

EFFINGHAM CO. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA



REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES

August 16, 2022

The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. Wesley Corbitt, Mr. Forrest Floyd, Mr. Roger Burdette, Mr. Jamie Deloach, Mr. Reginald Loper and Mr. Phil Kieffer met in regular session at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 in the Commissioners Meeting Chambers at the Effingham County Administrative Complex located at 804 South Laurel Street Springfield, Georgia 31329.

STAFF PARTICIPATION

Mr. Edward Newberry – County Attorney, Ms. Stephanie Johnson – County Clerk, Mr. Eric Larson – Assistant County Manager, Mr. Clint Hodges – Fire Chief & EMA Director, Ms. Tasheena Shiggs – Deputy County Clerk, Mr. Chris Reed – IT Director, Mr. Matthew Cruikshank – Deputy Director of IT, Mr. Jason Bragg – Clerk of Courts, Mr. Steven Yekel – State Court Judge, Mrs. Teresa Concannon – Planning and Zoning Manager, Mrs. Alison Bruton – Purchasing Agent, Mr. Mark Barnes – Finance Director, and Mrs. Sarah Mausolf – HR Director

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Ms. Melissa Reagan, Ms. Amy Tenney, Ms. D’Ve Wilkins, Ms. Monica Everett, Mr. Cassandra Christensen, Ms. Payton Jones, Mr. Tony Chiariello, and Mr. Delmons White.

I- CALL TO ORDER

Wesley Corbitt, Chairman
Forrest Floyd
Roger Burdette, Vice Chair - Absent
Jamie Deloach
Reginald Loper
Phil Kieffer

II- ROLL CALL

Chairman Corbitt called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

III – INVOCATION

Vice Chair Deloach provided the invocation.

IV- PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The pledge was sounded in unison.

V – AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Corbitt requested that Consent item #5 be moved to New Business #14.

Vice Chair Deloach made a motion to approve the agenda with the noted changes. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI – MINUTES

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the August 2, 2022 Work Session and Regular Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VII- PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Corbitt stated comments shall pertain to agenda items only, you must speak clearly into the microphone and state your full name for the record.

VIII- CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Corbitt stated documents from this meeting are located in the Clerk's office and on the Board of Commissioner's website.

IX – APPEARANCE - 5:15PM**PASTOR DELMONS WHITE TO DISCUSS SPEEDING ON OLD AUGUSTA ROAD (1)**

Pastor White expressed his concerns with speeding vehicles on Old Augusta Road South between the roundabout and Chimney Road area. He stated that there is a safety concern with residents getting out of their driveways and onto the main highway as well as checking their mailboxes that are on the opposite side of the road. Drivers are utilizing the bypass in a reckless manner and passing cars while double lines are present. Pastor White suggested that the County conduct a traffic study in order to reduce the speed limit in this area from 55 miles per hour to 45 miles per hour.

X – CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Deloach made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda items: **(1)** Consideration to approve the Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement for FY23. **(2)** Consideration to approve Resolution# 022-035 transmitting the FY2022 Capital Improvement Element (CIE) annual update to the Coastal Regional Commission and the Department of Community Affairs for review. **(3)** Consideration to approve an Audit Engagement Letter with Lanier, Deal & Proctor for audit services for fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. **(4)** Consideration to approve the ACCG Safety Discount Forms. ~~**(5)** Consideration to approve five (5) Job Descriptions for various departments.~~ Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

XI- UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A WATER & SEWER AGREEMENT AND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH EFFINGHAM COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY AND SAVANNAH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, LLC (ON BEHALF OF OMNITRAX / BROE REAL ESTATE GROUP) FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A WASTEWATER SPRAYFIELD AT THE SAVANNAH GATEWAY INDUSTRIAL HUB (SGIH) PARK ON MCCALL ROAD AND HODGEVILLE ROAD (POSTPONED 08/02/2022) (1)

Asst. County Manager Larson explained Savannah Gateway Industrial Hub is requesting a 30,000 gallon per day reserve capacity within the wastewater treatment

plant to be used for marketing, manufacturing, etc. In return, they are willing to assist the County with the construction of Sprayfield of 100,000 gallons per day capacity. This will give the County an additional 70,000 gallons per day capacity once it is constructed. Hussey, Gay, Bell will design it and assist with the permitting, and the construction cost up to \$300,000.00. The County will own and operate the sprayfield, which is being developed on land that is currently owned by Industrial Authority.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve a Water & Sewer Agreement and Lease agreement with Effingham County Industrial Authority and Savannah Industrial Development, LLC for construction and operation of a wastewater Sprayfield at the Savannah Gateway Industrial Hub (SGIH) park on McCall Road and Hodgeville Road. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF AN APPLICATION BY DAVID D. SMITH AS AGENT FOR EFFINGHAM COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO REZONE 6.96 ACRES LOCATED ON OLD RIVER ROAD FROM B-2 TO B-3 TO ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FUELING STATION AND CONVENIENCE STORE MAP# 330 PARCEL# 46 IN THE FIRST DISTRICT (POSTPONED 08/02/2022) (2)

Commissioner Floyd recused himself.

Speaker Richard Sapp expressed his concerns for the finalization process of this project.

Vice Chair Deloach made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Floyd returned.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF AN APPLICATION BY STATURE INVESTMENTS AS AGENT FOR JOYE POLK, ET AL., FOR A VARIANCE LOCATED ON OLD AUGUSTA ROAD TO REDUCE REQUIRED BUFFERS BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL AND NON-INDUSTRIAL PARCELS TO ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSES, ZONED AR-1, PROPOSED ZONING I-1. MAP# 477 PARCELS# 8&9; MAP# 477A PARCELS# 6&10 IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT (POSTPONED 08/02/2022) (3)

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

XII- NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN ASSEMBLAGE PERMIT FOR MELISSA REAGAN OF MADRAC FARMS TO HOLD A PUMPKIN PATCH, CORN MAZE, HAYRIDES, CORN PIT SLIDE, PLAYGROUND, AND VENDORS EVENT ON FIVE WEEKENDS IN OCTOBER, FROM 9AM - 11PM, ON RALPH RAHN ROAD. MAP #411 PARCELS #19A, 19B, 24 IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT (1):

Planning and Zoning Manager Concannon explained the applicant is requesting to hold a pumpkin patch event at her location as she has done in previous years. There will be traffic attendants at the entrance, portable toilets, handwashing stations, trash receptacles, and dumpsters on site. Food vendors will be inspected by the Health Department before they can sell food.

Applicant Melissa Reagan explained this event has grown over the years so additional parking has been added. There is a 60-foot wide easement driveway to help alleviate traffic.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve request for an Assemblage Permit for a pumpkin patch event at 580 Ralph Rahn Road, Rincon, beginning October 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022, from 9 am to 11pm, on weekends only, with the following condition:

1. Off-street parking provided on the property.

Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A PETITION FOR ANNEXATION FROM THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD RELATED TO A PROPERTY LOCATED AT 400 GOVERNOR TREUTLEN DRIVE MAP# 429A PARCEL# 1D (2):

County Clerk Johnson explained this property consists of approximately 87 acres and it is contiguous with other properties within the City of Springfield. The property would be within the City but the street will be county maintained.

Vice Chair Deloach made a motion to approve the Petition Requesting Annexation as presented by the City of Springfield. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH FIRE-DEX, LLC FOR TURNOUT EQUIPMENT RENTAL FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT (3)

Fire Chief Hodges explained there has been major supply chain issues. As the new recruit school start, rental gear was suggested to cover this six (6) month time period. Turnout gear sets are approximately \$2,500.00 each, to own. The max lifespan for the equipment is ten (10) years.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve renting up to 10 sets of Turnout Gear from Fire-Dex, GW LLC. Vice Chair Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE LOCAL MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT (LMIG) 2023 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT (4)

Asst. County Manager Larson explained this request is to award a contract to Robert Civil Engineering in the amount of \$79,653.00 to prepare the LMIG application, bid

packages and specifications and provide construction management. Robert Civil Engineering was selected last year to prepare an application and also helped with a pilot study for the First Step Pavement Asset Management program. The Countywide infrastructure assessment was received this week, that data will be used to prepare a paving list for 2023. The grant application for this project is due December 2022.

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the contract for LMIG 2023 Engineering Services to Roberts Civil Engineering in the amount of \$79,653. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A UTILITY EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND FRANCIS MANION DURKIN JR. AND KAREN K. DURKIN FOR DRAINAGE ON MCCALL ROAD NORTH OF THE BLUE JAY ROAD INTERSECTION (5)

Asst. County Manager Larson explained this easement is related to McCall and Blue Jay curve that was recently completed. The north end of this project has a discharge onto the Durkin's property. The County has acquired an easement across their field to the outfall.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the drainage easement granted by Francis Manion Durkin Jr. and Karen K. Durkin for drainage on McCall Road north of the Blue Jay Road intersection. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A CHANGE ORDER# 1 WITH POND CO. TO ADD ADDITIONAL FIELD WORK FOR DATA COLLECTION ON THE STORMWATER MASTER PLAN (6)

Asst. County Manager Larson explained when the proposal was written, there was a cap on the maximum number of hours and structures that they would identify in the field. The actual field data was higher due to more structures found in the northern part of the County. This caused an additional week's worth of work in the amount of \$11,954.48, which is covered in this change order.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the change order #1 for the stormwater master plan. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AGREEMENT 22-25-010 WITH MCLENDON ENTERPRISES, INC. FOR THE LMIG 2022 AND OTHER ROAD WORK (7)

Purchasing Agent Bruton explained an Invitation to Bid (ITB) was published back in June for this project. Five (5) vendors attended a pre-bid meeting and four (4) bids were received. Bay Road, Old Tusculum Road, and Sandhill Road were approved for LMIG 2022.

Vice Chair Deloach made a motion to approve Award of Agreement 22-25-010 with McLendon Enterprises, Inc. for the LMIG 2022 in the amount of \$3,764,575.98. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CONTRACT 22-07-001 WITH STAGE FRONT FOR THE A/V SYSTEMS UPGRADE FOR THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE (8)

Purchasing Agent Bruton explained in May 2022, Staff published a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the A/V system upgrades. Four (4) vendors attended a pre-proposal meeting and site visit. The proposals were reviewed by the Clerk of Courts and IT staff. Staff recommends award to Stagefront in the amount of \$537,290.00. Staff requested sixty-five (65) inch monitors instead of fifty-five (55) inches, which increased the official quote amount by \$610.00.

Clerk of Superior Court Jason Bragg explained the current equipment is over fifteen (15) years old and is starting to fail. This request will get the Superior Court up to Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards and replace the old VGA with new HDMI.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve award of Contract 22-07-001 to Stage Front for the A/V Systems Upgrade for the Effingham County Courthouse in the amount of \$537,290.00. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION# 022-036 TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE OF FEES RELATED TO FIRE FEES (9)

Chairman Corbitt made a request to postpone this item for better understanding regarding the fees and square footage.

Finance Director Barnes explained the additional fees would be used to supplement the water system, senior citizen's activity fund, development services, and fire.

Speaker D'Ve Wilkins expressed that the Board reconsider the 0.01 percent (%) increase per square footage this year due to financial hardships for everyone.

The Board made a decision to postpone both items #9 and #10.

Vice Chair Deloach made a motion to approve postpone this item to 09/06/2022 meeting. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION# 022-037 TO ADOPT THE FIRE FEES FOR YEAR 2022 (10)

There was no discussion on this item.

Vice Chair Deloach made a motion to approve postpone to 09/06/2022 meeting. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION# 022-038 TO ADOPT THE SANITATION FEES FOR YEAR (11)

Finance Director Barnes explained at the first meeting in August, the Board approved the rate change for the schedule of fees. This resolution finalizes that change and will be transmitted to the Tax Commissioner to go on the tax bills later this year.

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve the proposed sanitation fees resolution. Vice Chair Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION# 022-039 TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET (12)

Finance Director Barnes explained this amendment allocates funding for the turnout gear that will be rented and for grant funds that were approved in fiscal year 2022. Due to supply chain issues with that equipment, it will come in fiscal year 2023. This rolls that funding into this fiscal year.

Vice Chair Deloach made a motion to approve the resolution to amend the budget for FY 2023. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE FINAL CERTIFICATE OF DISTRIBUTION RELATED TO THE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX DISBURSEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES (13)

County Clerk Johnson explained the certificate of distribution presented has been signed by all three (3) municipalities.

Vice Chair Deloach made a motion to approve the final certificate of distribution related to the Local Option Sales Tax disbursement between the County and its municipalities. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE FIVE (5) JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS (14)

The Board engaged in a discussion regarding some of the wording in some of the job descriptions as well as the need for additional positions. There was also discussion about allocating funds for additional school resource officers.

Vice Chair Deloach made a motion to postpone to 09/06/2022 meeting. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

XIII- REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF***Commissioner Floyd***Courthouse Road Extension

- Chip sealing will start next week for Courthouse and Scuffletown.

Stephanie JohnsonCommissioner's Fall Retreat

- September 8-11 at Jekyll Island

Chairman CorbittDasher Creek Project

- A 404 permit has been applied for to the Corps of Engineers to impact a certain number of wetlands.

School Resource Officers

- Six (6) resource officers are still needed

Commissioner DeloachCorinth Church Road

- Pipes were replaced.
- FDR did checks and cleans last week
- Construction is still going

Commissioner KiefferAsphalt missing on McCall Road

- Chunk of asphalt missing southbound between Blue Jay and McCall intersection
- There was a chemical spill accident

XIV - EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no discussion of Personnel, Property, and Pending Litigation.

XV - EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

There were no minutes to be approved.

XVI - ADJOURNMENT

At 6:20 pm, there being no further business, Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



Wesley Corbitt, Chairman



Stephanie D. Johnson, County Clerk