Minutes

Board of Commissioners
May 14, 2015
7:00 P.M.

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, met in an Official Meeting on May 14, 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 Steve Brown Randy Ognio
Commissioners Absent:	Pota Coston, Vice Chair David Barlow
Staff Present:	Steve Rapson, County Administrator Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk Dennis Davenport, County Attorney
Staff Absent:	Tameca P. White, Chief Deputy County Clerk

Call to Order

Chairman Oddo called the May 14, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Invocation by Commissioner Ognio

Commissioner Ognio asked Student Pastor Caleb Davis, from Heritage Christian Church, to provide the invocation. Pastor Davis offered the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Oddo asked Pastor Davis to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Pastor Davis did so.

Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Brown moved to accept the Agenda as published. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent.

PROCLAMATION /RECOGNITION:

1. Recognition of Hopeful Church's 190th Anniversary.

Chairman Oddo and the Board recognized Hopeful Church's 190th Anniversary. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 1," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

Clarity Provided on Procedures in the Absence of Two Commissioners: Chairman Oddo pointed out that Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow were absent from the meeting and he asked County Attorney Dennis Davenport to refresh the Board on the procedures in the absence of two Commissioners. Mr. Davenport stated that there was a procedural issue that ordinarily does not become an issue since the procedure is that any action taken by the Board is the result of at least three affirmative votes. He explained that since there were only three Commissioners in attendance any action would have to have to be agreed upon unanimously in order to go forward.

PUBLIC HEARING:

There were no Public Hearing items on the Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Chairman Oddo asked to remove Consent Agenda Items 2 and 4 for consideration.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Consent Agenda excluding Consent Agenda Items 2 and 4. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent.

2. Approval of staff's request for approval to accept a $1,000.00 grant awarded by Best Friends Animal Sanctuary to be applied as a travel stipend for two staff members of Fayette County Animal Control who will attend the Best Friends National Conference from July 16-19, 2015 in Cobb County, Georgia.

Commissioner Ognio asked that either the County Administrator or the County Chairman be approved to sign the contract to accept the grant.

Commissioner Ognio moved to accept staff's request for approval to accept a $1,000.00 grant awarded by Best Friends Animal Sanctuary to be applied as a travel stipend for two staff members of Fayette County Animal Control who will attend the Best Friends National Conference from July 16-19, 2015 in Cobb County, Georgia and to approve the County Administrator or Chairman to sign the contract. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 2," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

3. Approval of staff's recommendation to combine Projects 5565I, 5565E and 5565A, each of which are related to the Old Courthouse Renovation, into one project in order to facilitate the change in project scope while simplify the purchasing and accounting processes. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 3," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

4. Approval of staff's request to contract with PRA Government Services, LLC, doing business as RDS, to provide services for potential discovery and recovery of occupational and business license revenue, and approval for the County Administrator to sign the required documents.

Chairman Oddo noted that the Agenda referred to the "recovery of occupational and business license revenue," and he stated that it really should read "occupational tax revenue."

Commissioner Brown moved to approve staff's request to contract with PRA Government Services, LLC, doing business as RDS, to provide services for potential discovery and recovery of occupational tax revenue, and approval for the County Administrator to sign the required documents. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 4," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

5. Approval of staff's request to re-assign an aggregate $38,489.00 from two Information Technology projects to the Equipment Refresh project. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 5," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

6. Approval of staff's recommendation to add River Park Phase 1A subdivision to Fayette County's Street Light Program. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 6," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

7. Approval of the April 23, 2015 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

8. Discussion of the previous Board of Commissioners directive on the production of meeting minutes, review of time and analysis of minutes production, and comparison of minutes from other Georgia Counties for Board consideration regarding the production of County Commission meeting minutes.

Chairman Oddo suggested that since two Commissioners were absent that it would be prudent to table Old Business #8 until the May 28, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Brown pointed out that there were citizens in the audience who wanted to discuss this matter and so the issue should be discussed. Commissioner Ognio added that he also wanted to discuss the matter.

Commissioner Ognio moved to continue having the minutes produced as they have been produced for the past two years. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The Board discussed the motion for 18 minutes before opening the floor for public comment.

Commissioner Brown said this was a deep philosophical and very principled point for him since he is very much for open government and transparency, and he said there is an obligation to provide the most open and transparent government to the citizens. He said he would support any action that would provide increased openness and transparency but that he would oppose anything that would backtrack from where the Board has been for the past two years. He stated that the constituents would not be served by limiting speech that is either spoken or written into the minutes, and he stated that the 1st Amendment to the Constitution gives the assurance of liberty and freedom. He thought the Board needed to work hard to

protect fundamental liberties, pointed out that there have been two years of ample expression in the Board of Commissioners meetings without a single complaint from an elected official or citizen, and concluded that the system has worked very well and should continue.

Commissioner Ognio stated the minutes were not verbatim but they are more than brief minutes. He thought the current method was good so long as more detail could be added to the minutes. He stated that he has looked into technology in order to make the minutes more efficient, and he said he cares about time and efficiency since it involves financial concerns. He said the minutes are the best they can be without increasing a financial burden. He added that it takes time to produce and review minutes, and he said verbatim minutes require making sure each spoken word is correct. He concluded that he did not want to have verbatim minutes produced.

Commissioner Brown said one point of confusion concerned expediency in how minutes would be treated in a business, but he stated that government is not a business and that some things should not be sacrificed for the sake of efficiency. He agreed that the government should be good stewards of the money and offer good customer service, but there are some things worth spending additional money to have, specifically, having minutes that provide a realistic picture of what transpired in a meeting.

Chairman Oddo replied that he did not oppose free speech or transparency. He said minutes originally were intended to record what occurred in a meeting and that the minimum requirements are "very minimum." He said the problems that he saw concerned consistency and the need to maintain neutrality in the minutes. He explained that the minutes need to present a neutral reading of what occurred and that summary minutes should provide the basic facts. Chairman Oddo explained that technology has come a long way and that video and audio records are available to provide opportunities for people to view what and how something was said during a meeting. He said the problem is when any Commissioner wishes to make an addition since it creates efficiency issues while setting up a more adversarial relationship. Chairman Oddo suggested that most people are capable of looking at the video recordings so transparency is not an issue. He explained that there are many avenues for Commissioners to express their thoughts and concerns, whether through the media, email, Facebook or other means, but he said it is during Board of Commissioners meetings where official actions are taken and the records should be neutral. Chairman Oddo concluded that he wanted summarized minutes and not verbatim minutes.

Commissioner Brown responded that he did not want minimum requirements for minutes, that he did not run for office to be neutral, and that the people who elected him did not vote for him to be neutral. He said opinions should be provided in the minutes, and he added that items are read into minutes all the time from all levels of government. Commissioner Brown pointed out that the minutes are the official document detailing the meeting and he said the courts do not use audio or video files since they rely on the official minutes. He added that audio and video files can be destroyed at a later date so the record would be lost, and he suggested that the Board would be "throwing caution to the wind" by watering down the minutes while relying on audio and video records that can be destroyed. He stated that there has not been a change of routine and that three members currently sitting on the Board have requested their statements to be included into the minutes.

Chairman Oddo agreed that each Commissioner was elected because they have very strong opinions about how things should be done, but he asked if the Board wanted to be in a position where additions can be made to the official minutes that are baseless and could affect people's perceptions of the Board. He stated that he did not want only basic minutes since he wanted minutes that had some summary, but that

the content of the minutes should be up to staff. He said the media is glad to take comments from the Commissioners, but that Board of Commissioners meetings are the only venue where facts can be given without "getting into the adjectives that can distort what actually happened." He suggested that the citizens do not get justice when personal opinions are placed into the minutes.

Commissioner Brown replied that everybody's opinion is important and there is no such thing as a "non-important opinion." He asked who the arbitrator of whose opinion is important or not important, and he said that is the reason why everyone's opinion is put into the minutes.

Commissioner Ognio said there was no problem with the way minutes have been produced since it is the best of both worlds. He said he was concerned with the textual formatting in the minutes.

Chairman Oddo opened the floor for public comment.

Martine Yancey: Ms. Yancey spoke for ten minutes on her disappointment with the Board of Commissioners and where it is heading. She referred to the recent issue concerning Red Wolf Lodge in Peachtree City, and she said the same problems in Peachtree City, namely, ignoring what the majority of citizens want and a lack of transparency were occurring in Fayette County. Ms. Yancey added that censoring meeting minutes is inexcusable. Ms. Yancey proceeded to give several examples of problems that she had with the Board in general, several Commissioners in particular, and county staff.

Maria del Pilar Oddo: Mrs. Oddo asked Ms. Yancey if she wrote her public comments herself or if someone wrote the comments for her.

Pamela Kemp: Ms. Kemp stated that the meeting minutes are hybrid minutes since they are a combination of summary and detailed minutes. She added that there was an implied understanding that if someone provided a digital copy of a statement that it would be included into the minutes in its entirety. She said when she worked with Peachtree City in the past it would take only a quick search by staff to produce minutes from previous years. She was concerned that looking through videos of meetings would not make as much sense as being able to pull up past meeting minutes.

Linda Flowers: Ms. Flowers asked if the video recording would be useable in legal proceedings. She suggested that if the meeting minutes were produced to the minimal standard, and if there was any sort of situation, then the minutes would be a disservice to the citizens since they would not provide all of the needed information. Ms. Flowers understood that there was a financial consideration to the production of minutes, but she urged the Board to maintain the hybrid minutes. Ms. Flowers further questioned why closed-captioning was not provided on the video feed, and she asked why the minutes could not be produced in a neutral, non-opinionated way since there are court reporters that produce transcriptions that contain no personal opinion.

Denise Ognio: Mrs. Ognio suggested that the Board look up *Robert's Rules of Order* for a definition and examples of meeting minutes. She rejected the idea that things should continue "as they always have been," especially when there are options available for making changes. She thought the current method of producing minutes was working and agreed that transparency is important, but she asked at what point a person put material into the minutes that it becomes a problem. She suggested that the Board work with each other to make the process work. Mrs. Ognio "hated" the comments that were made saying the County is not transparent and she thought the allegation was "over-wording" the matter since the Board and county

are transparent. Ms. Ognio also took exception to the concept that producing minutes involves simply "copying and pasting" since there is additional work involved in the production of minutes, and she said the suggestion that "it is a simple two-second copy/ paste" made the work seem small and was minimizing the amount of effort involved. She stated that the County Clerk works very hard behind the scenes, that it costs money, and that the Board needed to work together in order to keep transparency.

The Board replied to various comments that were given by the citizens.

The motion to continue having the minutes produced as they have been produced for the past two years failed 2-1 with Chairman Oddo voting in opposition and Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 7," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

9. Consideration of the April 3, 2015 Board of Commissioners Retreat Minutes. These minutes were tabled by the Board during the April 23, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Ognio moved to approve the April 3, 2015 Board of Commissioners Retreat Minutes as included in the Agenda packet. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion.

Commissioner Brown stated that reason the minutes were originally tabled was because there was one item discussed at the April 3, 2015 Retreat where the Board did not finish the discussion. He stated that the minutes now included a summation statement into the minutes clarifying where the Board wanted to go with the item. Chairman Oddo stated that he would vote to approve the minutes since they were prepared based on the current Board direction.

The motion to approve the April 3, 2015 Board of Commissioners Retreat Minutes passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent.

10. Consideration of the April 9, 2015 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes. These minutes were tabled at by the Board during the April 23, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Ognio moved to approve the April 9, 2015 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes with the amendment that bold or italics text be removed from any statements that were made. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion.

Commissioner Brown stated that he made the bold and italics text that were provided to the County Clerk. He stated that the formatting was to help in reading the statement into the record and it had no intention of emphasizing anything. Chairman Oddo stated that he would vote to approve these minutes as well since they were prepared based on current Board direction.

The motion to approve the April 9, 2015 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes with the amendment that bold or italics text be removed from any statements that were made passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

11. Consideration of the Selection Committee's recommendation to appoint Gail L. Anderson to the Region Six Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases Regional Planning Board for a three-year term beginning March 1, 2015 and expiring February 28, 2018.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Selection Committee's recommendation to appoint Gail L. Anderson to the Region Six Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases Regional Planning Board for a three-year term beginning March 1, 2015 and expiring February 28, 2018. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 8," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

12. Consideration of staff's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2015-06 in support of the Whitewater Creek Water Trail in Fayette County.

Environmental Management Director Vanessa Birrell briefed the Board on Resolution 2015-06.

Commissioner Brown moved to adopt Resolution 2015-06 and to amend the resolution to read as follows: "WHEREAS, the Fayette County Board of Commissioners supports the Southern Conservation Trust to work and educate the citizens of Fayette County." Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion.

Commissioner Ognio amended the motion to strike the last sentence of the Resolution. Commissioner Brown agreed with Commissioner Ognio's amendment.

Chairman Oddo amended the motion to reword the Resolution to read "WHEREAS, the Fayette County Board of Commissioners supports the Southern Conservation Trust working with and educating the citizens of Fayette County." Commissioner Brown agreed to Chairman Oddo's suggestion.

Commissioner Brown amended his motion to include the suggestions from the Board. Commissioner Ognio seconded the amended motion.

The motion to accept staff's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2015-06 in support of the Whitewater Creek Water Trail in Fayette County with amendments, namely, to strike the last sentence from the resolution beginning with "Be it further", and to reword the Resolution to read" "WHEREAS, the Fayette County Board of Commissioners supports the Southern Conservation Trust working with and educating the citizens of Fayette County" passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent. Copies of the request and Resolution 2015-06, identified as "Attachment 9," follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof.

13. Consideration of staff's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2015-07 and in so doing revising qualifications for members of the Fayette County Recreation Commission by allowing at-large appointments for each member.

Parks and Recreation Director Anita Godbee briefed the Board on Resolution 2015-07.

Commissioner Ognio moved to adopt Resolution 2015-07 and in so doing revising qualifications for members of the Fayette County Recreation Commission by allowing at-large appointments for each member. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent. Copies of the request and Resolution 2015-07, identified as "Attachment 10," follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof.

14. Consideration of staff's request to adopt the proposed Kenwood Park Master Plan revision and implementation of Phase II proposed future improvements.

Parks and Recreation Director Anita Godbee briefed the Board on this request.

Commissioner Ognio moved to adopt the proposed Kenwood Park Master Plan revision and implementation of Phase II proposed future improvements and to sweep residual funds from all individual Parks and Recreation budget accounts into one fund to create one Recreation fund. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion.

Commissioner Brown acknowledged that there had been friction concerning the Kenwood Park Master Plan, but that there was a process that needed to be followed in sending proposals through the proper channels. He wished Commissioner Coston had been able to be at the meeting so she could comment on the proposals. Commissioner Brown suggested that there should be a joint meeting between the Board of Commissioners and the Recreation Commission to take a global look at the parks in order to determine where recreation is going and how to financially maintain the current parks and proposed future amenities. Brief discussion followed concerning how parks are currently funded.

The motion to adopt the proposed Kenwood Park Master Plan revision and implementation of Phase II proposed future improvements and to sweep residual funds from all individual Parks and Recreation budget accounts into one fund to create one Recreation fund passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 11," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

15. Consideration of staff's recommendation to reduce the Defined Contribution Plan Employee Deferral from 8.00% to 5.00% and to reduce the Match for Elected and Constitutional Officials from 4.00% to 2.5% as discussed at the Board of Commissioners Retreat on April 3, 2015.

Commissioner Brown moved to reduce the Defined Contribution Plan Employee Deferral from 8.00% to 5.00% and to reduce the match for Elected and Constitutional Officials from 4.00% to 2.5% as discussed at the Board of Commissioners Retreat on April 3, 2015. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion.

Commissioner Brown moved to make the reductions become effective beginning Fiscal Year 2016. Commissioner Ognio seconded the amended motion.

Chairman Oddo mentioned that this recommendation was not his first option but that there are budget constraints this year that needed to be taken into consideration.

The motion to reduce the Defined Contribution Plan Employee Deferral from 8.00% to 5.00% and to reduce the match for Elected and Constitutional Officials from 4.00% to 2.5% as discussed at the Board of Commissioners Retreat on April 3, 2015, and to make the reductions effective beginning Fiscal Year 2016 passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 12," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robert and Theresa Swift: Mr. Swift spoke on behalf of himself and his wife by imploring the Board to help locate their granddaughter who had been missing since Mother's Day, May 10, 2015. He asked the Board to assist the family in getting the message to the media and the public. He mentioned that there is no media coverage since there is a policy with the Sheriff's Office and since she was currently being considered a "runaway." Mr. Swift then gave contact information to the Fayette County Sheriff's Office.

Major Tommy Pope: Major Pope, Director of the Fayette County's Sheriff's Office- Criminal Investigation Division, stated that the Sheriff's Office does not have a policy pertaining to media coverage as suggested by Mr. Swift, but rather it is a policy of the news media. Major Pope stated that the major news media typically do not take these stories because there are so many similar cases in the metro-Atlanta area.

Dawn Oparah: Ms. Oparah thanked the Board for allowing public comments, but she stated there should be rules established concerning public comments. She said it pained her to hear citizens disrespect public officials, and she said if she was watching the procedures while thinking about moving into Fayette County, she would reconsider moving to Fayette County. Ms. Oparah suggested that there should be decorum established about who makes public comments so that the comments are respectful. She asked the County Administrator and Attorney to establish standards for decorum for public comments.

Emory McHugh: Mr. McHugh spoke for 19 minutes about the need for transparency and internal controls in the County's procurement process. He stated that the Board's decision on April 9, 2015 "to leave the ability to the County Administrator and to the County Chairman to approve county contracts up to $200,000.00 without formal, open board approval was a serious mistake and represents an abdication of the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners under the law." Mr. McHugh detailed the process he used to reach his understanding and he provided examples of findings that caused him concern. Mr. McHugh left the meeting after his comments.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

Selection Committee for the Planning Commission: County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that there was a vacancy on the Planning Commission due to Mr. Bob Simmons' resignation, and he asked for a Selection Committee to be established. Chairman Oddo and Commissioner Ognio agreed to serve on the Selection Committee.

Extension of the Public Property Use Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Fayetteville: County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that the City of Fayetteville had asked to extend the Intergovernmental Agreement it has with Fayette County for the use of Public Property. He stated a letter would be sent to the city agreeing to the one-year extension.

May 28, 2015 Budget Meeting: County Administrator Rapson stated that a public meeting would be called for Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. where the budget books and a formal presentation would be given to the Board. He asked the Commissioners to make sure this meeting was on their calendars.

Appointments to Various Boards, Authorities, and Committees: County Administrator Rapson stated that the previous administration did not advertise for the various boards, authorities, and committees. He said it was good to go back and look at the facts and available stats, and he stated that if a person reviewed the past two years they would find that Fayette County has appointed 33 board members through its advertisement process. He said it was an indication of the type of quality residents who live in Fayette County.

Response concerning County Transparency, Policies, and Approval Authority: County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that there was a lot of discussion about county transparency, how polices are changed, and the approval authority he has for procurements. He said he has increased the transparency by providing a document on the dais to the Board detailing where the policies are available on the county's website. The county policies and the two-page list outlining the eight contracts and a copy of those contracts for this fiscal year are now available for inspection on the county website and part of the official record. He added that all the contracts that he has approved between $50,000.00 to $200,000.00 from this fiscal year are loaded online, and that the dais document he provided to the Board details where to locate the approved contracts on the website.

Emergency Procurement for a High-Band Antenna: County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that he authorized the emergency procurement for a high-band antenna. He said the antenna is 25-feet tall, is located at the 911 Center, and is in need of repair. He said it is a communication tool, is the backup for the Motorola capabilities, and it allows for communication outside of Fayette County. He said it would be on the Agenda either on May 28 or the first meeting of June, but that the emergency procurement was going forward on this matter.

Noise Test at The Links Golf Course: County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that there would be a noise test conducted at The Links Golf Course on Saturday, May 16 at 9:00 p.m. He said the Sheriff's Office and the Marshal's Department were instrumental in getting the testing accomplished.

Response to Public Comments: County Administrator Steve Rapson replied to the comments given by Ms. Yancey with regard to public oversight. He said he was more than willing to sit with a resident and discuss their concerns. He also replied to the concerns Mr. McHugh spoke of during public comments.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notification of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport reported that he had one item of Threatened Litigation and the Review of the April 23, 2015 Executive Session Minutes for consideration in Executive Session.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Commissioner Brown: Commissioner Brown stated that last year the Board sent a resolution to its legislative delegation asking for the citizens to decide if it wants fluoride in its water. He said Representative Stover took the matter to the legislature but it never got out of committee. He reported that the federal government has recently issued a mandate to reduce the amount of fluoride in drinking water since it is finding a high number of cases of fluorosis in the teeth of teens and children. He said there is a need to look at the issue and he hoped Representative Stover will take the matter back to the Board. Commissioner Brown thanked County Administrator

Rapson for providing the dais documents saying that was all he had been asking for, but he asked for all policies that have fiduciary implications to still come before the Board. Commissioner Brown stated that he is getting several phone calls from people complaining that their property values are rising. He said the people should be glad to have their values rising up, but that they should not equate rising property values with a rise in property taxes. He said he saw the rising property valuations as a positive sign for Fayette County. Commissioner Brown replied to Ms. Oparah's comments saying he was very sensitive to the issue since care has to be given to who is good and who is bad and what comments are acceptable. He spoke about how, in the 1990s, he challenged the Peachtree City Council by writing to the newspaper. He said he was sued by the City Attorney and that he won against the attorney. He said once the right to speak is given up or eroded then it never comes back.

Commissioner Ognio: Commissioner Ognio thanked County Administrator Steve Rapson for putting the policies and contracts on the website. He said transparency is a work in progress at the county. He agreed with Commissioner Brown saying he did not have a problem when someone attacked him during Public Comment, but he said he did have an issue when people attacked county employees by name. He hoped the Board could keep that from happening since it is uncalled for. He said he looked forward to hearing from the citizens and he did not think there should be a limit to citizens talking about those who are elected. He wished everyone a belated Happy Mother's Day.

Chairman Oddo: Chairman Oddo stated that while rising property values can be bittersweet, it represented an improvement in Fayette County. He added that the restoration at the Historic Courthouse is progressing. He understood that comments will be made to elected officials, but he added that citizens can get worked up and passionate before making comments that they have not researched. He asked that if a person had a problem or concerns then to call him since the best way to solve problems or concerns is to converse. He said he was always available and he asked the people to call him before assuming the worst.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Threatened Litigation and Review of the April 23, 2015 Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner Brown moved to recess into Executive Session. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 9:27 p.m.

Return to Official Session and Executive Session Affidavit: Commissioner Ognio moved to return to Official Session and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Executive Session Affidavit. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent. A copy of the Executive Session Affidavit, identified as "Attachment 13," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

April 23, 2015 Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner Ognio moved to approve the April 23, 2015 Executive Session Minutes. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 3-0 with Vice Chair Coston and Commissioner Barlow being absent.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Ognio moved to adjourn the May 14, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 3-0 with Commissioners Barlow and Coston being absent.

The May 14, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk

Charles W. Oddo, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 28th day of May 2015. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk