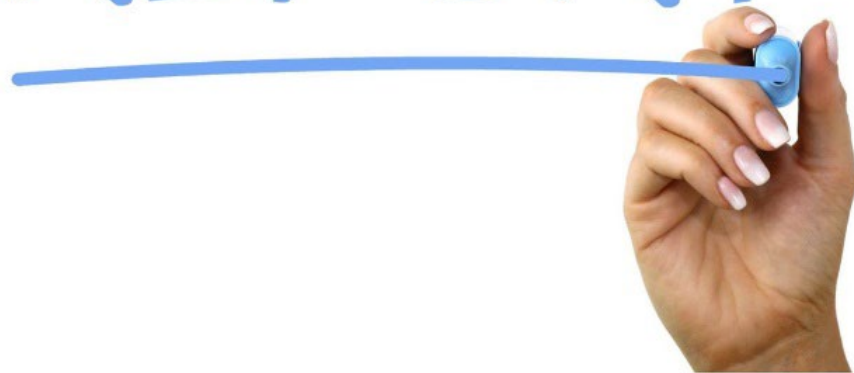
Type: Pouring Beer & Liquor (Restaurant)

Disposition: Change of Ownership



Reports

REPORT



Property Assessments – What you can do: Appeal

Deadline is Thursday, May 15

Questions about your recent notice?

Contact assessors at 706-275-7410 or visit in person at 201 S. Hamilton Street in Dalton – First Floor. Or visit www.whitfieldcountytaxhelp.com

Unhappy with the amount of valuation or the equity of your assessment: Appeal @ www.whitfieldassessor.com

Georgia Superior Court Clerk of the year 2025



- Congratulations Babs Bailey!!
- Annual Stetson F. Bennett award for District 7.
- Only 8 awarded each year.

Whitfield County Excellence Award 2025



- Congratulations Whitfield County!!
- Six Counties awarded this year.
- Second year in a row for Whitfield County

Reports

Commissioners:

Commissioner Jones

Commissioner Thomas

Commissioner Staten

Commissioner Robbins

REPORT



Reports

County Administrator:

- Hamilton Street Housing Project Groundbreaking
- Outdoor Recreation Summit (featuring Rocky Face Ridge Park)
- Animal Shelter Free Spay/Neuter and Adoption Drawing

REPORT



Reports

Finance – Debbie Godfrey

REPORT

A hand holding a blue marker is shown in the bottom right corner, underlining the word 'REPORT' which is written in a blue, hand-drawn font.

Finance Report

March 2025 YTD Detail

LOST (Sales Tax)

\$3.7 Million YTD



2.91%

TAVT (Vehicle Tax)

\$1.3 Million YTD



5.08%

YTD Revenue

\$10.4 Million YTD



4.08%

YTD Expenses

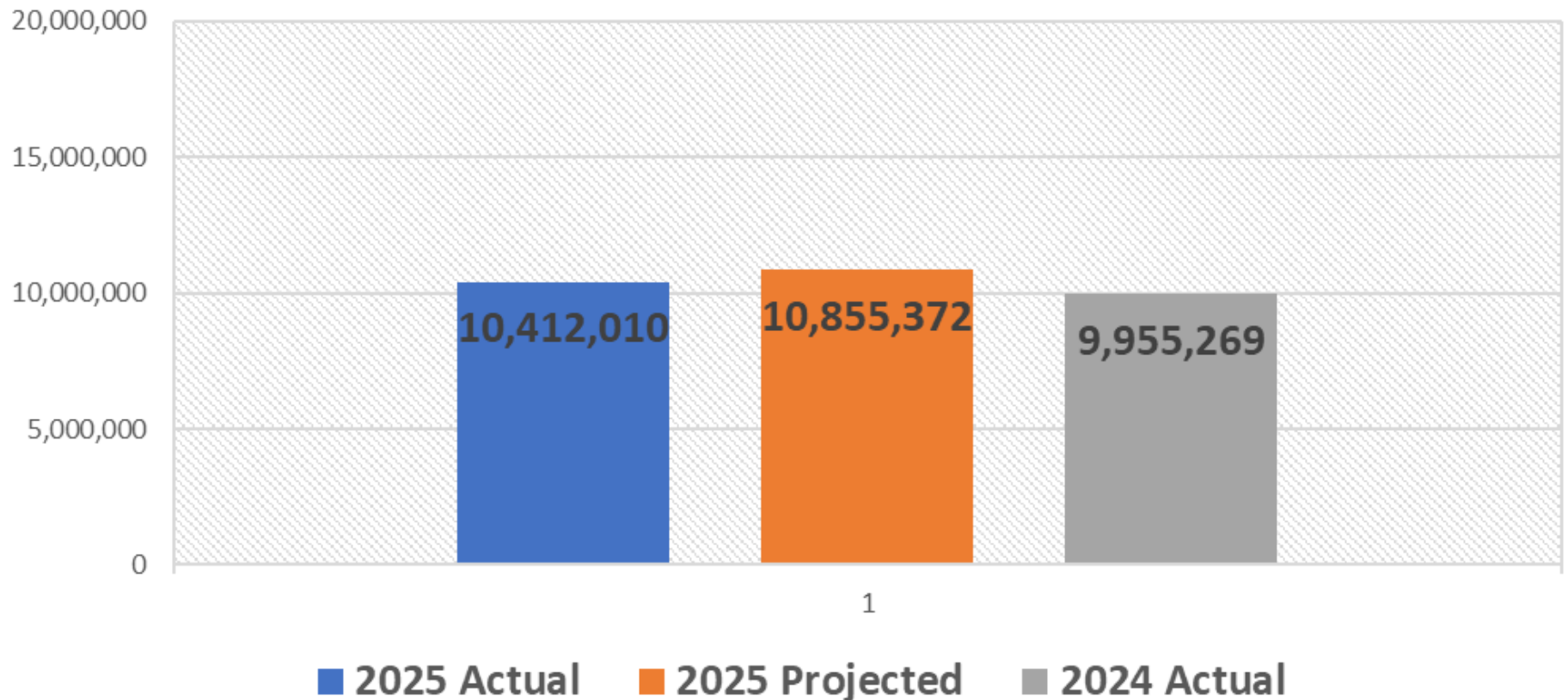
\$14.7 Million YTD



