

**EFFINGHAM COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

March 1, 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, March 1, 2016 in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Effingham County Administrative Complex.

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. Jack Garvin, Ms. Gg Rigsby and Mr. Pat Donahue

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kessler called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Pastor Steve Plonk of Ebenezer Evangelical Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Chairman Kessler led the Pledge to the American Flag.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the agenda with the date change on Item# 7 from 2016/2017 to 2015/2016. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the February 16, 2016 Commission meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Deloach 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 FUNDING FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ALONG JOHN GLENN DRIVE IN WESTWOOD SUBDIVISION (01):

County Administrator Allen explained the item was tabled to allow the Board an opportunity to go out and assess the site. The Public Works department was instructed to go out and clean the ditches. Two cost estimates have been provided, which would not eliminate standing water but would hydraulically reduce it.

The Board discussed the options presented. The Board derived there were no options that would totally remedy the issues of standing water in the ditches.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to not approve funding for drainage improvements along John Glenn Drive. The funding would not resolve the issue. Vice Chairperson Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO RENEW A SERVICE ORDER WITH STAMPS.COM (01):

Purchasing Agent Charleton explained in March 2013 Staff began using Stamps.com. Stamps.com has proven beneficial in that it has reduced trips to the post office, saving both time and money. The renewal service order with Stamps.com is for one year from March 5, 2016 until March 5, 2017. Although there is no termination for convenience clause, the County can terminate at any time but will be liable for any fees for the remaining term of the agreement. The County attorney noted that as the agreement is \$29.99 per month, the total potential liability is very low.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve to renew the service order with Stamps.com for 2016-2017. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO ACCEPT THE ROADS AND DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IN KENSINGTON FOREST SUBDIVISION (02):

County Administrator Allen explained this development was constructed in three phases between 2000-2004 years. The last punch list for roads and drainage was created on April 2, 2012. Approximately \$272.72 is owed in taxes, of which

approximately \$9.06 is penalties and interest accrued in the last three years. Therefore, the net owed is \$263.66. The latest punch list discussed potential failures in the roadway due to unsuitable base and unsealed joints in an inverted crown roadway.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to accept the infrastructure in Kensington Forest subdivision and pay the taxes owed. Vice Chairperson Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH CHA FOR FINAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITY (03):

County Administrator Allen explained the current proposal includes the design of the sports fields, field support building and maintenance building. The site design can be handled by staff for a reduction of \$61,400. Final design of the gymnasium will follow under separate contract once the site construction costs are known. In conjunction with the preparation of construction documents, staff would like to acquire a construction manager to facilitate the site construction and assist in the preparation of final construction documents.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the contract in the amount of \$193,400 with CHA for final design services for the new recreational facility with staff providing the civil design. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A LOCATION AGREEMENT WITH THE SPRINGFIELD GARDEN CLUB FOR THE USE OF THE EARLY STREET HOUSE (04):

County Administrator Allen explained a request was received from the Springfield Garden Club for the use of the Early Street House Saturday, April 16, 2016 for Old Days in Effingham.

There was a discussion among the County Attorney Newberry, Staff and the Board regarding the fee to be charged for the use of the facility for this event and the requirement for insurance.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the location agreement with the following stipulation: (1) under #2 the date is specified as April 16, 2016 (2) under #3 specify payment of \$25.00 and (3) under #9 the insurance requirement is waived. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF THE EFFINGHAM PARKWAY (05):

County Administrator Allen explained due to the Federal funding of the Parkway project the parameters has been changed. Four lanes of right-of-way cannot be acquired unless funding is provided for the additional two lanes.

As the project currently stands, right of way acquisition would take place in April 2017 with construction beginning August 2018. Staff asked the Board to consider options for moving ahead.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE 2016 SHORT TERM WORK PROGRAM (STWP) PROJECT BUDGET FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 (06):

Finance Director Wright explained during the budget process Staff makes estimations regarding the proposed budget based upon certain operational assumptions. During this year the board approved various projects and/or expenditures. Staff adjusts the budgets based upon the budget ordinance and board direction.

The board has recently prescribed direction regarding various projects contained within the Short Term Work Project Listing. Additionally we have completed the prior year's audit and have updated project status budget figures.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the STWP project budget funding as amended for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING TO AMEND THE CONTINUING BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016 (07):

Finance Director Wright explained one of the discussions during the retreat was clarifying the language in the Budget Ordinance. The language provides for the use of forfeiture funding.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the First Reading of the ordinance. Vice Chairperson Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CONFERENCE RELATED COST FOR THE 2016 ACCG CONFERENCE IN SAVANNAH (08):

County Clerk Johnson explained the conference will be held April 29 – May 2, 2016 and asked the Board to review courses for consideration.

Vice Chairperson Floyd made a motion to approve the travel cost. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT LUCY POWELL TO THE AGING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (09):

County Clerk Johnson explained one of the functions of the Coastal Regional Commission is to provide programs to older adults and caregivers in our regions. Staff is asking the Board to consider appointing Lucy Powell to the unexpired term of office for the late Rev. Lloyd Dees. The current term of Rev. Dees' seat will expire June 30, 2017.

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve to appoint Lucy Powell as a member to the Aging Services Advisory Council. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

County Administrator Allen discussed the following:

1. ACCG Water Tour

- ACCG will be hosting two water tours for county officials. One in Metro Atlanta and the other in South Georgia. Each tour is two days long.
- Participants will receive 6 hours of continuing education credit for each tour attended.
- The fee is \$50.00 per person and includes bus transportation and all meals. Participants must pay for their own hotel rooms.

2. Tentative SPLOST Calendar

- A tentative calendar for events leading up to the SPLOST Referendum has been provided.
- This calendar is intended to be on the March 15th agenda for the Boards consideration.

3. Chamber Nominations

- The Effingham County Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for three Board members to serve for the upcoming three year period.
- Nominations must either be a member of the Chamber or employed by a business that is a member.
- All nominations must be received at the Chamber office by 5:00 pm, March 23, 2016.

4. DFIRM Community Coordination and Public Open House Meeting

- A meeting will be held for local elected officials and local government staff on Thursday, April 21, 2016 from 2:30 pm until 4:00 pm at the Administrative Complex.
- A public open house will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2016 from 5:00pm until 7:30pm at the Administrative Complex?

5. Tornado Sirens

- An email from a citizen concerning tornado sirens has been provided.

6. Joint Planning Meeting

- Meeting will be held Monday, March 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm at Lost Planation

Commissioner Floyd discussed the following:

1. Sandhill Ball Park

- Cleanup at Sandhill Ball Park

2. Harbor Deepening Project

- Dirt for this project will be coming out of Effingham impacting Old Augusta and Midlands Roads.

Commissioner Jones discussed the following:

1. Westwood Heights

- There's a lot in Westwood with some garbage on it, has it been cleaned up?

Commissioner Kieffer discussed the following:

1. Veteran's Park

- What is the status on the maintenance/lighting issues?

Commissioner Deloach discussed the following:

1. Solar Farms

- Spoke with Dave Wills of ACCG; Mr. Wills state there is a bill in the House called the carve out bill which addresses solar farms

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the March 1, 2016 executive session minutes. Commissioner Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 6:34 pm, Commissioner Loper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



WENDALL KESSLER, CHAIRMAN



STEPHANIE JOHNSON, COUNTY CLERK