

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COLQUITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, June 2, 2015
7:00 o'clock p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Terry R. Clark.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The invocation was given and the pledge of allegiance led by Commissioner Luke P. Strong, Jr.

PRESENT: Those present were Commissioners Luke P. Strong, Jr., Winfred Giddens, Marc DeMott, Donna Herndon, Paul Nagy, Johnny Hardin, and Chairman Terry R. Clark. Also present were County Administrator Chas Cannon, County Attorney Lester Castellow and County Clerk Melissa Lawson.

ALSO PRESENT: Alan Mauldin, Reporter with the Moultrie Observer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON MAY 5, 12, 13, & 19: Commissioner Strong made the motion to approve the minutes as presented for meetings held on May 5, 12, 13, & 19. Commissioner Herndon made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS HAVING BUSINESS WITH THE COUNTY: None Requested.

APPROVAL OF LIST OF UNPAID INVOICES: Commissioner Hardin made the motion to approve payment of the list of unpaid invoices. Commissioner Nagy made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TAX RELIEFS AND ADDITIONS: Commissioner Nagy made the motion to approve the list of tax reliefs and additions. Commissioner Strong made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

County Administrator Chas Cannon presented the following agenda items:

APPOINTMENT TO COLQUITT COUNTY BOARD OF ASSESSORS: Commissioner Strong made the motion to appoint Andrew Daniels to an additional three year term on the Colquitt County Board of Assessors. Commissioner DeMott made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO MOULTRIE – COLQUITT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION: Commissioner Strong made the motion to appoint Richie DeMott, Charles Matthews, and Charlie Powell to additional three year terms on the Moultrie – Colquitt County Planning Commission. Commissioner Hardin made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH MAILFINANCE: Commissioner DeMott made the motion to approve the lease agreement with MailFinance,

a Neopost USA Company, for the provision of an upgraded mail machine. Commissioner Herndon made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BID FOR PROPERTY & LIABILITY INSURANCE:

Commissioner Herndon made the motion to approve the sole complete bid from the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), regarding the provision of property and liability insurance for the term July 1, 2015 – July 1, 2016. Commissioner Nagy made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS COUNTY PROPERTY: Commissioner Hardin made the motion to declare the list of equipment, as presented, as surplus to the county's needs. Commissioner DeMott made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST TO BEGIN ROAD CLOSURE PROCEDURES - WILKES ROAD:

At this time, Preston Jimmerson addressed the board concerning a request to commence road closure procedures for Wilkes Road. Mr. Jimmerson stated that the property in this area was owned by Mr. Rick Moss/Moss Farms, and contained no residential properties. Mr. Jimmerson stated that people often hunt, without permission, along this stretch of road. Mr. Jimmerson presented pictures of bullet holes in a utility building located in the area and stated that the constant dumping of construction debris in this area was a major problem.

Commissioner Nagy inquired as to what types of debris were left in the area.

Mr. Jimmerson stated that old appliances and sheetrock materials were often dumped, and also spoke of repeated vandalism in the area.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO BEGIN ROAD CLOSURE PROCEDURES –

WILKES ROAD: – Commissioner Nagy made the motion to begin road closure procedures for Wilkes Road. Commissioner Strong made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Commissioner Hardin made the motion to approve budget amendment BA2015-14, as presented by Finance Director Wayne Putnal. Commissioner Nagy made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER COUNTY BUSINESS FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: At this time, Mr. Cannon addressed items received after the agenda deadline.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH GIS1, LLC:

Commissioner Hardin made the motion to approve the contract with GIS1, LLC, regarding the provision of services to locate unrecorded structures and accessories not reflected on the county's tax digest. Commissioner DeMott made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF RENTAL CONTRACT - VETERANS

ADMINISTRATION: Commissioner Strong made the motion to renew the rental contract with the State Properties Commission concerning the provision of rental space for

the Moultrie Field Office of the Veterans Administration for the term July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016. Commissioner DeMott made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

BID FOR BULLET PROOF VESTS – EMS: Mr. Cannon stated that three bids were received regarding the provision of bullet proof vests for EMS personnel. He further stated that GALLS, LLC, was the recommended bid in the amount of \$8,027.00.

Commissioner Hardin questioned why the lowest bid was not being recommended. Mr. Cannon stated that, due to vendor performance, Ms. Williams recommended this particular vendor.

Amy Williams, EMS Director, stated that Moultrie Fire Department personnel were provided the same vests by this particular vendor and were extremely satisfied with the product.

Commissioner DeMott remarked that the recommended vendor took the opportunity to measure all personnel, an obvious advantage when pricing is determined by sizing.

APPROVAL OF BID FOR BULLET PROOF VESTS – EMS: Commissioner DeMott made the motion to approve the recommended bid from GALLS, LLC, in the amount of \$8,027.00, for the provision of bullet proof vests for EMS personnel. Commissioner Strong made a second. Those in favor were Commissioners DeMott, Strong, Nagy, and Herndon. Opposed were Commissioners Hardin and Giddens.

Public Hearings

The following public hearing was duly called and advertised for the purpose of two requests for variance and a request for a special use permit. Lester Castellow, County Attorney, called the public hearing to order.

Request for Variance – Mr. Castellow stated that an application was received from Betty Weldon, 349 McGinty Road, regarding a request for variance. Mr. Castellow called upon Justin H. Cox, Chief Compliance Officer, to present the application to the board.

Mr. Cox stated that the purpose of the request for variance was to allow placement of a second mobile home upon the property for medical reasons. Mr. Cox presented an aerial map of the property in question, and noted that the Moultrie – Colquitt County Planning Commission approved the request.

At this time, Mr. Castellow asked for any public comments in support of the application.

Michael Todd addressed the board, stating that the request was for his daughter, who has a special needs child, to put a mobile home upon the property so that the family can assist in the care of the child. Mr. Todd thanked the board for their time and consideration.

Mr. Castellow called for any public comments in opposition to the request for variance. There being none, the second request was presented.

June 2, 2015

Page 4

Request for Special Use Permit – Mr. Cox presented an application from Timothy Withrow, 349 Murray McCranie Road, requesting a special use permit to allow the placement of a small commercial dog kennel on the property. Mr. Cox explained that a sale is pending on the property and that the request was being made by the seller of the property. Mr. Cox presented an aerial map of the proposed location of the kennel and noted that the Moultrie – Colquitt County Planning Commission approved the request.

Mr. Castellow asked for any comments in support of the application.

Timothy Withrow explained that he and his wife were downsizing to a smaller home and thanked the board in advance for any consideration they could give his request.

Allen Abrams approached the board, stating that he and his wife also wished to thank the board for any consideration they could give the request.

Mr. Castellow asked for any comments in opposition of the request for special use permit. There being none, the third request was presented.

Request for Variance – Mr. Cox presented an application received from Michael Copeland, on behalf of Patricia Copeland, regarding a variance to allow the placement of a mobile home upon the property for the applicant's elderly mother. Mr. Cox presented an aerial map and pictures of the property in question. Mr. Cox stated that the Moultrie – Colquitt County Planning Commission approved the request for variance.

Mr. Castellow asked for any comments in support of the request for variance.

Michael Copeland addressed the board, stating that his mother was 83 years old, and was presently caring for her 104 year old mother. Upon his grandmother's passing, Mr. Copeland stated that he would like to relocate his mother to his property so that he could care for her. Mr. Copeland stated that he always kept his properties in clean and presentable condition.

At this time, James Tabor addressed the board, stating that he was neither for nor against the request for variance. Mr. Tabor questioned what would happen to the variance, if granted, when it was no longer needed.

Commissioner Hardin stated that normally in a situation such as this, if the mobile home belonged to the mother, it may or may not be moved. However, Commissioner Hardin stated that he knew of several instances where a variance only existed as long as the applicant lived, citing one in his district and in Chairman Clark's district as well.

Mr. Castellow asked for comments in opposition to the application for variance. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR VARIANCE: Commissioner Nagy made the motion to approve the request for variance submitted by Betty Weldon, 349 McGinty Road. Commissioner Herndon made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

June 2, 2015

Page 5

APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT: Commissioner Giddens made the motion to approve the request for special use permit submitted by Timothy Withrow, Murray McCranie Road. Commissioner Strong made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR VARIANCE: Commissioner Hardin made the motion to approve the request for variance submitted by Michael Copeland, on behalf of Patricia Copeland, for property located at 169 B Allman Road. Commissioner Nagy made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY ATTORNEY LESTER M. CASTELLOW: At this time, Mr. Castellow declared that the county improved Ellis May Road in 2011 by paving the road. A map of the area was presented. Mr. Castellow stated that due to a pending sale of property located upon Ellis May Road, he had been contacted by the real estate attorney handling the closing transaction requesting that the county officially abandon the old road bed.

Mr. Castellow stated that it was appropriate for the county to consider officially abandoning the area in question. As a result, Mr. Castellow stated that he prepared quit claim deeds for all adjoining landowners in order to officially record that the county has abandoned the road bed.

APPROVAL OF MOTION TO RECORD QUIT CLAIM DEEDS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS ON ELLIS MAY ROAD: Commissioner DeMott made the motion to approve officially recording the quit claim deeds, as presented, for all affected property owners on Ellis May Road. Commissioner Nagy made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Rufus Jolly voiced his concerns regarding the proposed reduction in funding to the Parks and Recreation program. Mr. Jolly declared his opinion that any cut to the recreation program would handicap the youth in Colquitt County.

Mr. Jolly declared that he utilized the walking trail daily, and stated his fear that without recreational programs to participate in, youth crime rates would increase significantly. In opposition to the reduction in funding, Mr. Jolly proposed enhancing the Parks and Recreation program, stating that it was vital to the growth and enhancement of both children and young adults. As a city and county taxpayer, Mr. Jolly urged the board to reconsider the reduction in funding.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Clark
Chairman

Melissa Lawson
County Clerk

Approved: _____