

**EFFINGHAM COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
*December 1, 2015*

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The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. Wendall Kessler, Chairman, Mrs. Vera Jones, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Forrest Floyd, Mr. Jamie Deloach, Mr. Reginald Loper and Mr. Phil Kieffer met in regular session 5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Effingham County Administrative Complex. Commissioner Kieffer was not present for the meeting.

**PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING**

Mr. Edward Newberry, County Attorney, Mr. Toss Allen - County Administrator, Mrs. Stephanie Johnson – County Clerk, Mrs. Joanna Wright – Finance Director, Ms. Fiona Charleton – Purchasing Agent, Mr. R.C. Barenchik – Zoning Administrator, Mr. Clint Hodges – Fire Chief, Ms. Irma Davis, Ms. Gussie Nease, Mr. Ross Butler, Mr. Carol Hogge, Mr. Jack Garvin, Ms. Claudia Collier and Mr. Pat Donahue

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Kessler called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION**

Pastor Paul Flippo of New Life Worship Center gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

Chairman Kessler led the Pledge to the American Flag.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chairman Kessler asked if there were any changes or corrections to the agenda. There being none, Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of Item# 2 under the New Business. Commissioner Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the November 17, 2015 Commission meeting minutes as read. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. Commissioner Kieffer abstained from voting due to being absent. The motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Kessler stated public comment should be limited to agenda items only.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairman Kessler explained all correspondence and documents from the meeting are located in the Clerk's office and on the Board of Commissioner's website.

**NEW BUSINESS****CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A FINAL PLAT AND DEED ACCEPTING INFRASTRUCTURE IN EDWARDS COMMERCIAL PARK LOCATED OFF OF US HWY 80 (01)**

County Administrator Allen explained there are ten lots within this development, three of which were previously approved via a minor subdivision plat. Water services will be provided by Lakeside Water Company and sewer will be provided via individual septic systems.

The plans for Edwards Commercial Park were approved in 2006 and construction completed in 2007. Public Works inspected the roads and storm drainage within the subdivision and created a small punch list. Staff isn't aware of another instance in which we have required a developer to seal cracks prior to acceptance of infrastructure.

Staff is recommending that the infrastructure maintenance security (10% of the estimated value of the infrastructure) be waived due to the length of time since the subdivision was constructed.

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve the final plat and deed to accept the infrastructure for Edwards Commercial Park. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A PROPERTY USE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF GUYTON FOR THE USE OF ITS GYM FACILITIES (02)**

This item was removed at the agenda approval.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF SURPLUS (03)**

County Administrator Allen explained the County has a parcel of property on Hodgeville Road which the County does not have a use. A citizen has expressed interest in purchasing the property. This property must be declared Surplus and will be advertised for sealed bid.

There are a couple of references within the document which states the property will be sold at tax value. Staff requests to strike those references and enter the amount of \$48,000 which is the current tax value.

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the Resolution with the stipulation that all references to fair market value are removed and include a

dollar amount of \$48,000. Commissioner Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER# 1 FOR CARROLL & CARROLL INC FOR THE 2015 ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT (04)**

County Administrator Allen explained the contractor submitted a letter requesting an extension of 90 days to the contract. A ninety (90) day extension, if granted, would change the contract completion date to April 4, 2016.

The letter submitted states due to higher than normal rainfall and seasonal restrictions on the lacing of single surface treatment and asphalt. Discussions have been had with the contractor about completing Caribbean Village Drive prior to December 31, 2015.

Commissioner Deloach made a motion to approve the Change Order for a ninety day extension to the original contract time with the stipulation that Caribbean Village Drive is complete by December 31, 2015. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN EFFINGHAM COUNTY AND THE CITY OF GUYTON FOR THE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES FOR THE TUSCULUM FIRE STATION (05)**

County Administrator Allen explained the fire station has been complete for approximately six (6) months. The station lies within Guyton's fire service delivery area. Effingham County Fire Rescue is desirous of operating the Tusculum Fire Station and The City of Guyton is agreeable to allow Effingham County Fire Rescue to do so. Both parties feel that it is beneficial to adopt a Joint Resolution reaffirming the Service Delivery Area as set out in the Service Delivery Strategy and Fire Protection services Agreement.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the Joint Resolution with the City of Guyton. Commissioner Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION FOR A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 FOR THE TRANSFER STATION (06)**

Finance Director Wright explained during the Short Term work program \$50,000 was allocated for the Transfer Station project. Currently we have \$ 50,000 in SPLOST funding for a Transfer Station but need an additional \$75,000 to complete the entire project as now designed.

There was a discussion about the additional funding, expenditures and completion date of the project.

Vice Chairperson Jones made a motion to approve the budget amendment for 2015-16 for the Transfer Station. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION FOR A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016 FOR THE DRUG COURT (07)**

Finance Director Wright explained a grant was approved by the Board earlier this year for the Drug Court. The anticipated funds are lesser than what was expected. The budget amendment is for \$5,000. The State budget allowed for a coordinator position. After this board's approval the drug court staff sought to request the state to amend the coordinator funds thus allowing for use towards general expenditures for the Drug Court program. The state denied a budget change ...as a result the drug court did not get all the funding needed to continue through June of 2016.

Vice Chairperson Jones made a motion to approve a budget amendment to appropriate these funds to the Drug Court. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AN APPLICATION FOR THE GEORGIA RECREATION TRAILS PROGRAM (08)**

County Administrator Allen explained the Recreation Trails program offers grants that require matching funds as low as twenty percent (20%). This grant will aid in recapping funds that will be spent on the Recreation project.

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve the resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign the application. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BOARD (09)**

County Clerk Johnson explained member profile applications have been presented to the Board for consideration of appointment to the Hospital Board. There are terms which are expired or expiring. The Board will need to approve the list of applicants prior to the Hospital Authority making a recommendation for approval.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the list of citizens as submitted for consideration of appointment to the Hospital Authority Board. Commissioner Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE III CHAPTER 14 – ABANDONED BUILDINGS OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES (10)**

County Administrator Allen explained the County Attorney Newberry reviewed our existing ordinance and made significant changes. The current ordinance was approved in 1994.

County Attorney Newberry requested feedback from the Board on additions or deletions to the proposed draft.

The Board, Staff and County Attorney engaged in an at length conversation as they reviewed the draft ordinance. Commentary included compliance to State Law and personal property rights.

Mr. Jack Garvin spoke opposed to condemning citizen properties.

Ms. Carol Hogge, a resident of Westwood Heights encouraged the Board to provide some assistance for properties that have clutter in their yards. Westwood Heights have over 300 homes; there are maybe two to three home which are an issue.

Ms. Carol Hogge expressed concern for the value of their homes and offered her assistance in correcting the issues in the area.

Ms. Claudia Collier mentioned if there was a requirement for insurance that would cover the nuisances for the properties.

Vice Chairperson Jones made a motion to table the request until the January 5, 2016 Commission meeting. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

County Administrator Allen discussed the following:

**1. Eggs and Issues**

- The Effingham Chamber of Commerce will host Eggs and Issues on December 2, 2015 at 7:30 am at the College and Career Academy.

**2. Eden Missionary Baptist Church**

- A letter was received from Eden Missionary Baptist Church thanking the Board for approval of their recent tax waiver request.

**3. Effingham Day at the Capitol**

- The 2016 Effingham Day at the Capitol will be held Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Rooms must be booked by January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to be eligible for the discounted rate. A tentative agenda is provided.

**4. Georgia Department of Administrative Services**

- The GA DOAS is hosting an event on December 9, 2015 to provide local governments answers to questions regarding programs that they administer.
- The event will be held from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm at 124 Bull Street in Savannah, GA.

- Programs that the GA DOAS administers include P-Card, WEX Fuel Card, All Statewide Contracts, Surplus Property Program and Indemnification Program.
- 5. ACCG District Days at The Capitol**
- District Days at the Capitol are designed to give you an opportunity to spend time with your legislators, attend important committee meetings, get briefed on key issues by the ACCG policy staff and become involved in the legislative process.
  - District 12 will be held on February 17, 2016 from 8:00 am until 12:00 am in the Blue Room, Depot.
  - Three continuing education credits will be awarded for attending.
  - A draft agenda is provided.
- 6. WWTP Spray Field**
- Additional spray field is becoming necessary. Additionally repairs are needed to the existing infrastructure at the WWTP sprayfield.
  - Staff would like to explore the possibilities of harvesting the timber at the WWTP, clearing the land to make the necessary repairs and utilizing the sprayfield for a more beneficial use.
- 7. Purchasing Card Ordinance**
- During the 2015 legislative session, the General Assembly adopted HB 192, which changes how county elected officials may use county issued purchasing cards and credit cards.
  - Effective January 1, 2016, no county elected official may use a county purchasing or credit card unless the Board of Commissioners has publically voted to authorize the elected official to use a county purchasing or credit card; the County has adopted a policy regarding the use of the county purchasing or credit card; and the County and the elected official enter into a contract regarding the use of the county purchasing or credit card.
  - ACCG has prepared a sample resolution, ordinance and user agreement which is attached for your review and discussion.

Commissioner Kieffer discussed the following:

**1. Building Permit Review**

- Have received calls from Builders about the time frame for plan review.

Commissioner Deloach discussed the following:

**1. City of Guyton Gym Payment**

- Questioned the status of the \$1800 payment to the City of Guyton; was told communication was made with Guyton and it is being handled.

**2. Rail Road Crossing**

- Received calls from citizens about inability to crossover railroad tracks in Shawnee when hauling LowBoy equipment

**3. Building Permit Review**

- Has also received calls about the waiting period for plan review.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session was held.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the executive session minutes for November 17, 2015 as read. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. Commissioner Kieffer abstained from voting due to being absent. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 7:03 pm, Commissioner Loper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
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WENDALL KESSLER, CHAIRMAN

  
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STEPHANIE JOHNSON, COUNTY CLERK