.76%

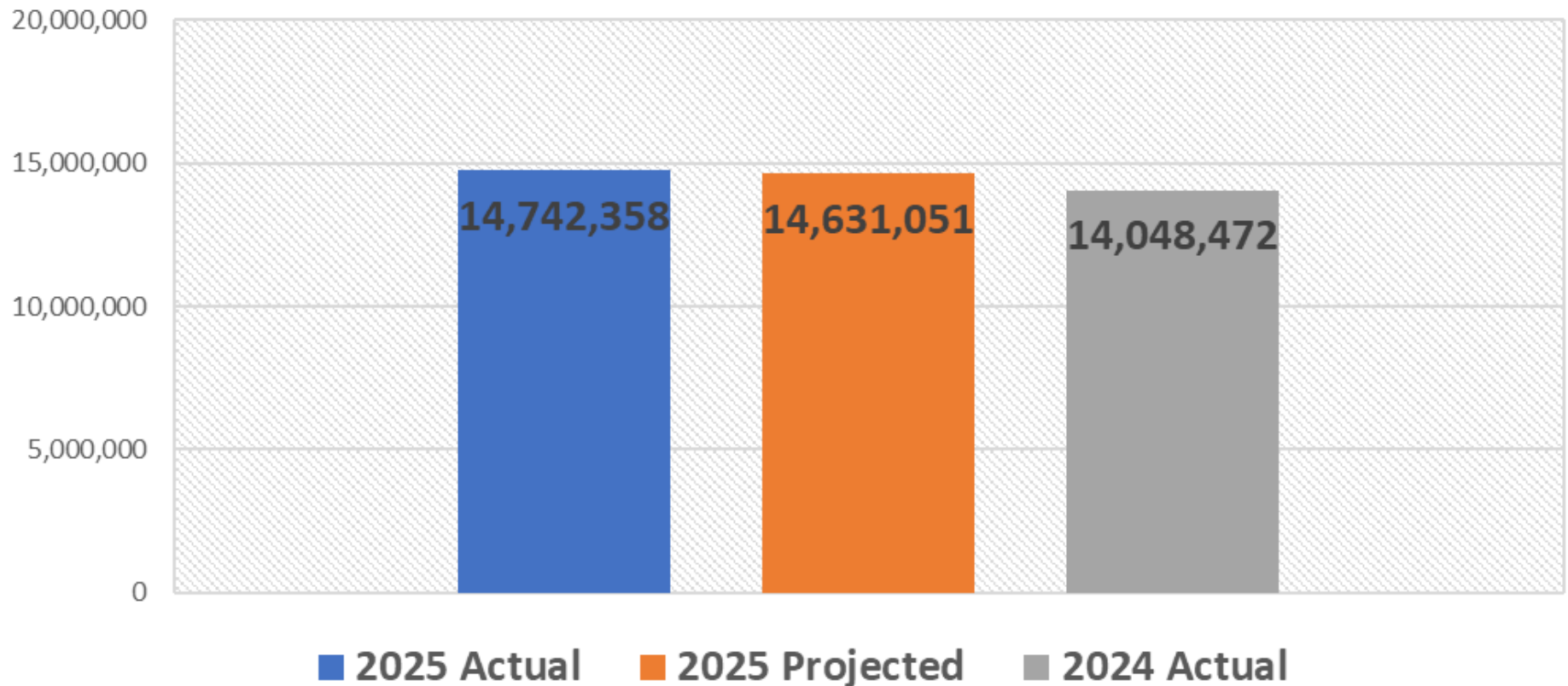
Finance Report - Revenue

Total Revenue YTD March 31



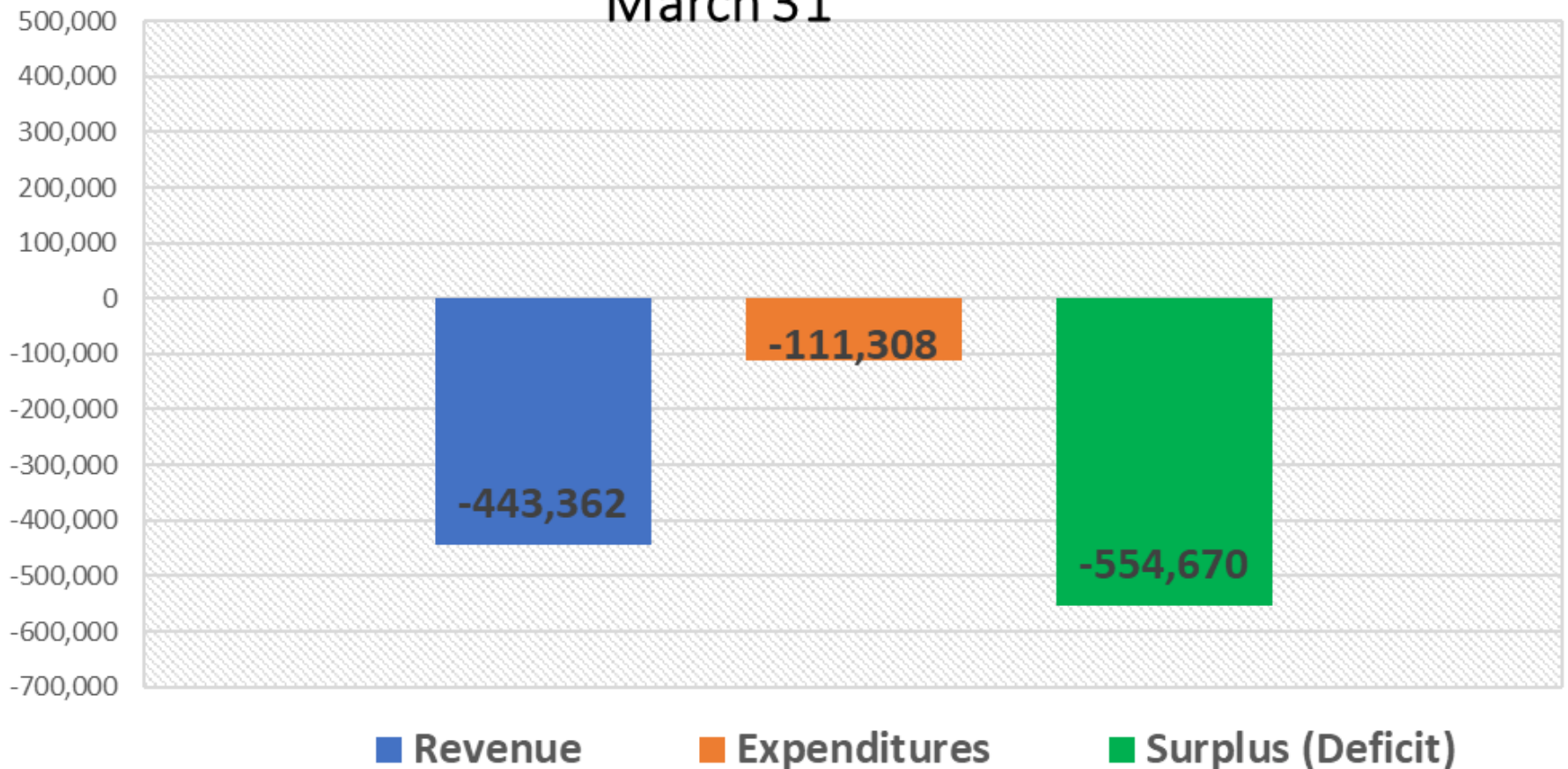
Finance Report - Expenses

Total Expenditures YTD March 31



Finance Report - Summary

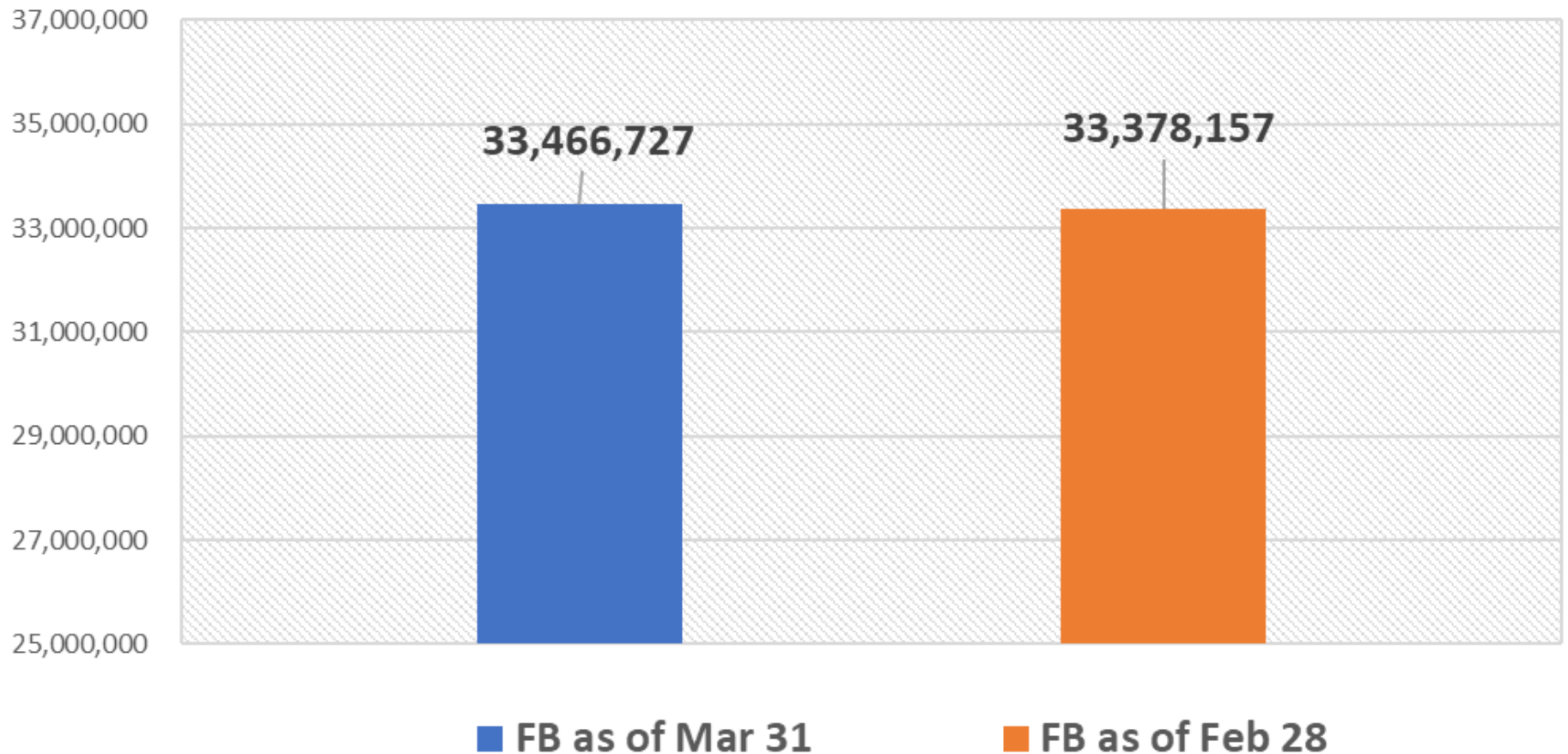
YTD vs Budget
March 31



Finance Report – Fund Balance Projected on March 31, 2025

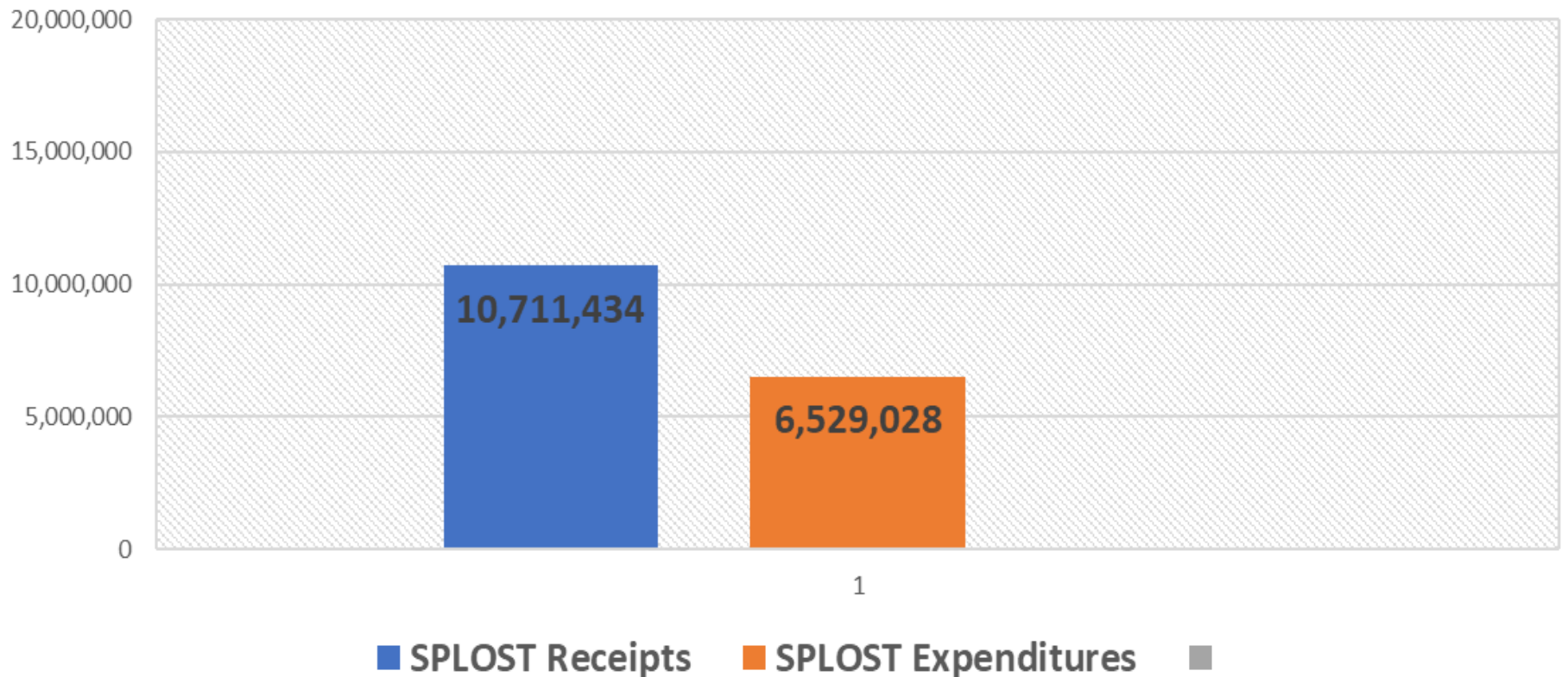
**Actual as of March 31
is \$30.4 million**

YE Projected Unassigned Fund Balance



Finance Report – SPLOST

SPLOST 2024 - Revenues & Expenditures
Received thru March 31



Finance Report

Supports Strategic Objective 4: Lower Taxes

➤ **DRAFT MOTION:**

Approve Finance report for March 2025.

Agenda Item #10 – Public Comments

Overview: Public Comments related **ONLY** tonight's approved Agenda items only. Second comment section will be later for general comments.

Reminder:

- 5 minutes per person
- 1 visit to the podium per public comment session
- Not a public hearing for zoning



Agenda Item #11

Alcohol Beverage Applications

Supports Strategic: Keeps Lights On.

Overview:

(1) Business Owner: Ali 1026 LLC

Applicant: Imran Ali

Business Address: 3064 Cleveland Hwy

Type: Package Beer

Disposition: Change of Ownership

(2) Business Owner: Arenas El Sueno Mexican Restaurant LLC

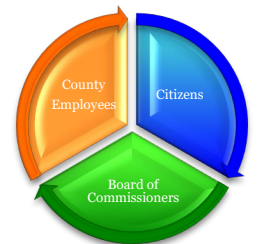
Applicant: Luis A. Salinas Ortiz

Business Address: 4109 S. Dixie Hwy.

Type: Pouring Beer & Liquor (Restaurant)

Disposition: Change of Ownership

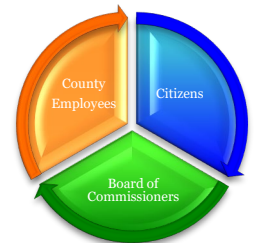
➤ **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve the alcohol beverage license applications for Neighbors Market and El Sueno Mexican Restaurant.



Agenda Item #12 – Engineering Edwards Park Multi-Use Courts

Supports Strategic: Keeps the Lights on

- **Overview:** The rebuilding of the tennis/pickleball complex at Edwards Park is funded by an grant plus a \$100,000 match by the County. The contract for construction with NW Ga. Paving Co. is \$906,712.10. During construction and because of very shallow groundwater in the area, it was necessary to raise the grade of each court 3 inches in order to stay out of wet soils. County employees installed some of the concrete areas around the courts, for which we received credit from NWGP in the amount of \$25,875. The total change order, then, is \$53,685.80. The new contract value will be \$960,397.90. We have been approved for contingency funds through the grant for \$53,271.30, leaving \$414.50 to come from the general fund. This small amount will count toward our match, bringing the match total to date up to \$78,838.99.
- **Draft Motion:** Approve the change order for \$53,685.80. Adjust the contract value with NWGP to \$960,397.90. Accept the additional grant funds in the amount of \$53,271.30.

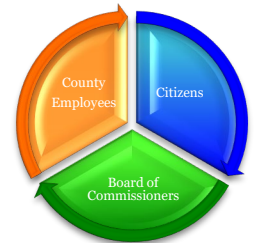


Agenda Item #13 – Parks & Recreation

Miracle Field Playground Bid Award

Supports Strategic: Improve Lives of Citizens

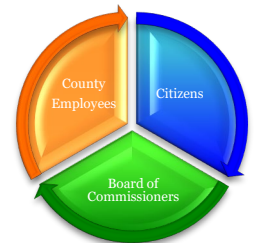
- **Overview:** Request for approval for Safeplay Solutions for the renovation of The miracle league playground in the amount of \$124,762.00. Safe Play was the chosen bidder from the two bids received. They were chosen by best design from The Miracle league officers. Potential bidders worked off the same bid number. Request for change order in the amount of \$20,000 which is what was left over in the budget for playground. Also request for change order in the amount of \$14,830.00 for the repairs to the field. Safe Play has offered to facilitate the repairs at no mark up cost. There is only one company that works on this type field.
- **Draft Motion:** Approve the bid and change order as presented using 2020 SPLOST Funds.



