

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

May 14, 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 May 14, 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 Eric Maxwell

Commissioner Eric Maxwell 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 Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:

PUBLIC HEARING:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roy Bishop asked why the traffic lights on State Route 92/Veterans Parkway/ Westbridge Road were still covered and not operational. Mr. Bishop stated that he felt that the turning lanes were missing yield signs, which would be needed. Ms. Bishop concluded asking about what had been sprayed along the right-of-way on Westbridge Road near his home a week prior.

Stephanie Cohen with the Fayette Humane Society expressed her support of Ordinance 2020-03; Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (TNVR) and Ordinance 2020-UN-01 to adopt Policy 280.05; Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release.

(A copy of Mrs. Cohen's letter of support was provided as a part of the agenda packet)

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Approval of the April 21, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2. Consideration of a request to approve Ordinance 2020-03; Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (TNVR) and Ordinance 2020-UN-01 to adopt Policy 280.05; Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release.**

Fayette County Animal Shelter Director Jerry Collins stated that this ordinance was the result of the extensive and thorough evaluation of the Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (TNVR) program. Mr. Collins stated that the goal was to develop a program that worked for everyone- the animals, the Animal Shelter, and the animal advocates, as a result, a permanent ordinance and policy on how to conduct TNVR activities was created. Mr. Collins thanked the Board for their support.

Commissioner Gibbons moved to approve Ordinance 2020-03; Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (TNVR) and Ordinance 2020-UN-01 to adopt Policy 280.05; Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release. Vice-Chairman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

- 3. Consideration of staff's request to acquire all fee simple right-of-way, easements and appraisals for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) bridge replacement project on Ebenezer Church Road over Whitewater Creek (GDOT PI 0008598 and SPLOST No. 17TAA), as depicted on the Right of Way Plans approved by GDOT on April 8, 2020.**

Fayette County Public Works Director Phil Mallon stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) would be paying for all of the design, Fayette County was responsible for right-of-way acquisition and then Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) would be responsible for construction.

Vice-Chairman Oddo moved to approve request to acquire all fee simple right-of-way, easements and appraisals for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) bridge replacement project on Ebenezer Church Road over Whitewater Creek (GDOT PI 0008598 and SPLOST No. 17TAA), as depicted on the Right of Way Plans approved by GDOT on April 8, 2020. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Chairman Ognio expressed his appreciation for Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for their assistance and support with this project, Chairman continued stating that this project was saving Fayette County \$4.5 million.

- 4. Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to deny a disposition of tax refund, as requested by Henri Cruse, for tax year 2019.**

County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that Mr. Henri L. Cruse, Jr. submitted a tax refund request, for tax year 2019. Mr. Davenport stated that Mr. Cruse purchased his property in August of 2019 and paid past due taxes for 2019 in February 2020. However, payment of tax liability on behalf of the previous owner does not cause Mr. Cruse to become an eligible tax refund recipient. Mr. Davenport stated that each tax year the assessors must identify the owner of each parcel of real property in the County as of January 1. Mr. Davenport stated that that party is assessed for taxes, based upon the value of the property. Mr. Davenport stated that on January 1st Mr. Cruse was not the property owner nor the party assessed for the taxes. Mr. Davenport stated that as a result this request for a partial refund of 2019 taxes to Mr. Cruse is recommended for denial.

Vice-Chairman Oddo moved to deny a disposition of tax refund, as requested by Henri Cruse, for tax year 2019. Chairman Ognio 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. He 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.

Mr. Rapson stated in response to Mr. Bishop questions that the second Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) inspection was scheduled to be returned May 19, if approved, a minimum 7-day notice would be issued. At that time the covering could be removed and the traffic light could become fully operational. Mr. Rapson also advised Mr. Bishop that the Road Maintenance crew had been spraying weed control and growth retardant.

Mr. Rapson expressed his appreciation for the Fayette County Census team, advising citizens that Fayette County was the #1 responsive county in the State of Georgia at 71%.

Mr. Rapson advised all that the County would be re-opening to the general public on Monday May 18th. Mr. Rapson stated that the reopening would have safety protocols in place to include additional signage, temperature screenings as well as social distancing measures. Mr. Rapson stated that the 250 employees who were teleworking would be phased back into the office over a four-week period. Mr. Rapson stated that the Public Health Emergency was still in place thru June 12th. Mr. Rapson stated that 43 employees had previously been identified as high-risk, along with a few additional employees based on the extended Governors Executive Orders. Mr. Rapson stated that these employees would continue to telework until it had been deemed safe for them to return to the office. Mr. Rapson advised the Board that the June 9th Board of Commissioner Meeting was previously scheduled for a Tuesday due to a training conflict, in light of COVID-19 all training was cancelled. Mr. Rapson asked if the Board would like to move the June 9th Board of Commissioner Meeting to June 11th which would be the typical Thursday. Mr. Rapson was excited to announce to the Board that the Fayette County Clerk Tameca White had recently gotten engaged.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that there were two items for Executive Session. One (1) item of Threatened Litigation, and the review of the Executive Session Minutes for April 9, 2020.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Vice-Chairman Oddo

Vice-Chairman Oddo moved to move the June 9, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting to June 11, 2020. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Vice-Chairman Oddo extended his gratitude and appreciation for Animal Shelter Director Jerry Collins, the Fayette County Humane Society, and all who assisted in developing the Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (TNVR) ordinance and policy, he added that he knew the extensive work, effort, and dedication it took to complete over the past 3 years. Vice-Chairman Oddo congratulated all the 2020 graduates. Vice-Chairman Oddo extended a Happy Memorial Day to all.

Chairman Ognio

Chairman Ognio encouraged all citizens who had not completed their census survey to go online and complete it, the goal is for Fayette County to reach 100% responsiveness. Chairman Ognio stated that he had a future agenda item he would like to bring before the Board that would involve providing park passes to Fayette County business owner who live outside the County.

Chairman Ognio stated that these businesses bring in tax dollars to the County and this would give these individuals the ability to park at the County parks without being charged.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he would be interested to know if other counties have a similar initiative or program.

Chairman Ognio advised citizens that early voting would start Monday May 18, 2020. Chairman Ognio reiterated Vice-Chairman's appreciation for the hard work in developing the Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (TNVR) ordinance and policy. Chairman Ognio extended a Happy Memorial Day to all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

One (1) item of Threatened Litigation, and the review of the Executive Session Minutes for April 9, 2020.

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

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 6:12 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 7:00 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 May 14, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The May 14, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting adjourned at 7:00 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 28th day of May 2020. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Marlena Edwards, Deputy County Clerk