

his business. Mr. Riley mentioned this property was zoned for the type of business he previously had, which was Riley Church Pews. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request with the conditions, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. Commissioner Orenstein asked that Commissioner Marshall consider amending the conditions to exclude the second condition. Commissioner Marshall amended his motion to exclude the second condition, which states any vehicular ingress/egress off of October Lane shall require the property owner/developer to pave the street from that ingress/egress to the nearest paved street. The property owner/developer will be responsible for the design, any acquisition of necessary right-of-way, relocation of utilities, and construction costs for the paving of the section mentioned above, second by Commissioner Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **2026 Comprehensive Plan Kickoff**

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this is the first required public hearing under the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the purpose of this hearing is to brief the community on the process to be used to develop the plan, opportunities for public participation in the development of the plan and to obtain input on the proposed planning process. Mr. Dillard introduced James Horton, the Planning Director with the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) Office and Mykaela Brown, a Planner with SGRC as well. Mr. Horton gave a presentation to the commission related to the 2026 Comprehensive Plan Kickoff. Commissioner Smith asked if the comprehensive plan could be emailed, Mr. Horton answered yes. Commissioner Smith asked regarding the locations of these meetings and Mr. Horton responded the meeting times and locations have not been scheduled yet. Commissioner Marshall asked the time frame the comprehensive plan needs to be completed. Mr. Horton answered a formal draft is due in June 2026 and July 14, 2026, is the transmittal date. Chairman Slaughter commended the Southern Georgia Regional Commission staff for their outstanding management of the comprehensive plan.

### **FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) permanent easement at 503 W. Main St. Hahira, GA 31632**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has a project in Hahira that is labeled SR 7/SR 122 from SR 7 to CS 38/Union Road in Hahira Sidewalks Lowndes. GDOT is requesting a permanent easement from Lowndes County for sidewalk construction and to maintain slopes on a parcel that Lowndes County owns, which is the Parrott Health Clinic at 503 W. Main Street, Hahira, GA 31632. The easement consists of 733.73 square feet. GDOT has had the easement appraised and has offered Lowndes County \$2,600.00 for the easement. Staff has reviewed the easement drawing and does not see any negative impact. Mr. McLeod stated this is the health department facility in Hahira. Chairman Slaughter stated this is a TIA project with extension of the sidewalk in downtown Hahira to Union Road. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the item as presented, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

#### **FY2026 Joint Funding Agreement with USGS**

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the agreement in the amount of \$29,750.00. Mr. Tye stated the stream gauge for the Little River site is \$18,300.00, and the Withlacoochee River site is \$11,450.00. Mr. Tye stated there is an increase in cost due to USGS including the cost of maintaining the precipitation gauges associated with each stream gauge separately from the cost of the actual stream monitoring equipment, and that amount is \$1,900.00. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to