

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

February 13, 2020

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 February 13, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Edward Gibbons

Commissioner Edward Gibbons offered the Invocation and led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

Chairman Ognio moved to remove item #8 and to accept the agenda. Commissioner Eric Maxwell seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:

1. **Presentation by Fayette County's auditing firm, Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC, of the results of the Fiscal Year 2019 annual audit.**

Greg Chapman with Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC, Fayette County's auditing firm provided the Board with the results of the Fiscal Year 2019 annual audit. Mr. Chapman stated that the audit was performed in accordance with Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and Government Auditing Standards (GAS). Mr. Chapman stated that the objective was to provide reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the basic financial statements are free from material misstatement. He stated that Nichols, Cauley and Associates consider the internal control structure in expressing their opinion on the County's basic financial statements and not for providing assurance on the County's internal control structure. He continued that the audit was unmodified "clean" opinion on the basic financial statements, presented fairly in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), and that the auditor's responsibility did not extend beyond the financial information contained in the report. Mr. Chapman stated that the significant accounting policies used by the County are described in Note one (1) of the basic financial statements, in considering the policies used by the County. The County was in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and similar government organizations, the County implemented GASB No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB)*, and that the County was not involved with any controversial or emerging issues for which guidance was not available.

Mr. Chapman stated that the County used various estimates as part of its financial reporting process – including valuation of accounts receivable (recording an allowance for uncollectible accounts) and pension and OPEB actuarial

assumptions, and that management's estimates used in the preparation of the financial statements were deemed reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole. Mr. Chapman stated that they considered this information and the qualitative aspects of management's calculations in evaluating the County's significant accounting estimates. Mr. Chapman stated that regarding the relationship with management that they received full cooperation from the County's management, staff and others. There were no disagreements with management on accounting issues or financial reporting matters. There were no significant issues discussed with management related to business conditions, plans, or strategies that may have affected the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements. Mr. Chapman stated that in accordance with American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) standards, Nichols Cauley is independent with regard to the County and its financial reporting process.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jeff Grainer expressed his continued concerns regarding Airbnb regulations and management of tourist accommodations within the county. Mr. Grainer also acknowledged HB 523 and the need for the Board to oppose it. Mr. Grainer stated that this Bill would prevent county involvement and necessary restrictions.

Jim Jaquish with Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) briefed the Board on two ARC programs. Mr. Jaquish stated that the first program was the Connect ATL Summit, which will discuss -- autonomous, connected, electric, and shared vehicles and Smart City Technology. Mr. Jaquish also discussed a new website tool which can be found at *MetroATL.org*. This tool allows individuals to determine the type of housing available in an area. Jim Jaquish stated that the Regional Leadership Institute would begin accepting application on Monday, February 17, 2020. He stated that this was a great program where an applicant can fine tune leadership skills, as well as gain a deeper understanding of common topics that affect all counties. He continued to highlight the Model Atlanta regional Commissioner which was geared toward high school students who are interested in government. Mr. Jaquish concluded by stating that the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) was accepting applications for the Livable Centers Initiative Program, which provided grant money to help redevelop and redesign communities.

Tom Waller expressed his concern regarding an area off Sandy Creek Road, where he noticed increased debris, vehicles and police presence. Mr. Waller asked when this would be removed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice Chairman Oddo moved to accept the Consent Agenda as written. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

2. **Approval to appoint Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Hill to the West Georgia EMS Council to fill the unexpired vacant seat previously held by Tom Bartlett to expire on June 30, 2021.**
3. **Approval to reappointment Assistant Chief Kevin Baggett from Peachtree City Fire/Rescue to the West Georgia EMS Council for a two-year term to expire on June 30, 2022.**
4. **Approval to reappointment Operations Officer Chad Matheny from Peachtree City Fire/Rescue to the West Georgia EMS Council for a two-year term to expire on June 30, 2022.**
5. **Approval of Croy Engineering Task Order #35, in the amount of \$164,170, for the work required to produce Right of Way and Construction Plans for intersection improvements to the offset intersection of State Route 92 and Hampton Road in the Town of Woolsey.**

6. Ratification of emergency Contract #1775-S, issued to Aquaguard Foundation Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$24,137.20 for emergency repair flooding of the Jail / Courthouse Tunnel being funded from General Fund Contingency.
7. Approval of the January 23, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

8. Consideration of the approval of Croy Engineering Task Order #37, in the amount of \$222,865, for the work required to produce Final Design Plans for the East Fayetteville Bypass Bridge over Morning Creek, along with FEMA Letters of Map Revisions.

