

AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street
LaFayette, Georgia 30728

- Date:** Thursday, November 19, 2020
- Time:** Public Hearing 6:00 PM
- Invocation:** Given by Commissioner Shannon Whitfield
- Call to Order:** Commissioner Whitfield will call the meeting to order
- Pledge:** United States Flag and Georgia Flag

Open of Public Hearing

- I. Ordinance No. O-04-20, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 34 of the Code of Walker County, Georgia Regarding Land Development; to Adopt Documents By Reference (*Second Hearing*)
- II. Ordinance No. O-05-20, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 23 of the Code of Walker County, Georgia to Adopt State Codes Pertaining to the Regulation of Fireworks (*First Hearing*)

Speakers will be asked to come to the podium and state their name for the record. Please limit your comments to five minutes and keep them on the topic of the above proposed Ordinances.

- Adjournment:** Commissioner Whitfield will adjourn the Public Hearing.

**COUNTY OF WALKER
STATE OF GEORGIA**

ORDINANCE NO. O-04-20

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 34 OF THE CODE OF WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA REGARDING LAND DEVELOPMENT; TO ADOPT DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

WHEREAS, Walker County, Georgia desires to amend its ordinances to adopt certain state minimum code standards for the purpose of public health, welfare and safety in the unincorporated areas of the county;

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Walker County Sole Commissioner that Chapter 34 of the Code of Walker County Georgia is amended to include:

1.

Article I.

Section 34-2 Codes Adopted

Each construction code listed in Section 34-2 (A) through (D) is hereby adopted by reference as if set forth in its entirety. The following minimum standard codes as approved by the State of Georgia include any attachments, future editions, indexes, supplements and amendments, including local amendments adopted by Walker County. Notwithstanding the above, none of the appendices to the standard codes are adopted, unless they are subsequently affirmatively approved by the Governing Authority of Walker County.

- A. [International Building Code](#)
- B. [International Energy Conservation Code](#)
- C. [International Residential Code](#)
- D. [National Electrical Code](#)

2.

The codes adopted in Section 34-2 shall apply, except such portions as may be deleted, modified or amended in this chapter. At least one copy of such codes is to be filed in the office of the County Clerk and is authenticated by his or her signature and by the seal of Walker County. The provisions thereof shall be controlling within the unincorporated limits of Walker County.

3.

Should any provision of the above adopted codes conflict with any provision of this Code of Ordinances, that provision which is most restrictive shall control.

4.

In the event Section 34-2, which had previously been Reserved, is unavailable, the above provisions will be labeled with the next available Section number.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Shannon K. Whitfield
Sole Commissioner
Walker County, Georgia

ATTEST:

Rebecca Wooden
Clerk of Walker County, Georgia

**Information on free COVID-19 testing in Northwest Georgia
Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Region -- November 2020**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Catoosa	Catoosa	Dade <small>Except for 11/11 Closed for Veterans Day</small>	Walker <small>Except for 11/26 All testing sites closed for Thanksgiving.</small>	Walker <small>Except for 11/27 All testing sites closed for Thanksgiving.</small>	Catoosa: 11/28 <small>8:30 am to 12:30 pm</small>

Test Sites:

- **Catoosa:** Catoosa County Health Department, 145 Catoosa Circle, Ringgold, GA
- **Dade:** Dade County Health Department, 71 Case Ave., Ste., H-100, Trenton, GA
- **Walker:** Mount Zion Baptist Church, 289 Dunwoody Road, LaFayette, GA

Hours (all sites):
9 a.m. to noon
12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Drive-up, no appointment needed.

Please note: test sites feature supervised self-collection.

For more info: <https://nwgapublichealth.org>



Find the latest breaking news online at catoosawalkernews.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Governing Authority of Walker County, Georgia proposes to amend the county code of ordinances. O-04-20 adopts the following documents by reference: International Building Code, International Energy Conservation Code, International Residential Code and the National Electrical Code.

Public hearings on the proposed ordinance will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2020 and Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 6 p.m. at the Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street in LaFayette, GA. Copies of the documents are available for review at the Commissioner's Office (101 S Duke St, LaFayette) and online at walkercountyga.gov.

