

HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION
June 11, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a work session on June 11, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Heard County Administration Building. In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Tracy McCormick, District 1 Commissioner Curtis Mock, District 2 Commissioner James Perry, District 3 Commissioner Iris Harris, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, and District 5 Commissioner David Walls.

Chairman McCormick stated that the work session was called to discuss building and zoning ordinances and other related matters. The Board engaged in a discussion with Macie Cassell, Director of Building and Zoning, regarding the county's building and zoning ordinances.

Ms. Cassell addressed the Board to initiate a review and propose updates to Chapter 8 of the ordinances concerning Buildings and Building Regulations. Following extensive discussion, several changes were suggested. This review and update are part of an ongoing effort to examine the county's ordinances and ensure they are revised to better address the current and future needs of the county.

The next item discussed involved James McDonald, the Codes Enforcement Officer, who addressed the Board regarding enforcement challenges and interactions with citizens. The conversation focused on difficulties related to enforcing existing codes, particularly the practical challenges of serving summonses and the need for clearer enforcement procedures. The Board also considered several complaints from citizens concerning the Codes Enforcement Officer, specifically about the tone and language used in his demand letters and the amount of time given to resolve issues. Currently, the letter allows 15 days for compliance; however, the Board recommended extending this timeframe to 30 days to allow for a more reasonable response period.

Additionally, the Board expressed a desire for the Codes Enforcement Officer to make three attempts at in-person contact with a citizen before issuing a letter of demand. To support this effort, the Board offered to assist Mr. McDonald in obtaining phone numbers for citizens so that he could attempt to speak with them directly before initiating formal enforcement actions. This approach is intended to improve communication and foster a more cooperative relationship between the county and its residents.

The work session concluded with no official action being taken.

End time 8:06 p.m.

Latrina Billingsley

County Clerk

Date 06/17/25

Tracy McLean

Chairman