This item was removed at the acceptance of the agenda.

9. Consideration of Commissioner Eric Maxwell's request to recognize "Good Friday" by giving County employees a day off on April 10, 2020.

Commissioner Maxwell moved to table this item to the February 27, Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

- A. Contract #1431-P: Transportation Engineer of Record Task Order #36: Fayette County Sheriff Vehicle Tactical Training Track

Hot Project Updates:

Chairman Ognio provided a summary of the *Hot Project Updates*, stating that Dogwood Trail was currently closed to all through traffic for demolition of the two existing and failing 120-inch corrugated metal pipes. Construction of the culvert remains on hold until a 6-inch steel gas line was relocated. The utility temporary relocation work (which includes design, equipment delivery, construction, testing, etc.) is expected to be completed in April. Based on this timeframe, the culvert should be installed, and the road opened to traffic, this summer.

Chairman Ognio stated that the Intersection of SR 92, Veterans Parkway and Westbridge Road Project construction had begun with grading work and installation of the red light.

Chairman Ognio concluded stating that the Mourning Dove Drive Culvert Replacement was on-schedule to be completed in February.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that there was one item for Executive Session. One (1) item of Pending Litigation.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Commissioner Gibbons:

Commissioner Gibbons stated, in reference to comments made regarding House Bill 523, that he was completely against it and would never support it. He stated that he felt that the Bill would impede the Board's ability to properly manage and efficiently

regulate rental properties, Airbnb's, and tourist accommodations and would take the power away from the County. Commissioner Gibbons stated that the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) was also against this Bill.

Commissioner Maxwell:

Commissioner Maxwell stated that he agreed with Commissioner Gibbons regarding the House Bill 523, and he was also against it. He stated that he would like to send a letter to the local delegation in opposition of this Bill.

Commissioner Maxwell stated that during the budget session last year he would want to discuss the judges' salary in early 2020. He continued that the issue seemed to be resolved and he no longer needed to discuss the judges' salaries until next year's budget season.

Commissioner Maxwell stated that he was aware of issues and concerns regarding the Second Amendment. He stated that his initial feeling was that it was in the best interest of the Board to monitor the State regarding Second Amendment. He stated that the Second Amendment was a State issue that needed local government involvement.

Commissioner Maxwell stated that he was against buses coming into Fayette County and would fight against any transportation efforts that would encourage buses to Fayette County.

Commissioner Rousseau:

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he was prepared to make a motion to send a letter in opposition of House Bill 523 regarding short term rentals. Chairman Ognio stated that it was his intent to prepare a letter, however he was waiting for additional information from the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) to gain a complete understanding of House Bill 523.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to have a draft letter prepared in opposition House Bill 523 regarding short term rentals. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Rousseau congratulated Benjamin Coker on his appointment as the circuit's fifth Superior Court Judge.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that during his attendance at various community events he had received good feedback regarding the upkeep and maintenance of Kenwood Park, and commended all the departments involved in those efforts.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that the Board should stay abreast of House Bill 523 and its effects on short term rentals and Bed and Breakfast owners. Commissioner Rousseau concluded commending staff for the work and efforts at Hwy. 92 and West Bridge Road.

Vice Chairman Oddo:

Vice Chairman Oddo commended the efforts and hard work of the Finance Department for their gleaming audit.

Vice Chair reiterated the issues and concerns the Board had regarding House Bill 523 and stated that he was against it also.

Vice Chairman welcomed his nephew who was visiting from Ecuador and was interested in seeing how local government ran.

Chairman Ognio:

Chairman Ognio commended the Finance Department for their hard work.

Chairman Ognio stated that he had been in communication with various legislators and planned to reach out to others regarding House Bill 523. He stated that the Board will send a letter in opposition House Bill 523 regarding short term rentals once he received additional information from ACCG and had a complete understanding of all its details.

Chairman Ognio encouraged all residents to participate in the upcoming Census. Chairman Ognio encouraged citizens who have questions regarding the new voting equipment to go to www.securevotega.com.

Commissioner Rousseau advised the Board that he and a few other Community Leaders would be hosting a demonstration session to help citizens become familiar with the new voting equipment. The event will be hosted at North Fayette Elementary at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

One item of pending litigation. Vice Chairman Oddo moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 7:19 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 7:40 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. The motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Chairman Oddo moved to adjourn the February 13, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The February 13, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Marlena Edwards, Deputy County Clerk

Randy C. Ognio, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 27th day of February 2020. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Marlena Edwards, Deputy County Clerk