COMPLEX

From A1

regarding the types of individuals who would be served by the facility, as well as information about assessment processes, referral sources and plans that would provide a "path to restoration" for participants.

Healthy Foundations officials have described the tax-exempt, nonprofit organization as an initiative of North Georgia Healthcare Center to meet the integrated primary health, behavioral health and social needs of Walker, Catoosa, Chattooga and Dade counties by providing counseling for behavioral health issues including depression, ADHD and PTSD.

The facility will offer affordable healthcare and housing for veterans, youth aging out

of foster care, and families and individuals needing assistance, as well as daycare and cognitive development for children, according to officials. Part of the campus will be open to the public and will have an artisan village, equestrian center, amphitheater, conference center and farmer's market meant to prepare residents for jobs off campus. The proposed 374-acre campus is on South Burnt Mill Road and will have roughly 950 beds for those it serves, as well as 150 for staff.

"While we aren't required to have multiple meetings with the community, we know this is absolutely the right thing to do," Healthy Foundations President Terry Tucker said. "With this in mind, neighbors who have property adjacent to ours will be receiving an invitation to join us for conversa-

tions regarding their specific concerns as they relate to their property. Our goal is to receive input that can be added into our planning, answer their questions and begin to build their trust in us.

"As a healthcare company, our goal is making sure our meetings are conducted as safely as possible," said Tucker. "We appreciate the community's understanding as we host these conversations in very unusual circumstances."

The facility will not admit sex offenders or violent criminals, officials said.

Healthy Foundations will be funded by a variety of sources including private individuals and foundations, federal and state agencies, and capital campaigns; operating expenses will generally be funded by insurance, state and federal government contracts, and earned revenue, according to Healthy Foundations. No county tax dollars will be used for the project.

Walker County Local Maintenance Asphalt Resurfacing Project 2021-01

Walker County Government is now accepting sealed bids to resurface multiple roads in 2021.

The work involves roughly 50 miles of patching, asphalt overlay with tack coat, leveling and striping along 25 county roads.

Specifications for this project are available for download on the county's website (walkercountyga.gov) or at the Commissioner's Office (101 S Duke Street, LaFayette, GA) during regular business hours.

Sealed bids will be accepted until 11:45 a.m. on December 4, 2020 at the Commissioner's Office. Bids will be opened at the Commissioner's Office at 12:00 p.m. on December 4, 2020.

Contract will be awarded at the Commissioner's regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on December 10, 2020. The meeting will be held at the Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 South Main Street, LaFayette, GA.

Walker County Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!

**Wise Staffing
will be hosting 2 Job Fairs this week!**

**Wednesday,
Nov. 4, 10am-2pm,
at the Trion Chamber of
Commerce Civic Center**

**Thursday, Nov. 5,
11am-3pm,
at the Trion
Recreation Center!**

**Immediate Start Dates!
Come by and apply!**

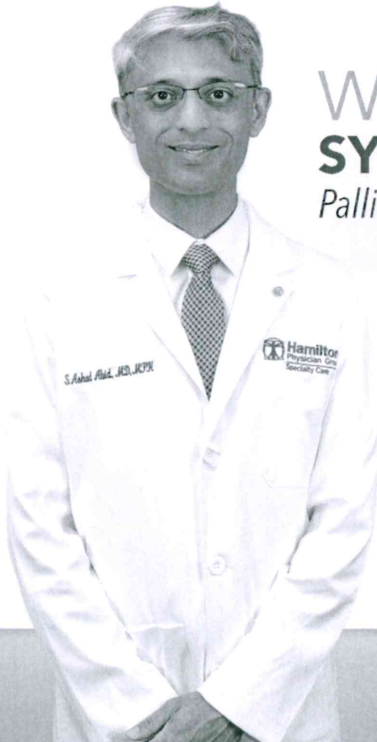
157TH

From A1

On Dec. 5, at 11 a.m., virtual visitors are encouraged to participate in an hour-long, live Q&A

session with park historian Jim Ogden concerning the siege and battles that took place in and around Chattanooga.

To participate in this Q&A session, join in on the park's Facebook page or on YouTube Channel.



**WELCOME
SYED ABID, MD**
Palliative Care

Hamilton Physician Group welcomes board-certified palliative care physician Syed Abid, MD, to our medical staff. He completed medical training at Brown University in Rhode Island. As part of Hamilton Physician Group-Specialty Care, he helps to provide relief from the symptoms and stress of illnesses, improving the quality of life for both patients and their families.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Abid, call Hamilton Physician Group-Specialty Care at 706.529.3072.



Specialty Care

1243 Broadrick Drive • Suite A
Dalton, GA
706.529.3072
HamiltonHealth.com/specialtycare

**COUNTY OF WALKER
STATE OF GEORGIA**

ORDINANCE NO. O-05-20

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 23 OF THE CODE OF WALKER COUNTY,
GEORGIA REGARDING FIRE CODES; TO ADOPT DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

WHEREAS, Walker County, Georgia desires to amend its ordinances to adopt certain state minimum code standards for the purpose of public health, welfare and safety in the unincorporated areas of the county;

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Walker County Sole Commissioner that Chapter 23 of the Code of Walker County Georgia is amended to include:

1.

Article VII.

Section 23-7-1 Regulation of Fireworks

Each requirement listed in Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 25-10-5.1 is hereby adopted by reference as if set forth in its entirety, including future modifications and amendments.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 10th DAY OF DECEMBER 2020.

Shannon K. Whitfield
Sole Commissioner
Walker County, Georgia

ATTEST:

Rebecca Wooden
Clerk of Walker County, Georgia

O.C.G.A. § 25-10-5.1

Copy Citation

Current through the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly

GA - Official Code of Georgia Annotated > TITLE 25. FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY > CHAPTER 10.
REGULATION OF FIREWORKS

**§ 25-10-5.1. Requirements for issuance of license to distribute consumer fireworks;
required signage**

(a) (1) A license pursuant to this Code section shall only be issued to a distributor that:

(A) Complies with all the requirements of this chapter; and

(B) Maintains at all times public liability and product liability insurance with minimum coverage limits of \$2 million to cover the losses, damages, or injuries that might ensue to persons or property as a result of selling consumer fireworks.

(2) Any person who knowingly and willfully makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement of representation in an application executed pursuant to this Code section shall be guilty of a violation of Code Section 16-10-20.

(3) Applications to the Safety Fire Commissioner pursuant to this Code section shall be upon forms prescribed and promulgated by the Safety Fire Commissioner.

(4) Any person, firm, corporation, association, or partnership seeking a license pursuant to subsection (b) or (d) of this Code section shall have property from which the applicant intends to sell consumer fireworks under such person's, firm's, corporation's, association's, or partnership's ownership or legal control through a lease, rental agreement, licensing agreement, or other contractual instrument at the time of filing the application for such license, and such property shall be in a condition ready for inspection.

(b)

(1) The initial license fee for a distributor selling consumer fireworks from a permanent consumer fireworks retail sales facility shall be \$1,500.00 per location, payable to the Safety Fire Commissioner; provided, however, that the initial license fee shall be \$5,000.00 for a distributor that is not licensed pursuant to this subsection prior to July 1, 2016. Upon finding that a distributor has met the requirements of subsection (a) of this Code section and upon payment of such license fee, such initial license shall be issued by the Safety Fire Commissioner and shall identify the permanent consumer fireworks retail sales facility applicable to such license. Such initial license shall expire on January 31 of the year after such initial license was issued or as otherwise provided for under this subsection. After such initial license, such distributor may annually renew such initial license, which shall then become an annual license, for \$1,000.00 per year, payable to the Safety Fire Commissioner. Upon finding that a distributor has met the requirements of subsection

(a) of this Code section and upon payment of such license fee, such annual license shall be issued by the Safety Fire Commissioner and shall identify the permanent consumer fireworks retail sales facility applicable to such license. Such annual license shall expire on January 31 of each year or as otherwise provided for under this subsection; provided, however, that a distributor shall apply for an annual license or renewal of an annual license by December 1 in the year preceding the expiration date of such initial or annual license; and provided, further, that if an initial license is issued to a distributor on or after December 1, then such distributor shall apply for an annual license by the first business day of the next year.

(2) The determination by the Safety Fire Commissioner of whether a distributor has met requirements for the issuance of a license required by this subsection shall be made within 30 days of the submission of an application for any initial or annual license; provided, however, that if a license will expire prior to the expiration of such 30 days and no such determination has been made by the Safety Fire Commissioner, then the expiration date for such license shall be extended until the date of such determination by the Safety Fire Commissioner but for no more than 30 days. If a determination has not been made within the time provided for by this paragraph, or for an appeal of a determination by the Safety Fire Commissioner, a distributor may seek review from the judge of the probate court of the county of the location or proposed location of the permanent consumer fireworks retail sales facility. Such judge may provide for the issuance or nonissuance of a license and for the payment of license fees in such manner as is consistent with the provisions of this subsection.

(c)

(1) The license fee for a distributor selling consumer fireworks from a temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stand shall be \$500.00 per location, payable to the governing authority of the county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state in whose boundaries such temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stand shall be located or is proposed to be located. Upon finding that a distributor has met the requirements of subsection (a) of this Code section, has a license pursuant to subsection (b) or (d) of this Code section, has no more than the allowable temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stands pursuant to subparagraph (b)(6)(B) of Code Section 25-10-2, that the sales of consumer fireworks from such temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stand shall accrue to the benefit of a nonprofit group, and upon payment of such license fee, such license shall be issued by the fire department of the county, municipality, or other political subdivision or the chartered fire department legally organized to operate in this state pursuant to Chapter 3 of this title and having operational authority of the area in which such temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stand shall be located or is proposed to be located. Such license shall identify the temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stand applicable to such license and shall expire on the next January 31 after the issuance of such license.

(2) A determination by a fire department as provided for under paragraph (1) of this subsection of whether a distributor has met requirements for the issuance of a license pursuant to this subsection shall be made within 30 days of the submission of an application for any such license. Such application shall be in writing and, if such fire department provides for a written form for the application for a license pursuant to this Code section, upon such form as may be provided by such fire department. If a determination has not been made within the time provided for by this paragraph, or for an appeal of a determination by such fire department, a distributor may seek review from the judge of the probate court of the county of the location or proposed location of the temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stand. Such judge may provide for the issuance or nonissuance of a license and for the payment of license fees in such manner as is consistent with the provisions of this subsection.

(3) For at least one of the temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stands provided for under subparagraph (b)(6)(B) of Code Section 25-10-2, a nonprofit group benefiting from the sale of consumer fireworks from such temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stand shall directly participate in operating such temporary consumer fireworks retail

sales stand. It shall be unlawful for a nonprofit group or any agent or bona fide representative of a nonprofit group to knowingly lend the name of the nonprofit group or allow the identity of the nonprofit group to be used for the license under this subsection if such nonprofit group is not directly participating in operating, or benefiting from the operation of, such temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stand.

(4) The governing authority of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision receiving fees pursuant to this Code section shall expend such fees for public safety purposes.

(5) A distributor licensed pursuant to this subsection shall submit a list of the names and addresses, including the counties, of each temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stand at which such distributor has consumer fireworks offered for sale pursuant to this Code section to the Safety Fire Commissioner. Such list shall be submitted not less than 30 days prior to first having a temporary consumer fireworks retail sales stand at which such distributor has consumer fireworks offered for sale and not less than 30 days prior to having such distributor's consumer fireworks offered for sale at a location not previously included on such list. The Safety Fire Commissioner shall make such list publicly available for inspection. In making determinations as provided for under this subsection, fire departments shall reference the list provided for by this paragraph.

(6) A revocation or suspension of a license provided for under subsection (b) or (d) of this Code section shall operate as a revocation or suspension of a distributor's license under this subsection for the term of such revocation or suspension.

(d)

(1) The initial license fee for a distributor selling consumer fireworks from a store shall be \$1,500.00 in addition to \$250.00 per store location, payable to the Safety Fire Commissioner. Upon finding that a distributor has met the requirements of subsection (a) of this Code section, such initial license shall be issued by the Safety Fire Commissioner; provided, however, that such distributor has been operating and open to the public no less than 30 days prior to July 4 or December 31 in the year of an application for an initial license that is filed within 30 days of July 4 or December 31; and provided, further, that a distributor holding an initial license may add additional store locations to such license prior to the expiration of such license upon payment of \$250.00 per added store location. Such initial license shall expire on January 31 of the year after such initial license was issued or as otherwise provided for under this subsection. After such initial license, such distributor may annually renew such initial license, which shall then become an annual license, for \$1,000.00 in addition to \$100.00 per store location, payable to the Safety Fire Commissioner; provided, however, that a distributor holding an annual license may add additional store locations to such license prior to the expiration of such license upon payment of \$250.00 per added store location. Upon finding that a distributor has met the requirements of subsection (a) of this Code section, such annual license shall be issued by the Safety Fire Commissioner. Such annual license shall expire on January 31 of each year or as otherwise provided for under this subsection; provided, however, that a distributor shall apply for an annual license or renewal of an annual license by December 1 in the year preceding the expiration date of such initial or annual license; and provided, further, that if an initial license is issued to a distributor on or after December 1, then such distributor shall apply for an annual license by the first business day of the next year.

(2) An application submitted under this subsection shall identify each store location to which an initial or annual license is applicable; there shall not be a requirement for a separate application for each of the several store locations. The determination by the Safety Fire Commissioner of whether a distributor has met requirements for the issuance of a license required by this subsection shall be made within 30 days of the submission of an application for any initial or annual license; provided, however, that if a license will expire prior to the expiration of such 30 days and no such determination has been made by the Safety Fire Commissioner, then the expiration date for such license shall be extended until the date of such determination by the Safety Fire Commissioner but for no more than 30 days. If a

determination has not been made within the time provided for by this paragraph, or for an appeal of a determination by the Safety Fire Commissioner, a distributor may seek review from the judge of the probate court of the county of the location or proposed location of the store from which consumer fireworks will be sold. Such judge may provide for the issuance or nonissuance of a license and for the payment of license fees in such manner as is consistent with the provisions of this subsection.

(e) (1) Every licensed distributor selling consumer fireworks pursuant to this Code section shall have within the retail display area for consumer fireworks at least one sign providing the following information:

(A) **"PLEASE CHECK YOUR LOCAL ORDINANCES PRIOR TO USING OR IGNITING CONSUMER FIREWORKS";**

(B) **"PLEASE USE CONSUMER FIREWORKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR AFFIXED CAUTION AND WARNING LABELS";**
and

(C) **"PLEASE BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND BE MINDFUL THAT UNANNOUNCED IGNITION NEAR SOME MILITARY VETERANS AND OTHER PERSONS AND NEAR SOME PETS CAN BE TRAUMATIC".**

(2) Such signs shall be at least 22 inches by 28 inches in size, be printed in at least 40 point boldface type in a color contrasting from such sign's background color, and kept free from obstruction and in plain sight of customers.

History

Code 1981, § 25-10-5.1, enacted by Ga. L. 2015, p. 274, § 4/HB 110; Ga. L. 2016, p. 64, § 9/HB 727; Ga. L. 2018, p. 181, § 2/HB 419.

OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED

Content Type:

Terms:

Narrow By: -None-

Date and Time: Nov 12, 2020 10:18:11 a.m. EST



About
LexisNexis®

Privacy
Policy

Cookie
Policy

Terms &
Conditions

Sign
Out

Copyright
© 2020
LexisNexis.



Print

HART

From A1

votes cast in the general election, according to unofficial results posted by the Georgia Secretary of State; results will be official once certified. District 3 encompasses LaFayette and the southeast corner of the county.

Serving as a member of the new board of commissioners will be a new experience for all involved, Hart said.

"The four of us that were elected to represent the four districts are different and each possess different strengths," he said.



Hakie Shropshire

"I feel very positive that we can come together and work with Commissioner Whitfield to move Walker County forward in a positive direction."

Hart attributed his victory to voter confidence that his understanding of county operations garnered through 30 years of experience in government in Whitfield County, as well as his construction project experience in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "would translate to success in starting up our five member board."

"I'm not surprised that I lost," Shropshire posted on his Facebook page. He believes potential voters did not see a campaign, and his opponent's platform consisted of being the Republican candidate.

"My signs and banners were taken down from day 1,"

Shropshire wrote. "I spoke at a forum back in March and the Georgia Transparency Coalition recorded all District(s) except for my District. I'm not blind to the fact that people were trying keep me silent."

Hart

Hart, who owns and operates a cow/calf operation in Villanow, said to prepare for taking office he has been attending county meetings to familiarize himself with policies and procedures, and the newly-elected county commissioners will attend state-mandated training, which is scheduled in December.

"As I stated in the campaign, debt, infrastructure and county employees are my top three priorities," he said. "They will remain my priorities. We will all

have a learning curve to get through, but I am positive that the five of us will make a good team."

He pointed out that national and state races seem focused on "how much negativity one can point to his/her opponent. As I talked to folks in my district," Hart explained, "I talked about things that were important to me and how I thought the county could improve or sustain different operations."

Hart said he has a "great deal of respect" for his opponent, calling him "a fine person" and saying he hopes Shropshire remains active in the community.

"He has a lot of great ideas and a very bright future ahead of him," Hart said.

Shropshire

Shropshire cautioned vot-

ers that when they vote for the same party over and over again in Walker County, they will get the same result. He also signaled on his Facebook page his plans to run for LaFayette City Council.

His post included photos of highlighting sidewalk and road maintenance issues, explaining them as examples of how the city leaders paves roads in neighborhoods that don't matter to them, he posted, adding that he walked the sidewalk as a child.

"This is what you get when you don't vote and allow

the same people hold office unopposed," he wrote.

During the campaign he asserted that his education and work history in electrical engineering, road construction, trucking industry, and operating heavy equipment would be valuable as a commissioner. He joined the Army National Guard in 1999 and holds a degree in computer networking, he said.

Shropshire's top priorities included street paving, trimming trees and cutting back vegetation along roadways, and investing in local businesses.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Governing Authority of Walker County, Georgia proposes to amend the county code of ordinances. O-05-20 adopts a permitting process for fireworks stands for those authorized to sell consumer fireworks as defined by the State of Georgia.

Public hearings on the proposed ordinance will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2020 and Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6 p.m. at the Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main Street in LaFayette, GA. Copies of the documents are available for review at the Commissioner's Office (101 S Duke St, LaFayette) and online at walkercountyga.gov.

Walker County Government Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Sale

Walker County Government will offer for sale by auction to the highest bidder over 70 items including cars and trucks, construction and landscaping equipment, and vehicle accessories.

The auction will be conducted by a private auctioneer at the Walker County Road Department, 91 Industrial Boulevard in Chickamauga, GA at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 21, 2020. Bidders may begin registering at 8:00 a.m.

All items are offered "AS IS" with no warranty or condition expressed or implied and no returns.

Items must be paid for on the day of the sale. Buyer's premium may apply. Acceptable forms of payment include cash or letter of credit from a bank. The buyer must make all arrangements and perform all work necessary to remove their items from county property on the day of the sale.

A list of items that will be up for auction is available for download on the county's website (walkercountyga.gov/public-notices) or at the Commissioner's Office (101 S. Duke Street, LaFayette, GA) during regular business hours.

Walker County Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive formalities.



Catherine Edgerton

Voters queue up at the Armuchee precinct Nov. 3 to vote in the general election. According to Lynn Roberson, poll manager, 72 voters had cast ballots in person by 8:20 a.m.

3 DAYS ONLY
THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY

20-50% OFF
STOREWIDE SALE

BUY OFF
THE FLOOR



LINDERMAN'S FURNITURE
80 N Three Notch Rd
Ringgold, GA 30736
706-937-3972 • LindermansFurniture.com

Free Delivery*

Haul Away Available