

**THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. C. D. Zeigler, Chairman, Mr. Reginald S. Loper, Sr., Vice-Chairman, Mr. Robert Brantley, Mrs. Vera Jones, Mr. Steve Mason, and Mr. Phil Kieffer met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 04, 2011 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Effingham County Administrative Complex.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Mr. Eric Gotwalt, County Attorney, Mr. David Crawley, County Administrator, Mr. Adam Kobek, Project Manager, Mr. George Shaw, Zoning Administrator, Mrs. Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk, Ms. Rushe Hudzinski-Sero, Human Resources Director, Mrs. Joanna Wright, Finance Director, Mr. Tim Mathews, Mrs. Sharon Mason, Ms. Lisa Mason, Mr. Bubba Harrelson, Ms. Bonnie McMillan, Mr. Kelly Dickey, Mrs. Ruth Lee, Mr. Jim Simmons, Mr. Dennis Webb, Mr. Ricky Stille, Mr. Dewayne Ladner, Mr. John Kieffer, Ms. Vickie Decker, Mr. Jerry Shaufelberger, Mr. Roy Floyd, Mrs. Beth Mosley, Mrs. Elizabeth Hursey, Mr. Charlie Kea, Mr. Jim Scott, Mr. Stan Mann, Mr. Arthur Rud, Sr. and Mr. Rickey Kicklighter.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Zeigler called the meeting to order.

ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Zeigler called for the election of the Vice-Chairperson. County Clerk Crawley picked up the ballots. County Attorney Gotwalt tallied up the votes and announced that Mr. Reginald S. Loper was elected Vice-Chairman.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Chairman Zeigler gave the invocation and led the Pledge to the American Flag.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Kieffer requested to add New Business Number 07 – Consideration to amend the Home Rule Ordinance Part 1, Article II Section 6 of the Official Code of Georgia.

Commissioner Jones requested to add New Business Number 08 – Consideration to approve the First Reading to amend the Ethic Ordinance of the Official Code of Georgia.

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition to New Business 07 and 08. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion.

Chairman Zeigler voted against the motion. Vice-Chairman Loper, Commissioner Brantley, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Mason, and Commissioner Kieffer voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve the minutes for December 7, 2010. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Mason, and Commissioner Kieffer abstained. Chairman Zeigler, Vice-Chairman Loper, and Commissioner Brantley voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Zeigler stated that if anyone would like to discuss an Agenda Item, they may do so when that item is presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Zeigler read aloud the items on the consent Agenda.

Commissioner Brantley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- (1) Consideration to approve Errors and Releases for Mobile Home Tax (2) Errors and Releases for Property Tax, (3) Insolvents as submitted by the Tax Commissioner and
- (4) Consideration to approve the second reading to amend Appendix B – Subdivision Regulations Section 6.2.8 street names and traffic control signs;
- (5) Consideration to approve the second reading to amend Appendix C – Zoning Ordinance Sec. 2.55.1, 2.55.2 definition of a mobile home section 5.4.1.2 R-1A Zoning District

Chairman Zeigler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE LARRY HADDEN AS THE AGENT OF RECORD FOR EFFINGHAM COUNTY CONCERNING HEALTH RELATED INSURANCE PROGRAM

(01): County Administration Crawley explained this item needed to be tabled until some more information could be gathered.

Chairman Zeigler made a motion to table approving Larry Hadden as the agent of record for Effingham County concerning the health related insurance program. Commissioner Jones seconded. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AMENDING THE AGING SERVICES CONTRACT WITH COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION (01): Finance Director Wright explained that each year the county renews a contract with Coastal Regional Commissioner of Georgia Area Agency on Aging to be the provider of Aging Services to the senior citizens in Effingham County. The annual contract has already been approved. An amendment has been received which increases some portions of the funding while decreasing others.

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve amending the Aging Services Contract with Coastal Regional Commission (see minute book page ____). Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER TRAINING TO ACCG 2011 CAPITOL CONNECTION CONFERENCE (02): County Clerk Crawley explained that ACCG will be holding their annual Capitol Connection Conference January 31st through February 1st. Vice-Chairman Loper, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Mason, Commissioner Kieffer, and County Administration Crawley will be attending the training.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve Commissioners training to ACCG 2011 Capitol Connection Conference. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER TRAINING TO 2011 EFFINGHAM DAY AT THE CAPITOL (03): County Clerk Crawley explained that the Chamber will be holding the 2011 Effingham Day at the Capitol on January 24th and January 25th. A reception with state legislators and department heads will be held at the Georgia Railroad Depot in Atlanta and a breakfast where invited guests will speak to the group. Commissioners and Staff will be going up on

Sunday and meeting with different State Officials on Monday before the Chamber Event. Vice-Chairman Loper, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Mason, Commissioner Kieffer, and County Administration Crawley will be attending this event.

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve Commissioner Training to 2011 Effingham Day at the Capitol. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO CANCEL THE FEBRUARY 1ST MEETING (04): County Clerk Crawley explained that the ACCG Capitol Connection Conference is from January 31st to February 1st. Various Commissioners and Staff will be attending this conference, therefore, the February 1st meeting needs to be cancelled or moved.

Commissioner Masson made a motion to move the February 1st meeting to Thursday, February 4th at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Chairman Zeigler opposed the motion. Vice-Chairman Loper, Commissioner Brantley, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Mason, and Commissioner Kieffer voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CHANGING THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE FIVE CURRENT GEORGIA MILITIA DISTRICTS (GMD) TO COINCIDE WITH THE FIVE CURRENT VOTING DISTRICT GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES (05): Commissioner Brantley made a motion to remove this item. Vice-Chairman Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE APPOINTMENTS FOR THE IDA (06): County Clerk Crawley explained that appointments on the IDA Board terms have expired and the Board needs to appoint members. The Board would like to appoint the following: GMD 12th – Glen Weston, GMD 10th – Dick Knowlton, GMD 11th – Dennis Webb, GMD 9th – Chap Bennett and GMD 1559th – Rose Harvey.

Mr. Arthur Rud, Sr., and Mrs. Ruth Lee spoke their concerns on the appointments.

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve for GMD 12th – Glen Weston, GMD 10th – Dick Knowlton, GMD 11th – Dennis Webb, GMD 9th – Chap

Bennett and GMD 1559th – Rose Harvey for the IDA. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Chairman Zeigler and Commissioner Brantley opposed the motion. Vice-Chairman Loper, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Mason, and Commissioner Kieffer voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO AMEND THE HOME RULE ORDINANCE PART 1, ARTICLE II SECTION 6 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY (07):

Commissioner Kieffer explained that under current procedures, commission votes have the potential to tie, thus, creating a “no vote”. Research shows that other counties within Georgia have procedures preventing tie votes. The home rule provisions for counties in the Constitution of Georgia provide counties with the authority to amend local acts to change procedures of meetings.

Ms. Carole Hoage, and Mr. Jim Simmons explained their concerns for the amendment of the Home Rule Ordinance.

Commissioner Mason made a motion for County Attorney Gotwalt to research the best way to handle amending the Chairman’s voting procedures. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. Chairman Zeigler and Commissioner Brantley opposed the motion. Vice-Chairman Loper, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Mason, and Commissioner Kieffer voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING TO AMEND THE ETHIC ORDINANCE OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA (08):

Commissioner Jones explained that various conflicts exist between the Ethic Ordinance and the Official Code of Effingham County.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to repeal the latest Ethic Ordinance and to reinstate the ordinance before the last Ethic Ordinance was approved. Vice-Chairman Loper seconded the motion. Chairman Zeigler and Commissioner Brantley opposed the motion. Vice-Chairman Loper, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Mason, and Commissioner Kieffer voted in favor of the motion. The motion carries.

WORKSHOP

County Administration Crawley gave an overview of the current budget, projected population figures, committee appointments, water and sewer debt service, impact fee status and service delivery status.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

County Administrator Crawley discussed the following:

- ◆ Gateway project
- ◆ Meetings for Effingham Day at the Capitol
- ◆ Old Augusta Road Phase IIA
- ◆ Inauguration of Governor Deal

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Jones made a motion to add New Business Number 9 – Consideration to approve travel for the Commissioners to the inauguration of the governor. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TRAVEL FOR THE COMMISSIONERS TO THE INAUGURATION OF THE GOVERNOR (09): Commissioner Brantley made a motion to approve travel for the Commissioners to the inauguration of the Governor. Vice-Chairman Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:07 p.m. Chairman Zeigler made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, property, and pending litigation. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

County Administrator Crawley and Commissioners discussed personnel and pending litigation. (See copy of Chairperson’s affidavit on minute book page number _____).

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:15 p.m., Chairman Zeigler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairman Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. D. Zeigler, Chairman

Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk