



Action Agenda

Board of Commissioners
April 9, 2015
7:00 P.M.

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, met in an Official Meeting on April 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

Commissioners Present:

Charles Oddo, Chairman
Pota Coston, Vice Chair
David Barlow
Steve Brown
Randy Ognio

Staff Present:

Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk
Tameca P. White, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Dennis Davenport, County Attorney

Call to Order

Chairman Oddo called the April 9, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Invocation by Commissioner Barlow

Commissioner Barlow asked Major Kenneth Koon, who is assigned to the 4th Brigade 94th Training Division, in the Army National Guard, to offer the Invocation. Commissioner Barlow stated that he met Major Coon through his involvement with the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board, and he stated that Major Koon is tasked with helping to prevent soldiers' suicides.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Oddo led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Barlow moved to accept the Agenda. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

PROCLAMATION /RECOGNITION:

1. **Recognition of Andrew Fleming, a local 8-year-old, who will host an event to Fight Hunger on Global Youth Service Day 2015.**

Chairman Oddo and the Board recognized Mr. Andrew Fleming and his work in hosting an event to Fight Hunger on Global Youth Service Day 2015.

2. **Recognition of Fayette County's Master Gardener Extension Volunteers' work in 2014.**

Chairman Oddo and the Board recognized Fayette County's Master Gardener Extension Volunteers. Extension Services Director Kim Toal and Ms. Sandra Edwards of Extension Services briefly spoke on the Master Gardener's contributions.

3. **Proclamation of Earth Day and Fayette County's Earth Day Celebration on April 18, 2015.**

Commissioner Barlow and the Board proclaimed Earth Day and Fayette County's Earth Day Celebration on April 18, 2015.

PUBLIC HEARING:

There were no Public Hearing items on the Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Brown asked to remove Consent Agenda #6.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Consent Agenda Items #4 and #5. Commissioners Barlow and Coston seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Approval of a request from Clerk of Court Sheila Studdard for an additional \$32,300.00, for jury scripts, with said funding to be utilized from the fund balance.**
5. **Approval of the disposition of tax refunds, in the amount of \$123.56, as recommended by the Tax Assessor's Office.**
6. **Approval of the March 26, 2015 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.**

Commissioner Brown stated that he would like to have some adjustments to the minutes under the Commissioners Comments portion of the minutes.

Commissioner Brown moved to table the approval of the March 26, 2015 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes until the April 23, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

7. **Consideration of Commissioner Brown's request for the Board of Commissioners to approve all policy and procedure changes by official votes during Board of Commissioner's meetings. This item was tabled at the March 26, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting.**

Commissioner Barlow moved to deny Commissioner Brown's request. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. Extensive discussion followed.

Mr. Frank Gardner, Mrs. Alice Jones, Mrs. Angela Bean, Mr. Darwin Edwards, and Ms. Danette Corcorum addressed the Board concerning Commissioner Brown's request.

The motion to deny Commissioner Brown's request passed 4-1 with Commissioner Brown voting in opposition.

8. **Consideration of Commissioner Brown's request to revise the County Administrator's spending limit to \$50,000.00, with said revision to include the sum total of any multi-year contracts, contingencies and possible options that create a scenario where more than \$50,000.00 could be spent on a particular purchase or multi-year contractual arrangement. This item was tabled at the March 26, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting.**

Commissioner Ognio moved to deny Commissioner Brown's request. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. Extensive discussion followed.

The motion to deny Commissioner Brown's request passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. **Consideration of Commissioner Brown's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2015-04- A Resolution on Fayette County Development Authority Tax Abatement Policy.**

Commissioner Brown moved to adopt Resolution 2015-04 as written. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2015-04 passed unanimously.

10. **Consideration of Chairman Oddo's recommendation to disband the Justice Center Park Committee.**

Commissioner Ognio moved to approve the recommendation to disband the Justice Center Park Committee. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

The motion to approve the recommendation to disband the Justice Center Park passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gary McBride: Mr. McBride stated that the Board had been given a picture of the proposed East Fayetteville Bypass and a petition signed by one hundred percent of the homeowners on the road. He said that the people were looking for the Board's help and support in putting a cul-de-sac at the intersection of County Line Road and the proposed East Fayetteville Bypass. Mr. McBride said the homeowners felt their request would increase safety, would cost less money, and would help with Emergency Services. He said when the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) was originally involved with the East Fayetteville Bypass; GDOT's representative suggested the cul-de-sac was a good idea so long as it had the local people's support. He emphasized that one hundred percent of the people were in support.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

Response to Gary McBride: County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that he had spoken to Mr. McBride earlier, that he had the information Mr. McBride provided, and the Public Works Director Phil Mallon would be in contact with Mr. McBride concerning the East Fayetteville Bypass.

Selection Committee Established for the Ethics Board: County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that there was one alternate position available on the Ethics Board and he asked for a Selection Committee to be formed for that vacancy. Commissioners Coston and Brown were appointed to the Ethics Board's Selection Committee.

Selection Committee Established for the Hospital Authority: County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that there was one position available on the Hospital Authority and asked for a Selection Committee to be formed for that vacancy. Commissioners Barlow and Ognio were appointed to the Hospital Authority's Selection Committee.

ACCG Grant Program: County Administrator Steve Rapson reported that this is the time of the year to for the ACCG Grant Program- Civic Affairs Internship Program to begin and that the State Court has expressed interest in obtaining an intern. He reminded the Board that other departments applied for interns as well since last year the County had three or four interns provided through this program.

ACCG Training- Savannah: County Administrator Steve Rapson reminded the Board that it would be at the ACCG Training Event in Savannah from April 17-20, 2015.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that he had two items for Executive Session. The first item involved Pending Litigation and the second item was a review of the March 10, 2015 Executive Session Minutes.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Commissioner Brown: Commissioner Brown stated that the Kiwanis Beer Festival, which was held at the Historic County Courthouse over the weekend, worked out well. He said so many people came that some had to be turned away. He said all the artisan craft beer makers showed up and said they would come back. He said another similar event would happen in the fall and he said all the proceeds go to local charities. He said Fayette County Kiwanis sponsored the event, and he thanked Fayetteville Main Street for the use of the Historic Courthouse Grounds. Commissioner Brown stated that he understood that there were fundamental differences in the way things are

viewed or interpreted, but he did not mean to insinuate that anyone was doing anything wrong. He hoped no one would have hard feelings about what he said, but that he wanted to bring some things forward that had "been in his craw" for some time.

Commissioner Ognio: Commissioner Ognio wondered if everyone was as "enthused" as he was about the upcoming tax day. He stated that the lighting at the Historic County Courthouse was improved and that the work at the Historic Courthouse was starting to look good. He thought it would be great to have a good looking Fayette County Historic Courthouse.

Commissioner Coston: Commissioner Coston stated that she thought the County Administrator, the Department Heads, and staff do a tremendous job. She wanted to make sure that the people understood that the Board supports them in their hard work and she thanked them for the work they do. Commissioner Coston announced that AVPride would present a 5k / one-mile run at Heritage Christian Church. She said the run would be held on Saturday, April 11 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Barlow: Commissioner Barlow thanked everyone for coming to the Board. He further quoted John 8:32 and asked the people to call him if they have questions. He said the success of the County is due to County Administrator Steve Rapson and the staff he has put together. Commissioner Barlow stated that he has attended the Department Head meetings and that the synergy and connectivity is felt in the room. He said that was not the case in the first several months he was here, and that it is due to the leadership Mr. Rapson has given to his staff. Commissioner Barlow then spoke about his recent adoption of a puppy and the fun challenge it has presented. He closed speaking about how his shoes can outshine Councilman Paul Oddo's shoes.

Chairman Oddo: Chairman Oddo mentioned that Commissioner Ognio had stolen his thunder with his comments about tax day and the Historic County Courthouse. Chairman Oddo mentioned that the fountain had some repairs so someone could maybe sit on it without the granite falling off. He also reminded everyone that the Georgia Department of Transportation would be at Harps Crossing Baptist Church from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. to get input from the public at the intersection of Antioch Road and State Route 92.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Pending Litigation and Review of the March 10, 2015 Executive Session: Commissioner Brown moved to enter into Executive Session. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 10:02 p.m.

Return to Official Session and Authorization to Sign the Executive Session Affidavit: Commissioner Ognio moved to exit Executive Session and for the Chairman to sign the Executive Session Affidavit. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

Settlement between Russell Prince and Fayette County, et al.: County Attorney Dennis Davenport said it had been brought to his attention of a potential to settle ongoing litigation. He said the case involved is Prince vs. Fayette County, et al., and that it is an employment issue with a current employee. He said it was believed that the parties had come to some terms and conditions that both sides could agree on. He said the proposed terms for settlement were that when employment action was taken against Mr. Prince, during that time to the present day, what Mr. Prince feels believes he belongs in paygrade Grade 19 Step 16. Mr. Davenport stated that Mr. Prince is

currently in paygrade Grade 19 Step 13. He explained that there is a differential of about \$5,000.00 Mr. Prince would have been paid had he been placed in the higher paygrade. Mr. Davenport stated that the first component of the settlement is the \$5,000.00 payment amount. Mr. Davenport stated that the second settlement is that Mr. Prince be moved from Grade 19 Step 13 to Grade 19 Step 16, and that the movement was consistent with County policy. Mr. Davenport stated that in exchange for those two items, Mr. Prince would dismiss the pending lawsuit with prejudice and he will also agree to sign a release on behalf of and in favor of Fayette County for all claims that he could have had, currently has, or does have up to the date of signing the release which will be in the very near future, should the Board give considerable favor.

Commissioner Ognio moved to approve the settlement as outlined by the County Attorney. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the March 10, 2015 Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner Ognio moved to approve the March 10, 2015 Executive Session Minutes. Commissioner Coston seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn the April 9, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioners Ognio and Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

The April 9, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk