

**EFFINGHAM COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

January 5, 2016

The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. Wendall Kessler - Chairman, Mr. Forrest Floyd – Vice Chair, Mrs. Vera Jones, Mr. Jamie Deloach, Mr. Reginald Loper and Mr. Phil Kieffer met in regular session 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 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, Mr. Clint Hodges – Fire Chief, Mrs. Fiona Charleton – Purchasing Agent, Mr. Kevin Hearn-Interim Human Resources Director, Mr. Jack Garvin, Ms. Carol Hogge, Mr. Tony Chiariello, Ms. Gg Rigsby, Mr. Pat Donahue

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kessler called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Pastor Don Davis of Rincon Church of Christ gave the invocation.

PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Chairman Kessler led the Pledge to the American Flag.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Ballots for consideration of electing a vice chair was handed out to the Board by County Clerk Johnson. Upon selection the ballots were picked up and each vote was announced by County Clerk Johnson. The result was a unanimous vote to elect Commissioner Forrest Floyd as Vice Chair for the 2016 year.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the December 15, 2015 Commission meeting minutes as read. Vice Chairperson Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING TO AMEND ARTICLE III – CHAPTER 14 ABANDONED BUILDINGS OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES (01)

Chairman Kessler stated a conversation was with Counsel and there are still some changes to be made. Chairman Kessler suggested the current ordinance be repealed and to not take any action on the new ordinance to allow Staff and Counsel time to revise the proposed ordinance.

Commissioners Jones and Loper agreed

Commissioner Jones made a motion to repeal the current ordinance and to deny the request to amend the ordinance. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION TO DELCARE JANUARY 19, 2016 AS CHAMPIONS DAY OT RECOGNIZE THE EFFINGHAM JAGUARS FOOTBALL TEAM (01)

Recreation Director Morgan explained the Effingham Jaguars won the State Championship in Cordele, Georgia on December 12, 2015 and would like to declare January 19, 2016 as Champions Day.

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve to proclaim January 19, 2016 as Champions Day and the Proclamation be read on that day. Vice Chairperson Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR THE COASTAL INCENTIVE GRANT FOR FUNDING TO BE USED AT STEEL BRIDGE AND ABERCORN LANDINGS (02)

County Administrator Allen explained the grant is to make improvements to Steel Bridge on parking, install stairs, improve erosion and replace one of the boat ramps and for Abercorn Landing to extend the ramp into the river. The grant is a fifty-fifty match grant.

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the Resolution and authorize the Chairman to send the applications. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO ACCEPT A BID AND ISSUE A CONTRACT TO ECOLOGICAL PLANNING GROUP FOR 2016 WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN MONITORING (03)

Purchasing Agent Charleton explained the county is required to perform certain water quality testing in conjunction with our Land Application System permit No GA02-016 which is a requirement of the county's operation of the wastewater treatment plant. The results of the tests are due to EPD annually. The county is unable to perform all of the required testing in-house – the tests that we are unable to perform in-house must be completed by an EPD approved laboratory.

A request for quote for Watershed Protection Plan Monitoring was issued and posted on the ECBOC website, Georgia Procurement Registry website, Georgia Local Government Access Website; advertised in the Savannah Morning News and the Effingham Herald and sent to 17 known vendors. Seven responses were received.

Ecological Planning Group (EPG) currently provides watershed protection monitoring and has done so successfully for the past several years. As the bid results between the two low bidders are close, staff recommends continuing to use EPG in order to maintain the expertise and historical knowledge that they have.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to accept the bid and approve to issue a contract to Ecological Planning Group for 2016 Watershed Protection Plan Monitoring. Vice Chairperson Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO SET THE 2016 QUALIFICATION FEES (04)

County Clerk Johnson explained State law pertaining to qualifying fees, requires each county governing authority to fix and publish qualifying fees for county offices not later than February 1 of any year in which a general primary, nonpartisan election, or general election is to be held. A listing of county offices up for election is listed. The fees have been verified by the Human Resources department.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve as governed by State Law to fix and publish the qualifying fees. Commissioner Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE COUNTY CLERK AS EFFINGHAM COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR WITH ACCG (05):

County Clerk Johnson explained ACCG established in 2010 a network of county legislative coordinators to help improve communications with members while the General Assembly is in session. In past years the Board has elected to appoint the County Clerk as the CLC.

Vice Chairperson Floyd made a motion to approve to confirm the County Clerk as Effingham County Legislative Coordinator with ACCG. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO AMEND ARTICLE III, SECTION 3.32 – ON STREET PARKING OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCE (06):

County Administrator Allen explained from time to time people place dumpsters or portable storage units on county owned and maintained streets. The dumpsters and portable storage units present a hazard to the drive able area of the street. The dumpsters are causing damage to the roadway when they are being loaded and unloaded.

Section 3.32 of the Effingham County Zoning Ordinance currently addresses the parking of trucks and trailer on public right-of-ways. This amendment would expand that prohibition to include dumpsters and temporary storage units.

County Administrator Allen suggested if approved, under Section 3.32 that the verbiage be changed from any public right of way to any roadway.

The Board had a discussion with Staff and County Attorney Newberry regarding the definition of public right-of-ways and the proper wording for this section.

Mr. Jack Garvin, Mr. David Soudee and Ms. Carol Hogge asked questions for clarification on the proposed ordinance.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to amend the ordinance as presented with the one change being of the wording in Section 3.3.2. to read "dumpsters and temporary storage units may not be placed in any road way open to the public". Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

County Administrator Allen discussed the following:

- 1. Animal Shelter**
 - The monthly animal shelter report for the month for December 2015 has been provided.
- 2. 2015 Effingham County 911 Agency Cal Volume**

- Call volumes for the Effingham County E 911 center has been provided.
 - 911 & Admin Phone Calls Received – 63,457; .08% decrease from 2014.
 - Multi-agency Calls for Service – 58,266; .05% increase from 2014.
- 3. City of Savannah I&D Plant Upgrades**
- The City of Savannah will be making upgrades to their facility beginning the latter part of January.
 - The upgrades will result in a temporary loss of pressure and will last eight to twelve weeks.
 - Notices will be mailed to all surface water costumers in their January bill.
- 4. Ft. Howard Road at Old Augusta Road Roundabout**
- The Georgia Department of Transportation has suggested an off-system safety project for the intersection of Ft. Howard Road and Old Augusta Roads.
 - At this time it is unknown if DOT would fund the improvements
- 5. ISO Public Protection Classification**
- In late December, we received the results of our ISO recertification inspection.
 - We were assigned a Public Protection Classification of 04/4Y, effective April 01, 2016.
 - This is the same PPC that we currently have.
 - We are 2.04 points away from receiving a 03/3Y PPC and are staff is currently looking for ways to obtain the additional points.
- 6. 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 has been provided.
- 7. ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy 2016 Education Calendar**
- The calendar of training opportunities in 2016 has been provided.
- 8. Old Dixie Estates**
- Old Dixie Estates Phase II is located off Old Dixie Road near its intersection with Sisters Ferry Road.
 - Staff was contacted regarding the necessary steps to finish the subdivision and sell lots.
 - The potential buyer has asked is a maintenance bond would be required given the length of time since the infrastructure was installed.
- 9. Republic Services Quarterly Trash Pickup**
- Where would the Board like for the next quarterly pickup to be held?
- 10. Residential Solid Waste Services, Collection and Disposal Contract**
- Our current Residential Solid Waste Services, Collection and Disposal Contract will automatically renew for an additional five year term on October 31, 2016 unless written notice is provided prior to August 2, 2016.
 - Does the Board wish to rebid these services or allow the contract to automatically renew?
- 11. Family Connection Collaborative**
- The Effingham County Family Connection Collaborative will meet on January 14, 2016 at the Administrative Complex from 9:30 pm till 11:00 pm.
 - The guest speaker will be Dr. Bob Rosen.
- 12. Reducing Litter on Effingham Roads**
- Correspondence from Mr. Matthews requesting leaders put forth an initiative to enforce Effingham County/Municipal Code - Sec. 66-36 which covers transporting solid waste and litter and states in part "It shall be unlawful to drive or operate a vehicle in the county hauling waste that leaks, flows freely, or spills from said vehicle" and "Any litter or waste hauled on a moving vehicle shall be covered and/or secured in such a manner that it will not blow or escape from said vehicle while moving or parked on public or private property in the county" has been provided.
- 13. Norfolk Southern Rail Crossings**
- Correspondence from staff regarding recommendations for repairs to Norfolk Southern rail crossings and instructions on how to proceed with the repairs has been provided.
- 14. CSX Rail Crossings**

- Correspondence from staff regarding recommendations for repairs to Norfolk Southern rail crossings and instructions on how to proceed with the repairs has been provided.

15. Hodgeville Road Property Disposition

- No bids were received.

16. Convenience Center Improvements

- The low bid for this project \$14,902.05. We be brought to the Board for consideration on upcoming agenda

Commissioner Jones discussed the following:

1. Republic Clean-Up Locations

- Commissioners to decide locations for clean-up

2. Westwood Drainage Issues

- Jestina Jones, resident of Westwood, provided images of the drainage problems. Commissioner Jones asked County Administrator Allen to follow-up. Discussion among the Board and Staff on process and cost for repairs.

Commissioner Deloach discussed the following:

1. Road Resurfacing

- When is Carroll & Carroll scheduled to restart resurfacing roads?

Commissioner Loper discussed the following:

1. Fire Station Property

- Ralph Gnann proposed 1 acre of property on Stillwell Road from fire station

EXECUTIVE SESSION

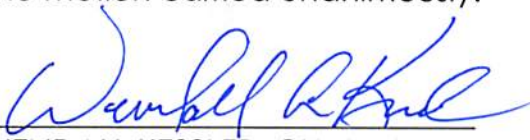
At 6:37 pm, Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to enter executive session to discuss Personnel, Property and Pending Litigation. Commissioner Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the December 15, 2015 executive session minutes. Vice Chairperson Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 9:06 pm, Commissioner Loper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.


WENDALL KESSLER, CHAIRMAN


STEPHANIE JOHNSON, COUNTY CLERK