

Georgia Auctioneers Commission
Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes – March 23, 2026
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
3920 Arkwright Rd. Suite 195, Macon, GA 31210

Members Present:

- Perry Walden, Chair
- Larry “Bo” Benton
- Kim Hagen
- Al Lawson
- Stephen Burton
- Patty Brown

Others Present:

- Brad Coman, Executive Director
- Melanie Foster, Licensing Supervisor
- Ashley Burley, Licensing Analyst
- Kristin Mitchell, Board Support Specialist
- Kareem McCulley, Assistant Attorney General

Note: Visitors are excused during Executive Session unless scheduled for a personal appearance.

OPEN SESSION:

Perry Walden, Chair, noted a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act, O.C.G.A. §§50-14-1 et seq.

Agenda:

Patty Brown moved, Kim Hagen seconded, and the Commission voted to approve the March 23, 2026 agenda.

Minutes:

Kim Hagen moved, Al Lawson seconded, and the Commission voted to approve the January 26, 2026, Open Meeting minutes and Executive Session minutes.

Ratification List:

Licenses Issued: 1/21/2026 – 3/18/2026 - (Total 14): Kim Hagen moved, Stephen Burton seconded, and the Commission voted to ratify the licenses issued between meetings in accordance with Commission Rules and Policies.

License #	Licensee	License #	Licensee
AU004776	James R Pirkle	AU004783	Warren Scott Robertson
AU004777	W Michael Furse	AU004784	Stefanee Berry
AU004778	John Slaughter	AU004785	Madison Love
AU004779	Edgar Scott Guzman	AU004786	Daniel Garrett
AU004780	Seth Houston Garland	AU004787	Bryan T Ayers
AU004781	Ashley Grady Whiddon	AU-C003248	Merit Auctions, LLC
AU004782	Gary Christopher Hopkins	AU-C003249	Greater Atlanta Auto Auction, LLC

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Bo Benton moved, Stephen Burton seconded, and the Commission voted to enter into Executive Session at 10:09 a.m. in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2 (k); 43-1-19 (h); and 43-6 for the purpose of reviewing and discussing complaints and to hear the Attorney General’s report.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Perry Walden, Chair, declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-1 et seq. at 11:27 a.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

Georgia Auctioneers Commission

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OPEN SESSION:

Bo Benton moved, Kim Hagen seconded, and the Commission voted to accept the following recommendations made during Executive Session:

Application:

Application # 4624132 – M.L. – Approve renewal and waive CE requirements for this renewal cycle, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-6-11.2(b), due to hardship, disability, or illness.

Complaints:

AUCT260008 – Close – No violation.

AUCT260009 – Refer to Investigations to obtain a statement and supporting documents from the complainant and respondent.

AUCT260010 – Close – No violation. Refer to the Georgia State Board for the Registration of Used Motor Vehicle Dealers and Used Motor Vehicle Parts Dealers.

AUCT260007 – Close – Matter resolved.

AUCT260012 – Close – No jurisdiction and lack of information.

AUCT260013 – Close – No jurisdiction.

Attorney General's Report:

The Commission reviewed and accepted the Attorney General's report, which included information on any cases referred for action and requested legal advice.

The next meeting of the Georgia Auctioneer Commission will be held Monday, May 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Perry Walden, Chair, declared the meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Mitchell, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by: Brad Coman, Executive Director

Minutes were approved on: May 18, 2026.


Perry Walden, Chair


Brad Coman, Executive Director

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A 50-14-1 et seq., requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specified exemptions relied upon. O.C.G. A. 50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meetings in question.

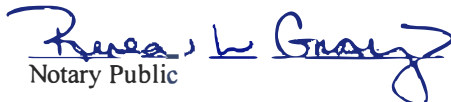
Comes now Perry Walden, Chairman identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the Georgia Auctioneer Commission.
2. I am over the age of 18 and in other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and subject to penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On March 23, 2026, this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of members present voted to close the meeting or a portion thereof of the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting. The legal authority for closure of this meeting was: O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k).
4. The subjects discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are as follows:
Applications and other personal information submitted by the applicants; information, favorable or unfavorable, submitted by a reference source concerning an applicant; and deliberations of the Board with respect to an application, an examination, a complaint, an investigation, or a disciplinary proceeding.

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


PRESIDING OFFICER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd
Day of March 2026.


Notary Public



RENEA L. GRAY
Notary Public, Georgia
Houston County
My Commission Expires
June 01, 2027