

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

April 9, 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 April 9, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Charles Rousseau

Commissioner Charles Rousseau offered the Invocation and led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

Vice-Chairman Charles Oddo moved to accept the agenda as written. Commissioner Edward Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:

1. Proclamation to recognize April as Safe Digging Month in Fayette County.

Public Works Director Phil Mallon, on behalf of the Board, presented a Safe Digging Month proclamation. Mr. Mallon recognized April as Safe Digging Month in Fayette County encouraging citizens to call 811 before digging.

PUBLIC HEARING:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Dean Breest, on behalf of Pastor Tim Mullins with Hopeful Primitive Baptist Church, advised the Board of the initiative, "Fayette Strong", the church along with others was sponsoring. Mr. Breest stated that the purpose of this initiative was for individuals and businesses to band together as a community to raise money for first responders and those in need in the area as a result of the Coronavirus. He stated that the "Fayette Strong" yard signs had been designed and would be available for purchase with all proceeds being donated to first responders and those in need in the local area.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

2. **Approval of staff's recommendation to add Longboat II subdivision to Fayette County's Street Light Program.**
3. **Approval of staff's recommendation for the Board of Commissioners to enter into an agreement between Fayette County and the Town of Brooks allowing Fayette County to act on behalf of the Town of Brooks to maintain compliance with the Metropolitan North Georgia Watershed Planning District Water Management Plan.**
4. **Approval of a request from the Griffin Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court to accept a supplemental grant award for FY 2020 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) of \$13,856.**
5. **Approval of the March 12, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.**
6. **Approval of the March 16, 2020 Emergency Called Meeting Minutes.**

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

7. **Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to approve a disposition of tax refund, as requested by Richard Anwyl, for tax years 2017, 2018 and 2019 in the aggregate amount of \$2,659.82.**

County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that this tax refund request was received from Mr. Richard Anwyl. He stated that the request was initiated as a result of a deletion of the property owners' homestead exception status. Mr. Davenport stated that Mr. Anwyl's homestead exception took effect in 2014 and due to a discrepancy in the mailing address and the address listed on the form, the exception status was deleted. Mr. Anwyl took measures to have the exception reapplied in 2015 and had his address updated in the records; however, the exception still was not reapplied in 2015. As a result, Mr. Anwyl was erroneously assessed taxes because the homestead exception was not applied and he was due a refund. Mr. Davenport stated that the recommendation was to approve the tax refund request.

Vice-Chairman Oddo moved to approve County Attorney's recommendation to approve a disposition of tax refund, as requested by Richard Anwyl, for tax years 2017, 2018 and 2019 in the aggregate amount of \$2,659.82. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

8. **Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to approve a disposition of tax refund, as requested by Wesley O. Saunders, for tax year 2018 in the amount of \$236.63.**

County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that the tax refund was requested by Wesley O. Saunders, for tax year 2018, and involved a tax freeze. He stated that an appeal for property taxes went into effect in 2017, as a result, Mr. Saunders property value was lowered. When a property value is lowered, as a result of an appeal, the applicant reaps the benefit of a three-year freeze on that value. The freeze was inadvertently not put in place in 2018 for Mr. Saunders but has since been corrected for 2019. Mr. Davenport stated that the recommendation was to approve the tax refund request.

Mr. Saunders thanked the Board for their assistance, he had not realized the error.

Commissioner Gibbons moved to approve County Attorney's recommendation to approve a disposition of tax refund, as requested by Wesley O. Saunders, for tax year 2018 in the amount of \$236.63. Vice-Chairman Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

9. **Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to approve a disposition of tax refund, as requested by KH Peachtree LLLP, for tax year 2018 in the amount of \$8,010.11.**

County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that this tax refund request was submitted by KH Peachtree LLLP, for tax year 2018 and involved twelve parcels of properties. The three-year freeze had inadvertently not been placed on the properties values for 2018 following the 2017 appeal. Mr. Davenport stated that the recommendation was to approve the tax refund request.

Vice-Chairman Oddo moved to approve County Attorney's recommendation to approve a disposition of tax refund, as requested by KH Peachtree LLLP, for tax year 2018 in the amount of \$8,010.11. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

10. Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to approve a disposition of tax refund, as requested by Chad and Noreen Perret, for tax years 2017, 2018 and 2019 in the aggregated amount of \$10,213.29.

County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that tax refund was requested by Chad and Noreen Perret, for tax years 2017, 2018 and 2019. The square footage measurements of their property were recorded incorrectly. During the investigation of this request, it was discovered that the square footage measurement was off due to the layout of the property. The sketch was erroneously reviewed by the Tax Assessors as having a much smaller garage which resulted in more heated square footage along with the property being recorded as 1 ½ stories as opposed to 1 ¼ stories. Mr. Davenport stated that these combined factors contributed to the incorrect square footage being assessed. He stated that the recommendation was to approve the tax refund request.

Mrs. Perret stated that she and her husband had not realized there was an issue with the square footage because they had not received a copy of their assessment because it was sent to the wrong address. Mrs. Perrett stated that at the end of 2019 she called the Tax Assessors Office to inquire about her property record and discovered the error in the square footage measurements. Mrs. Perret stated that she asked for a new assessment. Mrs. Perrett thanked the Board for their assistance in getting the issue resolved.

Commissioner Gibbons moved to approve County Attorney's recommendation to approve a disposition of tax refund, as requested by Chad and Noreen Perret, for tax years 2017, 2018 and 2019 in the aggregated amount of \$10,213.29. Vice-Chairman Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

County Administrator Steve Rapson advised that an updated "Hot Projects" listing was sent out via email to the Board to keep them abreast of the status of various projects throughout the county. Mr. Rapson stated that the update included details regarding the Stars Mill project, the intersection at SR 92 project, the East Fayetteville bypass project, the Dogwood Trail project, and the Morning Dove Drive culvert replacement project. As an update for county residents, there was two Governor issued Executive Orders in place that the County was adhering to. He stated that the first was a Shelter-at-Home order which would be in effect through April 30, 2020 and the second was the Emergency Declaration order which would be in place through May 13, 2020. Mr. Rapson stated that he had extended the County position of being closed to the public through May 13, 2020 to ensure the County was in line with the Executive Orders. He continued that although closed to the public, the County was fully functional; with the exception of the Library and Parks being closed, walking trails are open.

Mr. Rapson stated that the Election was postponed until June 9, 2020.

Mr. Rapson provided a Coronavirus status update for Georgia, which included 89 cases in Fayette County and 3 deaths. He advised the Board that there were 210 county employees actively teleworking on various assignments. Mr. Rapson stated that he had the opportunity to visit several departments and saw the engagement and interaction of the office and teleworking staff; he witnessed several Microsoft TEAMS meetings.

Mr. Rapson provided the State of Georgia COVID-19 hotline: 1-844-442-2681. He also provided the Georgia emotional support hotline: 1-866-399-8938. He stated that recently Homeland Security and the National Guard had been activated to clean nursing homes and assisted living facilities. He continued that the County was contacted by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency to assist in coordinating those efforts if requested by the facilities within the County.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that there were eight items for Executive Session. Four (4) items of Real Estate Acquisition, two (2) items of Threaten Litigation, One (1) item Pending Litigation, and the review of the Executive Session Minutes for February 27, 2020.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Chairman Ognio thanked staff for all their hard work and dedication, despite the various challenges and continued uncertainty surrounding us. He stated that staff was surpassing expectations. He also encouraged citizens to continue social-distancing and if possible, to continue to patronize local eateries and restaurants.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Four (4) items of Real Estate Acquisition, two (2) items of Threaten Litigation, One (1) item Pending Litigation, and the review of the Executive Session Minutes for February 27, 2020.

Vice Chairman Oddo moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 6:52 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 7:35 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:

Chairman Ognio moved to adjourn the April 9, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting. Vice Chairman Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The April 9, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting adjourned at 7:37 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 21th day of April 2020. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Marlena Edwards, Deputy County Clerk