Minutes

Board of Commissioners
February 2, 2011
3: 30P.M.

Notice: A complete audio recording of this meeting can be heard by accessing Fayette County's Website at www.fayettecountyga.gov. Click on "Board of Commissioners", then "County Commission Meetings", and follow the instructions. The entire meeting or a single topic can be heard.

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, met in Official Session on Wednesday, February 2, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Conference Room, Suite 100 of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

Commissioners Present:	Herb Frady, Chairman Robert Horgan, Vice Chairman Steve Brown Lee Hearn Allen McCarty
Staff Present:	Jack Krakeel, County Administrator Scott Bennett, County Attorney Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk

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Because of the number of people attending this meeting, it was decided at 3:30 p.m. to move the meeting from the Commissioners' conference room to the public meeting room.

Chairman Frady called the meeting to order.

Acceptance of Agenda: Commissioner Horgan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Hearn seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Reconsideration of the County's participation in a Federal program for the reimbursement of health care expenses incurred by County employees eligible for the post-retirement insurance benefit:

After a brief discussion, Chairman Frady recommended that this item be removed to a future meeting to allow additional time because this issue is now entwined in the National Healthcare Act. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment No. 1", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof. Commissioner McCarty made a motion to remove this item to a future meeting. Commissioner Horgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

2. David Wimmer will provide input regarding the proposed East Fayetteville Bypass Project:

David Wimmer provided the Board with input regarding the proposed East Fayetteville Bypass Project. A copy of the request and his handout, identified as "Attachment No. 2", follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof. Commissioner Brown asked staff to prepare a GIS overlay for the map presented by Mr. Wimmer.

3. Discussion of an appointment to the Board of Elections:

Commissioner Hearn remarked that the Board needed to make a decision on this item. He said the Board appreciated Marilyn Watts serving since her term had expired on January 31, 2010. He asked that this item be placed on the next meeting agenda and names submitted for consideration at that time. Chairman Frady said the Board had already received one name for consideration and if there were any other nominees, the Board would consider all of these at the next meeting.

Commissioner Brown questioned if this position on the Board of Elections had to be advertised and staff responded no, it did not need to be advertised.

It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on the February 10th Board of Commissioners Agenda for action. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment No. 3", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

4. Further discussion of a request from Peachtree City concerning proposed transportation projects at Crosstown Road and Peachtree Parkway and the Gateway Bridge Multi-Use Path Project:

City Engineer Dave Borkowski and Mayor Don Haddix discussed these transportation projects with the Board. A copy of the request, backup and presentation, identified as "Attachment No. 4", follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof.

After some discussion regarding both of these projects, Commissioner Horgan said he would prefer Peachtree City Council making a determination as to what the citizens of Peachtree City would prefer. Mayor Haddix remarked that an improved intersection with no traffic light was preferred by the Peachtree City Council. City Engineer Dave Borkowski said he would take this information back to the Peachtree City Council and get a vote from them as to which option was preferred and then bring this information back to the Commission. He said they would also provide the County with a cost breakdown for these projects. County Administrator Jack Krakeel said this Board would need to make a determination on which projects that are left to be funded from the S.P.L.O.S.T. and the extent that the Board would like them funded. Commissioner Brown said the County had delayed some of the projects which resulted in the loss of matching funds and also increased costs. Mr. Krakeel suggested this item be added to the Board's Retreat Agenda to discuss making some final decisions regarding allocation of financial balances that are currently in the S.P.L.O.S.T.

There was a consensus of the Board to add this item to the Board's Retreat Agenda for further discussion.

5. Further discussion of the East Fayetteville Bypass (SPLOST Project No. R-8) and its scope, status and alignment options:

Public Works Director Phil Mallon and Consulting Engineer David Jaeger discussed this item with the Board. A copy of the request and presentation, identified as "Attachment No. 5", follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof. Mr. Mallon remarked on some of the pros and cons of the two or three different alignments that were mentioned to the Board in January. He said staff wanted to look at the Northern terminus in more detail as well as the funding.

Commissioner Brown said he would like staff to present a GIS map of this area at the Board's retreat and Mr. Mallon replied he would be glad to do so. Mr. Mallon and Mr. Jaeger reviewed design options and projected costs. After further discussion, there was a consensus of the Board to add this item to the Board's Retreat Agenda for further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Update on the proposed Interchange Modification Report (IMR) for I-85 and S.R. 74.

Public Works Director Phil Mallon updated the Board on the proposed Interchange Modification Report (IMR) for I-85 and S.R. 74. A copy of the request and backup, identified as "Attachment No. 6", follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof. He remarked that Fayette County had agreed to participate in an Interchange Modification Report along with the South Fulton Community Improvement District, Fairburn and Peachtree City. He said they were ready to move forward with a Request for Proposal after receiving approval from G.D.O.T. He said once the consultant was selected and starts working and billing the project, the County would need to start contributing its portion of the $40,000.

Commissioner Brown interjected that he was part of the original plan for this project when he was Mayor of Peachtree City. He said he did not like the plans at all and felt this did nothing for Fayette County. He said these plans really looked good for Fairburn. He said there was nothing in this plan for Fayette County. He said all this would do would be to widen the ramps giving a little more length and capacity.

Chairman Frady asked if this was supposed to move traffic faster and Mr. Mallon replied yes, that would be the benefit to citizens to get on and off the interstate faster. Chairman Frady said there were 33,000 vehicles per day in that area. He felt this project was worth something if it helped get citizens on the highway faster.

Commissioner Hearn commented on slide 25 that indicated the one cloverleaf that would help the traffic coming South on I-85 in the afternoons. He said this would be a right turn onto Southbound S.R. 74. He felt this would be much better than what was currently happening with a left turn and the wait at the light. He said he respectfully disagreed with Commissioner Brown's comment that there wasn't anything for the Fayette County commuters. He said he felt there was something for the Fayette County commuters especially when there are two right turns instead of a left turn.

Chairman Frady commented about the high volume of traffic backed up all the way down the highway trying to get on the interstate and he felt this improvement would mean a lot to Fayette County residents

Commissioner Brown said he could comment from personal experience that he and Fairburn City Manager Jim Williams and Jay Knight who has a large development in that area had met with Fulton County's D.O.T. representative and they had shown him the collection of bumper parts, blown out headlights and skid marks. He said they asked the D.O.T. representative why nothing had been done on this situation. He said that resulted in getting the two lane project which was free of charge because D.O.T. was so embarrassed about this situation. He commented on the cloverleaf and said there was not near the capacity on the cloverleaf as there was on this off shoot expanded ramp. He said the problem was that the majority of the p.m. drive time traffic was going to be on the cloverleaf and not going into the City of Fairburn. He said he has driven this roadway for the last 11 ½ years and was aware of what was going to occur. He said there was no capacity which would result in stalling traffic on the cloverleaf backing it up onto I-85, then traffic would come to a traffic light on the northbound off ramp. He said this would result in the same backing up of traffic in the roadway which is just exactly what a few individuals had fought for in getting that removed. He said he would defy anyone to go out and get a meter and count traffic and where it was going. He said there was a reason for the two left hand lanes and one right hand lane and that was because all of the traffic was going into Fayette County.

Mr. Mallon said this was a big study in terms of dollars and scope and staff would have the opportunity to relay these concerns in upcoming meetings on this project.

Commissioner Brown said with the 900,000 square feet of commercial shopping center, which was a conservative estimate, being opened up on the Fayette County side going Northbound on S.R. 74, there was no capacity. He said he just did not see any benefit. He said he agreed with Chairman Frady about the volume of the traffic but he felt this plan would just not benefit Fayette County. He said if there was another discussion he would like to attend that discussion and would appreciate the dates and times so that he could attend and represent his constituents on behalf of whatever funding Fayette County would be contributing.

Chairman Frady questioned whether Commissioner Brown could attend those meetings and Commissioner Brown responded that he certainly could attend the meetings and represent his constituents of Fayette County. Commissioner Brown asked staff to notify him of any dates or times for any meetings so that he could attend.

7. Consideration of request from Town of Tyrone for Road Department to provide necessary equipment and labor for drainage and paving improvements to 1,700 feet of Valleywood Road (from Senoia Road to stream):

Tyrone Town Manager Richard Newbern discussed this item with the Board. A copy of the request and backup, identified as "Attachment No. 7", follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof. He said this request follows the Town's request for assistance with the drainage on Valleywood Road. He said this request was approved by the County approximately one year ago. He said currently the Town was asking for County assistance with paving specifically labor and equipment for drainage and paving one third of a mile of Valleywood Road. He pointed out that the Town of Tyrone had already secured right of way and incurred that expense and would also provide the materials. He said Mallett Consulting had also provided engineering drawings to the Fayette County Public Works Department

Public Works Director Phil Mallon remarked that he had received a copy of the draft plans. He said it was in the Road Department's capability to handle this request and it has been included in the 2011 work plan as a line item.

Commissioner Hearn said he would like to know the impact on the schedule and the work program for the Road Department.

Commissioner Brown clarified that the Board had already approved this project but there had been some length added to the road going from 1,400 to 1,700 feet. Mr. Krakeel added that there were also significant drainage improvements.

Mr. Krakeel said that historically the Board had operated that it would provide to its municipalities labor and equipment on road projects whether they were paving projects or road improvement projects.

Chairman Frady asked if staff had cost figures for this project and Mr. Mallon replied that he did not have cost figures for labor and equipment.

County Administrator Jack Krakeel remarked that the County historically had provided personnel for this kind of road work

There was a consensus of the Board for staff to provide cost estimates for this project and the estimated impact on other projects and place this item on the Board of Commissioners' February 24th Agenda for further discussion.

8. Consideration of a request from Town of Tyrone for Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax funding of a transportation scoping study along Tyrone-Palmetto Road (SPLOST Project No. R-1)

Public Works Director Phil Mallon and Tyrone Town Manager Richard Newbern discussed this item with the Board. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment No. 8", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof. Mr. Newbern remarked that there were several intersections that would be affected by the Tyrone-Palmetto Road scoping study and the improvements. He said the Town would like this to be the first step towards entering into this project in order to realistically determine the scope of the project, the problems with the roads and specifically what points and priorities could be set for Tyrone-Palmetto Road. He said the Town of Tyrone considers this a priority.

Commissioner Brown expressed concern with the possibility of increased speed of vehicles traveling on this road if road improvements were made. He said there were already vehicles from Peachtree City and Senoia speeding on this road using it as a short cut. He asked Mr. Newbern if the Town of Tyrone had come up with ways to mitigate the speed in that area.

Mr. Newbern said the possibility of a roundabout was being reviewed for Palmetto Road. He said this would substantially slow the traffic down. He noted that this would be one element of the scoping study.

County Administrator Jack Krakeel pointed out that the amount of funding being requested for this project was $30,000.

Mr. Mallon said staff would like to proceed with drafting an Intergovernmental Agreement to bring before the Board at a Thursday night meeting for consideration.

There was a consensus of the Board to place this on the Board of Commissioners February 24th Agenda for further discussion.

9. Consideration of proposed amendments to the Fayette County Code of Ordinances regarding Chapter 3 Alcoholic Beverages:

Director of Community Development Pete Frisina discussed this item with the Board related to distance requirements for daycare centers. A copy of the request and backup, identified as "Attachment No. 9", follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof. He pointed out that a lot of communities have included daycare in the list of things that need a certain distance requirement from places having an alcohol license. He said the current County Code did not include any distance requirement from daycare centers. He said he would like to place this item on the consent agenda for the February 10th Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Brown said he would like to have the distance requirement expanded to include public schools as well and suggested 500 feet.

County Attorney Scott Bennett said if revisions were going to be made, there were other changes in the Code that would need to be made for clarification. Mr. Frisina said staff needed to review the entire ordinance and then come back to the Board later this year with revisions.

Mr. Frisina said he would like to have this particular ordinance listed on the next agenda for consideration and the Board agreed.

There was a consensus of the Board that this item be placed on the consent agenda for the Board of Commissioners' February 10th Agenda.

10. Discussion of the County's Travel Policy as it relates to the reimbursement rates for expenses incurred while traveling on official County business:

County Administrator Jack Krakeel and Chief Finance Officer Mary Holland discussed this item with the Board. A copy of the request and backup, identified as "Attachment No. 10", follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof Mr. Krakeel remarked that a few years ago the Board had changed the travel policy with respect to mileage reimbursement to be a percentage factor of the Federal reimbursement which was 82%. Mr. Krakeel asked if the Board was interested in 100% reimbursement of the I.R.S. rate that was established every year as well as whether there would be any modifications to the expense reimbursement essentially changing the methodology from a per meal reimbursement to a daily per diem.

Commissioner Brown asked if the projected budget impact was known and Mr. Krakeel said he would be glad to provide the Board with a financial analysis showing the financial impact on the budget.

11. Consideration of a request from the new owner of the Hollingsworth House to use County property adjacent to the Hollingsworth House for special events:

County Administrator Jack Krakeel asked for the Board's consideration for a request that he had received from the new owner of the Hollingsworth House to use County property adjacent to the Hollingsworth House for special events. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment No. 11", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof. He remarked that there was a parcel of property directly adjacent to the parking lot behind the Hollingsworth House. He said this property has historically been used by the master gardeners for their master gardener program. He noted that the master gardeners have relocated to a parcel of property located on New Hope Road. He said he had explained to the gentleman about problems that might be associated with using the property. He said as an alternative the owner inquired about purchasing or leasing the property for purposes of landscaping it and possibly placing a gazebo on it to use for special events. He remarked that he had spoken with Director of Extension Services Craig Gross who stated there were plans for creating a junior master gardener program primarily for the planting of herbs which would run from April through October.

Commissioner Horgan remarked that he was not in favor of this request.

Commissioner McCarty asked if there could be a per use lease with the owner. Mr. Krakeel replied that the problem would occur if the property was being used by the junior gardener program, it would be rendered essentially useless for the property owner's purpose and intent which was to have a gazebo and be able to landscape it with sod , rose bushes and so forth to facilitate primarily weddings.

Commissioner Brown said he could empathize with the gentleman's position but he did not agree with it and was against it.

Chairman Frady agreed that the Board was not in favor of this request and County Administrator Jack Krakeel said he would advise the owner of the Hollingsworth House of the Board's decision.

REPORTS
None.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Horgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Commissioner Hearn seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk

Herbert E. Frady, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 24th day of February, 2011.

Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk