

## **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**

June 11, 2020

6:30 p.m.

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Randy Ognio called the June 11, 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 Chairman Randy Ognio**

Chairman Randy Ognio 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 with one change to move item #11 to be considered and discussed as the first item under New Business. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

### **PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:**

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

- 1. First of two Public Hearings on Fayette County's proposed annual budget for Fiscal Year 2021 which begins on July 1, 2020 and ends June 30, 2021.**

Ms. Weinmann stated that on May 28, 2020 the Board was presented with a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. Ms. Weinmann stated that tonight's meeting was the first of two Public Hearings to discuss and review the proposed annual budget for Fiscal Year 2021. Ms. Weinmann stated that the estimated financial projection for Fiscal Year 2020 fund balance was \$30,517,954. Ms. Weinmann stated that this updated financial projection reflected an increase to the unassigned fund and the additional \$1M towards the Fayette County Public Health Building approved by the Board at the June 11, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Ms. Weinmann highlighted that the additional \$1M was contributed as a result of the \$2.3M savings from the Public Facilities Authority bonds advance refunded in November 2019. Ms. Weinmann stated that \$2M was restricted in the fund balance for the proposed Department of Public Health building. She continued that another \$1M had been placed in the Capital Improvement Project fund for the Animal Control building under design. Ms. Weinmann stated that the remaining \$371,306 was in the General Fund's fund balance.

Ms. Weinmann advised the Board that there had been six revision to the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget presented on May 28, 2020.

### **Sheriff's Office Revision**

Ms. Weinmann stated that the Sheriff's Office revision was the establishment of a new position. The new position was a Lieutenant Colonel-Chief Deputy with a salary of \$132,825. The establishment of this position would abolish the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Investigator position which was vacant and was salaried at \$69,571. Ms. Weinmann stated that the revision would not affect the overall head count of the Sheriff's Office and had a net financial impact of \$63,253.

### **Property & Casualty Insurance Revision**

Ms. Weinmann stated that the final property and casualty insurance quotes were received from our approved providers AmGuard & Liberty Mutual, which would require a Fiscal Year 2021 budget increase of \$22,214.

### **Water System (Private Water Systems) Revision**

Ms. Weinmann stated that the Water System investigated possible acquisition of the thirteen (13) residential private water systems in Fayette County. Ms. Weinmann stated that upon financial review and analysis it was determine that each private water system would require approximately \$1M in upgrades to bring the systems up to Fayette County Water System standards. Ms. Weinmann stated that the Town of Brooks had requested that Fayette County take ownership of their existing water system. The proposal was to set aside \$250K per year in the Water System Capital Improvement Project plans to go towards the possible acquisition of these residential private water systems in the future.

County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that over the past year the County had begun to implement a four-step Interconnectivity Project. He stated that this project was designed to determine how much capacity, in respect to water supply, would be available to be sold to neighboring counties. The Interconnectivity Project was still in the beginning phases. Mr. Rapson stated that even with the addition of the proposal for the private water systems the budget under review would not change. He stated that a \$250K per year reservation would be pulled from the Water Systems' retained earnings and moved to a Capital Improvement Project fund as future seed money toward the possible acquisition of these residential private water systems in the future. Mr. Rapson reiterated that the estimated cost would require approximately \$1M per private water system to upgrade and bring the systems up to Fayette County Water System standards.

Ms. Weinmann stated that with the addition of the \$250K towards the private water systems potential upgrade, increased the Water System Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget to \$2,213,250.

### **Water System - Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) Revision**

Ms. Weinmann stated that as part of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, Fayette County membership dues increased significantly from \$26,642 to \$31,971; or 20%. Ms. Weinmann stated that the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District included 15 counties and 92 cities charged with implementing a long-term comprehensive water management program. The fees for North Georgia Water System District dues were allocated based upon population. Ms. Weinmann stated that the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget included \$28,000 but would require a \$3,971 increase.

### **200th Anniversary Revision**

Ms. Weinmann stated that Fayette County would celebrate its Bicentennial (200<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary on May 15, 2021. This addition to the budget would allocate \$50K for expenses related to the anniversary celebrations to include: celebratory activities, street banners, historical marker tours, publicity, and promotional items.

Mr. Rapson stated that the County reached out to the Historical Society who would spearhead this initiative, along with other community members and stakeholders who would help in the development, preparation, and planning of the Bicentennial Anniversary celebration.

## Griffin Judicial Circuit

Ms. Weinmann stated that the newly appointed Superior Court Judge Ben Miller Jr. would be adding a Superior Court reporter position. Ms. Weinmann stated that the position cost was split within the Griffin Judicial Circuit with Fayette County's allocation set at \$21,725. She added that the increase to the Griffin Judicial Circuit expense budget was \$55,747.

Ms. Weinmann stated that the General Fund, 911 Fund, Fire Services Fund, Emergency Management Services Fund, and the Water Systems Fund had been affected by the revisions made to the Fiscal year 2021 Budget. The Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Summary positive impact changed to \$255,167.

Mr. Rapson stated that the six revisions were contingent budget additions, based on Board approval. He added that these items could be added or not, to the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget collective or individually.

Vice-Chairman Oddo moved to approve revision to the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Maxwell asked if the County took ownership of their private water, would the Town of Brooks still qualify as a town.

Mr. Rapson stated that the Town of Brooks would still qualify as a town and for the Local Occupational Sales Tax, even if Fayette County took ownership of their private water system.

Commissioner Maxwell expressed his concerns regarding the large price tag associated with the possible acquisition of the thirteen (13) residential private water systems in Fayette County. Commissioner Maxwell stated that he realized that the additional \$250K per year was for future Capital Improvement Project allocation, however he also realized how daunting of a task and costly this project could become.

Mr. Rapson stated that the \$250K per year allocation was for the establishment of a future Capital Improvement Project. Mr. Rapson stated that the solution would come from the Interconnectivity Project. Mr. Rapson stated that once completed and the County's water supply capacity was determined the County would be in a position to sale the capacity it produced, which could in turn, become the revenue stream used to kick start to the private water systems acquisition and upgrade program.

Commissioner Rousseau stated as a point of clarification that the thirteen (13) private water systems consisted of golf courses as well as residential areas that were a part of private water systems. Commissioner Rousseau continued stating that he understood the challenges that the County would encounter being a public entity acquiring private systems. He stated that he also had concerns as it related to fire safety for the residents of the communities that utilize these private water systems. He stated that he also had concerns regarding how it would be determined which private water systems would receive upgrade priority. Commissioner Rousseau continued that as outlined by the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), if one of the private water systems failed, that system, if deemed unreparable, would be turned over to the County.

County Attorney Dennis Davenport concurred with Commissioner Rousseau statements, stating that the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) position was to have the local government jurisdiction assume control of a failed water system and Environmental Protection Division (EPD) would work collectively with the respective county in acquiring the system. Mr. Davenport added that Fayette County had experienced this type of situation in the late 1980's.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that in light of the real possibility of the potential responsibility of a failed system, he was in favor of the 250K per year seed money which would be allocated toward the establishment a future Capital Improvement Project to upgrade the private water systems.

Chairman Ognio stated that the Board had approved a method for the private water systems to have an emergency connection to the County's Water System, however none of the private water systems owners had taken advantage of the connection.

Mr. Rapson stated as an overview that the County had thirteen (13) private water systems these systems comprised of one golf course, four mobile home communities, six residential subdivisions, along with the City of Fayetteville and the Town of Brooks.

### **FY2021 Budget Highlights**

Ms. Weinmann stated that the County had no property tax increase while maintaining outstanding customer service. Ms. Weinmann stated that the General Fund impact from maintenance and operations was positive. She stated that the proposed Budget General Fund balance was \$255,167. The five (5) year Capital Improvement Project (CIP) was set aside in the General Fund at \$6,361,938. The budget continued to maintain the commitment to balance current year revenues with current year expenses. Ms. Weinmann stated that changes in personnel levels would protect the existing outstanding service delivery to our citizens. No vote was taken.

### **Upcoming public hearings for the budget:**

Ms. Weinmann reminded the Board that the Second Public Hearing – Budget Adoption was on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Ognio asked in light of a balanced budget, what was the projection for the mileage rate.

Ms. Weinmann stated that there was no property tax increase and a full mileage rate rollback.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Alice Jones expressed her appreciation for the recent peaceful protest organized by local youths in Fayette County. She stated that she was proud to see young people participate in a united movement that was structured, planned, and peaceful. Mrs. Jones acknowledged that the youth were the future and were working to encourage change as it related to injustice. She mentioned that she would be interested in the County developing a citizen advisory board. She concluded that she would like to receive a copy of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget to review.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

2. **Approval to renew an agreement between Fayette County and Georgia Emergency Management-Homeland Security as outlined in the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement.**
3. **Approval to send outdated Vehicle Extrication Equipment and Thermal Imaging Cameras to surplus for auction.**
4. **Approval of the May 28, 2020 Special Called Budget Presentation Meeting Minutes.**
5. **Approval of the May 28, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

6. **Consideration of a recommendation from the Selection Committee, comprised of Commissioners Charles Rousseau and Eric Maxwell, to reappoint Laura "Niki" Knox Vanderslice to the Fayette County Development Authority to fulfill a four-year term beginning April 10, 2020 and expiring April 9, 2024.**

Commissioner Rousseau moved to reappoint Laura "Niki" Knox Vanderslice to the Fayette County Development Authority to fulfill a four-year term beginning April 10, 2020 and expiring April 9, 2024. Commissioner Maxwell seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**7. Consideration of staff's request for Fayette County to receive a Federal Off-System Safety Program Grant in the award amount of \$333,333.00.**

Chairman Ognio expressed his appreciation to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve request for Fayette County to receive a Federal Off-System Safety Program Grant in the award amount of \$333,333.00. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**8. Consideration of staff's request to assume lease of raw land from Piedmont Fayette Hospital for tower located on this property as an integral part of the Fayette County Public Safety Radio System.**

911 Director Katye Vogt stated that Piedmont Fayette Hospital had extended to the County the opportunity to take over the lease for a radio tower located on Piedmont Fayette Hospital property. She stated that this tower was an integral part of the Fayette County Public Safety Radio System. She also stated that the tower was a key component in the new system being installed by EF Johnson.

Mrs. Vogt also stated that Piedmont Fayette Hospital has agreed to transfer the land lease from the previous tenant to Fayette County for an initial period of sixty (60) months with an option to extend, ensuring the continued availability of this tower. Mrs. Vogt stated that should the land lease expire, the existing tower must be removed from the site by the previous lessee, negatively impacting Public Safety radio reception in that area, particularly inside Piedmont Fayette Hospital itself. She stated that the potential loss of this tower posed a significant safety risk to personnel responding to calls in and around the hospital.

Mr. Rapson stated that this was a part of the radio system upgrade, and the County would have had to build a tower. Mr. Rapson continued stating that this would save the County about \$250,000.

Chairman Ognio expressed his appreciation for Piedmont Fayette Hospital.

Commissioner Gibbons moved to approve staff's request to assume lease of raw land from Piedmont Fayette Hospital for tower located on this property as an integral part of the Fayette County Public Safety Radio System. 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 Morris Lewis, for tax year 2017, in the amount of \$424.77.**

County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that this tax refund was requested by Morris Lewis on behalf of Lewis Industries Holdings, LLC. Mr. Davenport stated that Lewis Industries Holdings, LLC acquired property on Wagon Wheel Trail. Mr. Davenport stated that the property was subsequently split into two parcels, a 2.1-acre parcel and an 11.28-acre parcel. The subdivision was approved and recorded via plat in the Fayette County property records and the building permits were pulled in 2016 with the intent to build a residence on the 2.1-acre lot on Wagon Wheel Trail. He stated that the building permit was assigned an address. A residence was thereafter constructed on that property. Mr. Davenport stated that for tax year 2017 the residence was assessed for taxes at 19% complete, however that assessment was erroneously made on the vacant 11.28-acre parcel. He stated that in 2018 the assessors discovered a residence on 2.1-acre parcel. Mr. Davenport stated that the new discovery triggered the addition of a residence to the assessment of the 2.1-acre parcel beginning in 2018, however, the assessment of a residence on the vacant 11.28-acre parcel had also remained in place. Mr. Davenport stated that both parcels were assessed for the residence for tax year 2018 and 2019.

He stated that in March 2018 Lewis Industries Holdings, LLC sold the 2.1-acre parcel with the residence, to Ms. Sheryl Newman. The sale shifted the tax burden for 2.1-acre parcel to Ms. Newman beginning in 2019. Mr. Davenport stated that Mr. Lewis approached the assessors with questions as to the assessment of a residence on both the 2.1-acre parcels and the 11.28-acre parcel. Mr. Davenport stated that the tax assessors recognized the duplicate assessment for 2019 and adjusted the assessment for the 11.28-acre (the vacant parcel) to remove the residence. He stated that an error report was generated triggering the creation of a new bill for 2019 and in order to address the issue for 2017 and 2018, Mr. Lewis submitted a tax refund request on July 1, 2019 for these tax years. Mr. Davenport stated that in mid-July, the investigation of the circumstances surrounding this request caused the assessors to recall the file for further processing. He stated that no further action was requested on the file until May 8, 2020. Mr. Lewis made an inquiry as to the outstanding tax liability and refund status for the 11.28-acre parcel for 2017 and 2018. No tax bill was paid on 11.28-acre parcel (the vacant parcel) for 2018 so, no refund could be recommended. Mr. Davenport stated that to remedy the duplicate taxation for 2018, the Board of Assessors revisited the assessment of the 11.28-acre parcel (the vacant lot) for 2018. Mr. Davenport stated that that body recognized the duplicative tax and made an adjustment to remove the residence from the assessment of the 11.28-acre parcel (the vacant lot) for 2018. He stated that an error report was generated, and a corrected bill was issued for 2018 for the 11.28-acre parcel.

Mr. Davenport stated that the issue of an erroneous assessment of that residence, at 19% complete still remained on the 11.28-acre parcel for tax year 2017. He stated that at no time was any portion of a residence located on the 11.28-acre parcel. Mr. Davenport stated that Lewis Industries Holdings, LLC rendered full payment of the 2017 tax bill, including the partially completed residence (19%), on the 11.28-acre parcel. The error must be addressed through a refund request. Mr. Davenport stated that the 2018 tax bill for the 11.28-acre parcel had been revisited, revised and corrected for the 11.28-acre parcel. He stated that it is not eligible for a refund. Mr. Davenport stated that the refund request on the 11.28-acre parcel for 2018 was recommended for denial. Mr. Davenport stated however, that the refund requested for 2017 on the 11.28-acre parcel was recommended.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve a disposition of tax refund, as requested by Morris Lewis, for tax year 2017, in the amount of \$424.77. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**10. Consideration of staff's request to extend the temporary suspension an additional thirty-days due to the governor's Declaration of Public Health Emergency, which expires July 12, 2020.**

Water System Director Vanessa Tigert stated that this item was to extend the temporary suspension of water cut-off to residential accounts an additional thirty-days. Ms. Tigert stated that the additional thirty-days corresponded with the Governor's Declaration of Public Health Emergency extension, which expires July 12, 2020.

Commissioner Rousseau asked what impact had the temporary suspension to water cut-off had on the Water System operations.

Ms. Tigert stated that her office was reaching out to the customers whose service would have been disconnected to try and work with them regarding their delinquent account. She stated that there would be more cut-offs in the future than the County had experienced in the past.

Mr. Rapson stated that typically there were about 300 customers that were cut off monthly. He continued that once the extension was lifted that number could double. Mr. Rapson stated that this was in comparison to the almost 34,000 Water System customers the County had.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve request to extend the temporary suspension an additional thirty-days due to the governor's Declaration of Public Health Emergency, which expires July 12, 2020. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**11. Consideration of Commissioner Rousseau's request to send a resolution to the Senate in support of passing House Bill 426, a hate crime bill in the state of Georgia.**

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he offered this resolution suggestion before the Board in light of recent challenges experienced in the United States. Commissioner Rousseau stated that Georgia was one of only four states in the United States that did not have a hate crime bill. He stated that at the last Legislative Session House Bill 426 was introduced in the House, and ultimately went to the State Senate. Commissioner Rousseau stated that the Board had an opportunity to show support for a hate crime bill in the state of Georgia. Commissioner Rousseau stated that although House Bill 426 does include some core issues, he did feel at this critical time in history it would be important to show support to State Legislature in their efforts to establish a hate crime bill for Georgia. Commissioner Rousseau stated that he invited Former State Legislator Virgil Fludd to present information regarding House Bill 426. Commissioner Rousseau stated that Former State Legislator Virgil Fludd represented this community for over fourteen years and had proposed similar legislation during his tenure as a State Legislator.

Former State Legislator Virgil Fludd referenced the tragic, brutal, and unjust killing of Mr. George Floyd by former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. Mr. Fludd stated that former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin rested his knee on the neck of Mr. Floyd for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Mr. Fludd stated that Mr. Floyd along with bystanders repeated stated that he was unable to breath. He referenced the senseless and tragic death of Ms. Breonna Taylor whose life was cut short on March 13, 2020, after being shot eight times at her home by officers with the Louisville police department. Mr. Fludd relayed the horrific murder of Mr. Ahmaud Arbery, right here in Brunswick Georgia. He stated that Black Americans have a clear and present danger, which was the lack of justice. Mr. Fludd stated that all across this county instances like these continue to occur. Mr. Fludd stated that never had there been a greater time for Georgia to fight not just on the basis of injustice, but also against prejudice and racism by adopting House Bill 426. Mr. Fludd stated that it was amazing to see the hundreds of protest of people around the world of all races demanding reform. He acknowledged that there was no way to change the heart of individuals filled with hatred, however we could change the laws that provided hateful people the opportunity to act in despicable ways without fear of consequences. Mr. Fludd concluded stating that the time for change was now. He implored the Board to approve the resolution supporting House Bill 426.

State Representative Derrick Jackson stated that a hate crime bill would not eliminate hate, racism, misogyny or bigotry, however, a hate crime bill would communicate to society that hate, racism, misogyny or bigotry would not be tolerated. State Representative Jackson stated that with a hate crime bill, a precedent would be established that a crime against another citizen based on a bias was against the law. He stated that a hate crime was a violent or property crime such as "murder, arson, assault, and/or vandalism that was motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, etc." He provided an annual hate crime breakdown stating that 47% of hate crimes committed were based on race, 19% were based on sexual orientation, another 19% were based on religious reasons, 12% were based on ethnicity, 2% were based on gender identity, and another 2% were based on disability. He stated that 9 out of 10 hate crimes involved violence and in most cases the offender had a weapon. He reiterated that Georgia was one of only four other states with no hate crime bill. State Representative Jackson stated that House Bill 426 was not a perfect bill, but if passed the bill would have an opportunity to evolve. He humbly requested the Board to approve the resolution in support of House Bill 426.

Vice-Chairman Oddo stated that what happened in Minnesota was despicable and horrific and would be deemed a crime with or without a hate bill. Vice-Chairman Oddo expressed his concerns on if and how a hate crime was defined within the bill and stated that he had concerns regarding the language. He stated that he had concerns regarding voting on legislature that could not be upheld in court. He stated that he recognized that there was issues but hesitated on voting so quickly on situations without researching all the details.

State Representative Jackson stated that the bill followed the parameters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) definition of a hate crime.

Commissioner Gibbons stated that the House Bill 426 was very clear in defining what constituted a hate crime. Commissioner Gibbons stated that as a veteran he did not serve for there to be different types of justice for the people he worked to defend.

Commissioner Maxwell stated that he did take the time to read and review House Bill 426 along with the prior version. He continued that he also read articles which noted that Governor Kemp said he “would sign off on House Bill 426 if it was passed in the Senate”. Commissioner Maxwell stated that he did have concerns and asked State Representative Jackson how the local delegation voted on House Bill 426. He expressed that he also had concerns regarding the language of the bill. Commissioner Maxwell stated that he felt the Board should “stay in there lane” and not be telling the State Legislature what to do. He stated his concern as to why some of the local delegation would vote in opposition to a hate crime bill. Commissioner Maxwell stated that he was absolutely disgusted by what happened in South Georgia to Ahmaud Arbery and he wants instances like this to stop.

State Representative Jackson humbly asked the Board to remain consistent and to remember that regardless of how the local delegation voted, the responsibility of the Board was to vote on the behalf of all the citizens of Fayette County.

Chairman Ognio stated that he felt that House Bill 426 was not ready. He stated that this legislation would not eliminate hate. Chairman Ognio stated that he does not promote hate and felt that the incidents that had occurred were horrific. He stated that he had major concerns as to how the House Bill 426 would be enforced. He expressed that he also had concerns regarding the language of the bill. Chairman Ognio stated that he felt that House Bill 426 was incomplete and should not be supported in its current form. He stated that he also had concerns regarding the recent shift in treatment towards law enforcement officers.

Vice-Chairman Oddo stated that he would vote in favor of this resolution but added the he would prefer the vote be towards a resolution against hate crimes as opposed to House Bill 426, because he had reservation regarding it.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he was cognizant that this resolution could cause a degree of controversy. He added that his intend was not to cause anyone to be uncomfortable but knew it was a conversation that needed to be breached and discussed. Commissioner Rousseau stated that the goal of this resolution was to work towards ending hate and to establish reasonable safeguards in line with that goal. He stated that he was in 100% in agreement with Commissioner Maxwell, in that, the Board should stay out of politics, however in regards to this critical issue, regarding hate, racism, and injustice, the timing was right and the time was now. Commissioner Rousseau stated that the police are an essential role towards the vitality and health of the community, and he acknowledged his support for law enforcement. He continued that with his support he also held law enforcement officers accountable as good stewards in the community. Commissioner Rousseau commended Sheriff Barry Babb and his Department regarding an incident were officers were able to deescalate a situation handling it with professionalism and dignity and resulted with no loss of life. He stated that he would agree that House Bill 426 was not the best, but stated that it was a starting point in the right direction.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve that the Board send a resolution to the Senate in support of passing House Bill 426, a hate crime bill in the state of Georgia. Commissioner Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 4-1, with Chairman Ognio voting in opposition.

**12. Consideration of Chairman Randy Ognio's request to provide two (2) annual free park passes each calendar year to corporate business owners whose business is located within Fayette County.**

Parks and Recreation Director Anita Godbee stated that in 2015, a system began at the Water Reservoirs for daily parking passes, corporate parking passes, and annual parking passes for those individuals who did not reside within Fayette County. Mrs. Godbee stated that the \$5 daily pass system was in place for any non-resident who wished to visit the water reservoirs just for the day. Mrs. Godbee stated that the corporate pass was \$1.00 but was only good for the years listed on the pass (i.e. 2020 and 2021) and was only active from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. She



stated that the annual pass was \$50 and was good for the calendar year, the annual pass was good for any time the water reservoirs were open. Mrs. Godbee stated that in an effort to provide local business owners access to the water reservoirs after 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and on the weekends, a recommendation is being made to provide 2 (two) free annual passes per calendar year. She stated that local business owners would be required to complete an application prior to obtaining the 2 (two) free passes.

Commissioner Gibbons asked if these passes would be transferable to the business employees.

Mrs. Godbee replied, "No." The passes would be fixed to the vehicle associated with the local business owner and correspond with the vehicle tag number.

Vice-Chairman Oddo moved to Chairman Randy Ognio's request to provide two (2) annual free park passes each calendar year to corporate business owners whose business is located within Fayette County. 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 Fire Stations #2 and #4, the intersection at SR 92/Veterans Parkway/Westbridge Road project, the Dogwood Trail culvert replacement project, and the Kenwood Road culvert replacement project. Mr. Rapson stated that the "Hot Project" report also included a transportation project summary provided by the Transportation Committee which was a snapshot of the statuses of the top twelve project on-going with the County.

#### **Protest/Marches**

Mr. Rapson advised the Board that there was two protest scheduled for Friday June 12, 2020 within Fayette County; one was scheduled for 2:30 p.m. and the second was scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

#### **COVID-19 Testing**

Mr. Rapson stated that the Fayette County Health Department would be conducting COVID-19 testing. Mr. Rapson stated that the tentative start date was June 23, 2020, once finalize a Press Release would go out.

#### **McIntosh Trail Board**

Mr. Rapson advised that Board that the he needed a volunteer to serve on the McIntosh Trail Board. Mr. Rapson stated that he would forward the McIntosh Trail Board Meeting information and would await a Board volunteer once availability is determined.

#### **ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:** None

#### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

##### **Commissioner Maxwell**

Commissioner Maxwell expressed his understanding towards Chairman Ognio over his recent loss in the past election. He continued that he understood the feeling and had sat in that seat in the past. Commissioner Maxwell stated that defeat was a hard pill to swallow. He stated that he appreciated Chairman Ognio for all his hard work and dedication to the job. Commissioner Maxwell thanked him for his service and suggested he enjoy his new found freedom. He wished Vice-Chairman the best in his election in November.

**Vice-Chairman Oddo**

Vice-Chairman Oddo also expressed his appreciation for Chairman Ognio. He stated that he was honored to have worked with Chairman Ognio over the years in spite of not always agreeing they were always able to productively work together. Vice-Chairman Oddo stated that he was honored to be able to call Chairman Ognio a friend.

He expressed his appreciation to the Election Office for a job well job during the recent election.

**Commissioner Rousseau**

Commissioner Rousseau reiterated the sentiments of his colleagues regarding Chairman Ognio. He stated that over the years Chairman Ognio had "grown on him" in a good way. Commissioner Rousseau stated that he valued the fact that Chairman Ognio said "what he meant and meant what he said" and was willing to make tough decision on tough issues.

Commissioner Rousseau asked in reference to the upcoming election and potential resurge of the COVID-19 virus, if the Elections Office was prepared to offer appropriate compensation to entice and keep poll-workers.

Commissioner Rousseau also asked about home-delivered meal and if preparation where in place for an up-tick in requests.

Commissioner Rousseau expressed his appreciation for his colleagues even in light of uncomfortable conversations and dialogue. Commissioner Rousseau stated that he valued and supported law enforcement personnel acknowledging their importance in the community, but stated that he would also hold them accountable when they made a mistake.

**Chairman Ognio**

Chairman Ognio expressed his sympathy for his uncle L. C. Cole who had recently passed away.

Chairman Ognio wished his father-in-law a Happy Birthday.

Chairman Ognio expressed his condolences to the family of Councilman Ken Matthew with the town of Tyrone.

Chairman Ognio reminded Fayette County citizens to participate in the 2020 Census.

Chairman Ognio thanked the poll-workers, volunteers, and Board of Election who did an excellent job in spite of man challenges with the recent election.

Chairman Ognio stated that he was proud of what he had accomplished since becoming as a member of the Board of Commissioners. He thanked his fellow Commissioners for giving him the opportunity to Chair the Board over the past year and a half. He thanked the citizens who voted for him and his family who supported him over the years. He stated that he was still in office for another six month and that there was still work to be done and he was committed to working hard for Fayette County citizens.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The June 11, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

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Marlena Edwards, Deputy County Clerk