Agenda Item #14 – Sheriff's Office Budget for Resource Officers

Supports Strategic Objective: Keep lights on

- **Overview:** The Sheriff's Office proposes to increase these lines to fund several initiatives, but primarily to support school safety. As such, these funds will be used to outfit the already approved additional Whitfield County School Resource Officers with equipment, uniforms and vehicles needed to keep all of our local schools safe. The related lines, and their proposed increases, are listed below:
 - 211-3300-542000-00 Capital (State) (Increase by \$38,000.00)
 - 211-3300-531600-00 Small Equipment (Increase by \$32,000.00)
 - 211-3300-531160-00 Operating Expense (Increase by 20,000.00)
 - 211-3300-531610-00 Small Equipment Federal (Increase by \$10,000.00)
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve the budget line increases utilizing drug seizure funds.

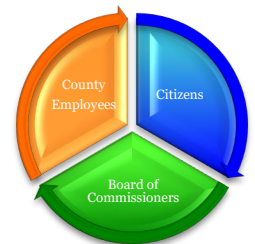


Agenda Item #15

Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust Grant Application

Supports Strategic Objective: Community Improvement

- **Overview:** The Conasauga Addiction Recovery Center (CCARC) and the Conasauga Accountability Courts are seeking approval to apply for the second round of grants from the GA Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust. For this new round of grants, the CCARC plans to request funding for this position for another year, possibly up to 2 more years depending on the grant specifics. In addition, the Accountability Courts may apply for funding for drug testing or other operational support. There is no match required. Applications are due mid-June.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Accept the grant application as presented.

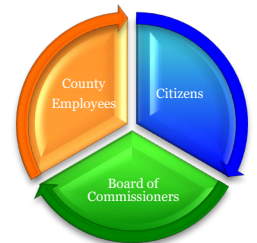


Agenda Item #16

ICMA Economic Mobility Grant Application

Supports Strategic Objective: Community Improvement

- **Overview:** County Administration is seeking approval to apply for the Economic Mobility & Opportunity (EMO) Special Assistants Program. This is a program funded by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The purpose of this program is to fund an executive level position whose focus is to develop strategies that improve local workforce development opportunities, housing affordability, household financial security, and other community conditions that make it possible for residents to live full, prosperous lives. ICMA will select up to 15 host governments for this opportunity. The program provides up to \$250,000 for the salary of a full-time “special assistant” for 30 months along with approximately \$50,000 for travel and training and community program expenses. The host government is responsible for the cost of benefits and office set up (such as desk and computer). Applications are due May 30th and communities will be selected by the end of June.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Accept the grant application as presented.

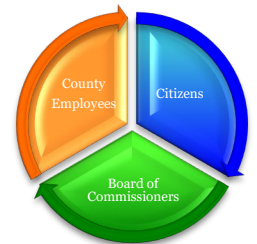


Agenda Item #17

State Paid County Reimbursed

Supports Strategic: City County Relationship

- **Overview:** Ratify the resolution between the County District Attorney for two (2) - SPCR funded employees.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Ratify the Resolution as presented.

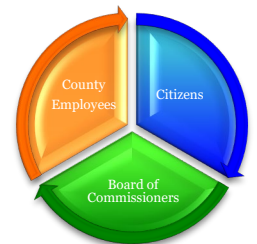


Agenda Item #18

Appointment GA Region 1

Supports Strategic Objective: Keeps Lights On

- **Overview:** Appoint Fire Chief Paul Patterson to serve on Georgia Region 1 EMS Advisory Council.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Accept and approve appointment as presented.

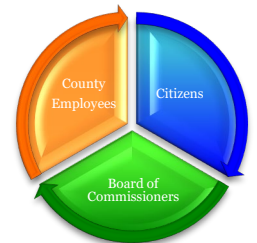


Agenda Item #19

Fire Department

Supports Strategic Objective: Keep Lights On

- **Overview:** The Whitfield County Fire Department is requesting approval to purchase Hurst® Jaws of Life® extrication equipment from the vendor MES in the amount of \$239,254.57. MES is the only authorized Hurst® for the State of Georgia, documentation has been provided by Hurst®. This purchase is for equipment for the four new Fire Apparatus arriving later this month.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve the purchase through MES for Hurst Jaws of Life Purchase in the amount of \$239,254.57 utilizing SPLOST 2024 funds.

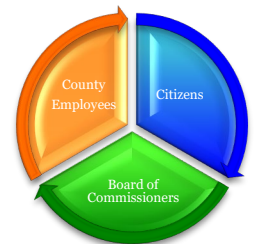


Agenda Item #20

E-911 – PBX Phone System Upgrade

Supports Strategic Objective: Keeps Lights On

- **Overview:** The E-911 phone system was in need of a version upgrade. All hardware, servers, and equipment inside the building has been updated. This project was approved in the 2024 SPLOST. The invoice is for \$225,414.10.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve the AT&T Phone Upgrade for \$225,414.10 from 2024 SPLOST.



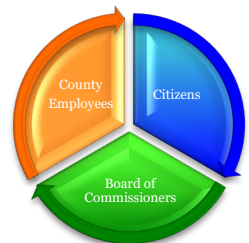
Agenda Item #21 a, b, c

Rezoning Recommendations

Supports Strategic Objective: Keep Lights On

➤ Overview:

- A. The request of Ronald Bates to rezone from General Agriculture (GA) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 18.21 acres located at 4624 Wilson Road, Cohutta, Georgia. Parcels (11-130-02-000 and 11-130-24-000). Planning voted 4-0 to approve a Suburban Agriculture (SA) rezoning. Was R-5
- B. The request of MacLang Properties to rezone from Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 1 acre located at 1170 New Hope Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (11-281-01-000). Planning voted 4-0 to **DENY**.
- C. The request of Calvin Brandon Clark to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to General Agriculture (GA) a tract of land totaling 5.60 acres located at 390 Old Apison Road, Cohutta, Georgia. Parcel (11-026-20-000). Planning voted 4-0 to approve.



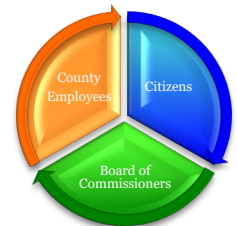
Agenda Item #21 d, e, f & g

Rezoning Recommendations

Supports Strategic Objective: Keep Lights On

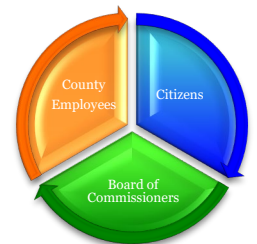
➤ Overview:

- D. The request of Dan R. Cobble to rezone from General Agriculture (GA) to Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) a tract of land totaling 2.651 acres located at 2031 Lake Francis Road, NE, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (11-309-03-000). Planning voted 4-0 to approve.
- E. The request of Mario Rangel Magana to rezone from Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to Suburban Agriculture (SA) a tract of land totaling 24.464 acres located on Cleveland Highway, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-012-02-000). Planning voted 4-0 to approve.
- F. The request of CMH Homes, Inc. to rezone from General Agriculture (GA) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 5 acres located on Seaton Loop, Cohutta, Georgia. Parcel (11-056-03-000) (County). Planning voted 4-0 to **DENY**.
- G. The Request of Whitfield County BOC to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) a tract of land totaling 1.50 acres located at 1299 Tunnel Hill Varnell Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel 11-261-11-000. Planning voted 4-0 to approve.



Agenda Item #22 – Public Comments

Time for Commissioners to listen to citizens and hear your feedback.
Parliamentarian rules do not allow for direct action to be taken on comments at this time.



Agenda Item #23 – Adjourn

