

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Randy Ognio, Chairman
Charles W. Oddo, Vice Chairman
Edward Gibbons
Eric K. Maxwell
Charles D. Rousseau



FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Dennis A. Davenport, County Attorney
Tameca P. White, County Clerk
Marlena Edwards, Deputy County Clerk

140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Minutes

August 22, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Commissioners. Your participation in County government is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairman Randy Ognio called the August 22, 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Eric Maxwell

Commissioner Eric Maxwell offered the Invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

Vice-Chairman Oddo moved to accept the revised agenda, which included adding item #9. Commissioner Edward Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:

1. **Recognition of Fayette County 911 Communications for receiving the 2019 Technology Leadership Award from the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International.**

911 Director Katye Vogt, on behalf of the Board, commended the Fayette County 911 Communications for receiving the 2019 Technology Leadership Award from the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International. The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International, the world's largest organization of public safety communications professionals, announced that Fayette County's 911 Communications was the recipient of its 2019 Public Safety Communications Technology Leadership award for a Small Communications Center. The award recognized communications centers of 1 to 75 employees that use technological advancements to benefit their centers, employees and customers. Fayette County 911 was the first agency in North America to integrate Carbyne's Next-Gen 911 cutting-edge technology into their operations.

PUBLIC HEARING:

County Attorney Dennis Davenport read the Introduction to Public Hearings.

2. **Final Public Hearing for consideration of adoption of Resolution 2019-10; 2019 Property Tax Millage Rates.**

Fayette County Assistant Chief Financial Officer Sheryl Weinmann presented an overview of the proposed 2019 Property Tax Millage Rate. Ms. Weinmann stated that the 2018 Digest was \$5,901,669,198. She continued highlighting

2019 Tax Digest changes. Ms. Weinmann stated that there was an 8.02% growth in real property and a 7.06% growth in personal property. She added that there was a reduction of 18.09% in motor vehicles as a result of Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT). She stated that the overall net increase was \$148,298,410 which was a 2.51% increase, she added that there was also a 6.21% increase in exemptions which was \$129,441,463. Ms. Weinmann stated that reassessments came in at 5.42% totaling \$319,964,484. She continued that the overall positive change in the net digest was a 7.61% increase at \$449,405,947; this gave the County a \$6,351,075,145 digest. Ms. Weinmann stated that the recommendation for the 2019 Millage Rates was to maintain the current millage rates as 2018, which included General Fund Maintenance & Operations at 4.392, Fire Services at 3.070, Emergency Medical Services at 0.456, and 911 Services at 0.210. She added that this was a change because there was no rollback which had consistently been done over the past few years.

Ms. Weinmann advised citizens that the 3rd Public Hearing would be Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 6:30 pm where staff would request that the Board adopt Resolution 2019-10 to levy the County property tax digest. She gave examples of a citizen's tax bill based on a \$250,000 home value for all jurisdictions. Ms. Weinmann concluded that the cumulative effect of the rollback since 2014 was \$29.6M. Ms. Weinmann asked that the Board to adopt Resolution 2019-10; 2019 Property Tax Millage Rates.

The following citizen spoke in favor:

Jeff Granier stated that he was in favor of Resolution 2019-10; 2019 Property Tax Millage Rates, because the increase would go toward providing pay increases and enhancements for Fayette County Public Safety personnel.

The following citizens spoke in opposition:

Danny Dolin stated that although his home property value increased, it did not actually put money in his pocket to use for day-to-day expenses. As a result, Mr. Dolin stated that he was in opposition to Resolution 2019-10; 2019 Property Tax Millage Rates and asked the Board to adopt the rollback rate and not raise taxes.

Marlene Holmes stated that as the sole-breadwinner in her household, she was in opposition to Resolution 2019-10; 2019 Property Tax Millage and asked the Board not to increase the taxes

Vice Chairman Oddo stated that the Board had done everything in its power for the past six years to continue to roll back the millage rate; however now was the that time to allow for growth, specifically focusing on the Public Safety personnel.

Commissioner Gibbons thanked the County Administrator, staff and the Board for the past five years because the millage rate had been rolled back and the County had maintained great services for the citizens of Fayette County. He stated that outside of Brooks, the County was the only government entity with a rollback record. Commissioner Gibbons stated that when he took office he was appalled at the salaries the Public Safety personnel were making in relation to the risk and responsibilities of the positions. He concluded that he was doing something to change that.

Vice-Chairman Oddo moved to approve adoption of Resolution 2019-10; 2019 Property Tax Millage Rates. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Maxwell voted in opposition.

3. Consideration of staff's recommendation to approve new 2019 Retail Alcohol Beer and Wine License (C19-00399) for Mohsin Mohammed doing business as Sinan Express, LLC which is located at 2400 Hwy. 138 Ste. 101, Fayetteville, Georgia.

County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that the applicant had met all requirements outlined by the county code and was approved by the Fayette County Code Enforcement Department.

Mr. Mohsin Mohammed for clarification corrected the spelling of his first name.

No citizens spoke in favor or opposition.

Commissioner Gibbons moved to approve staff's recommendation to approve new 2019 Retail Alcohol Beer and Wine License (C19-00399) for Mohsin Mohammed doing business as Sinan Express, LLC which is located at 2400 Hwy. 138 Ste. 101, Fayetteville, Georgia. Vice-Chairman Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Rousseau moved to accept the Consent Agenda with the exception of item #4. Vice-Chairman Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

- 4. Approval to authorize County staff to acquire all fee simple right-of-way and easements for the SR 92 at Westbridge Road / Veterans Parkway intersection, as shown and described on the attached Right-Of-Way Plans (SPLOST No. R-5F).**

Commissioner Rousseau stated as a reminder that this was a joint project with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) but asked for clarification regarding the configuration of the project.

Public Works Director Phil Mallon stated that the removal of the dedicated right turning lane from Westbridge on to SR 92 northbound, going toward Atlanta, was done for safety reasons and was an interim measure. He stated that under the traffic signal there would be a dedicated left turn lane, a thru lane, and a large right slip lane under a yield condition.

Commissioner Rousseau asked about timeframe of project completion.

Mr. Mallon stated that they have all the approvals needed from GDOT. He added that this agenda item was to gain approval to acquire right-of-way, and simultaneously finalize the bid package and put the project out for bid.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve authorization of County staff to acquire all fee simple right-of-way and easements for the SR 92 at Westbridge Road / Veterans Parkway intersection, as shown and described on the attached Right-Of-Way Plans (SPLOST No. R-5F). Vice-Chairman Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

- 5. Approval for authorization for the County Administrator to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with Georgia Emergency Management (GEMA) and Homeland Security Agency (HS) for access to the electronic system portal to enable Fayette County to continue to seek grants, disaster reimbursements and other hazard mitigation related items.**
- 6. Approval of revised speed zone permit with a list (List #0719-113) of state approved roadways.**
- 7. Approval of the August 8, 2019 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.**

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- 8. Consideration of Change Order #1 for Contract 1428-P EF Johnson to fund the public safety agency radio requirements utilizing contingency funding of \$768,277.85.**

911 Director Katye Vogt stated that in reviewing the initial request for Contract 1428-P for EF Johnson to fund the public safety agency radio, the budget included a contingency funding to allow for changes, edits and additions to the contract. She added that while doing the review it was determined that new models with better capabilities had become available. She stated that these funds would cover the gaps from the initial request.

County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that there are primarily five components that make up the change order.

Commissioner Gibbons moved to approve Change Order #1 for Contract 1428-P EF Johnson to fund the public safety agency radio requirements utilizing contingency funding of \$768,277.85. Vice-Chairman Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

9. Consideration of a recommendation of the Selection Committee, composed of Vice Chair Charles Oddo and Commissioner Charles Rousseau, to re-appoint Ted M. Kirk to the Region Six Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases Regional Planning Board for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

Ted M. Kirk stated his eagerness to continue in his service to Fayette County.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve recommendation of the Selection Committee, composed of Vice Chair Charles Oddo and Commissioner Charles Rousseau, to re-appoint Ted M. Kirk to the Region Six Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases Regional Planning Board for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022. Vice Chairman Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

Mr. Rapson acknowledged two dedicated employees of Fayette County, Jimmy Hall with 34 years of service and Chief Tom Bartlett with 39 years of service. Mr. Rapson stated that staff was advertising for three positions for the Public Facilities Authority.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that there was one item of threatening litigation, one real estate item and the review of the Executive Session minutes for August 8, 2019 for Executive Session.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Chairman Ognio

Chairman Ognio wished his parents a Happy 63rd wedding anniversary and advised the Board that he would be hosting the upcoming Southern Crescent Chairman's RoundTable on September 19, 2019.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

One item of threatening litigation, one real estate item and the review of the Executive Session minutes for August 8, 2019. Vice Chairman Oddo moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 7:30 p.m.

Return to Official Session and Approval to Sign the Executive Session Affidavit: Chairman Ognio moved to return to Official Session and for the Chairman to sign the Executive Session Affidavit. Vice-Chairman Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of the August 8, 2019 Executive Session Minutes: Chairman Ognio moved to approve the August 8, 2019 Executive Session Minutes. Vice Chairman Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Gibbons moved to adjourn the August 22, 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

The August 22, 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Marlena M. Edwards, Deputy County Clerk

Randy O. Ognio, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 12th day of September 2019. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Marlena M. Edwards, Deputy County Clerk