

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Lee Hearn, Chairman
Edward Gibbons, Vice Chairman
Eric K. Maxwell
Charles W. Oddo
Charles D. Rousseau



FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

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

140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

MINUTES

February 11, 2021
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 Lee Hearn called the February 11, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present. Commissioner Edward Gibbons and Commissioner Charles Rousseau attended the meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams as allowed during the pandemic.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Charles Oddo

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

Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Charles Oddo moved to accept the agenda as written. Commissioner Eric Maxwell seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:

- 1. Presentation by the Fayette Fire Foundation of 156 Snagger Tools to equip all members of Fire & Emergency Services operations division with issued personal safety equipment.**

Fayette County Fire Chief Jeffery Hill introduced Mike Hofrichter, Vice Chairman of the Fayette Fire Foundation. Mr. Hofrichter stated that the Fayette Fire Foundation (FFF) continuously looked for ways to support the Department of Fire and Emergency Services through donations of equipment and scholarship opportunities for the department and community. Chief Hill presented a "Snagger Tool" video to the Board, which highlighted a variety of ways that The Snagger Tool would assist firefighters during fireground operations. Chief Hill and members of the Fayette Fire Foundation (FFF) presented the Snagger Tool to Fire/EMS members.

- 2. Presentation by Fayette County's auditing firm, Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC, of the results of the Fiscal Year 2020 annual audit.**

Gregory Chapman with Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC, Fayette County's auditing firm provided the Board with the results of the Fiscal Year 2020 annual audit. Mr. Chapman advised the Board that Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC had recently opened a local branch, and was now a local firm serving Fayette County. He stated that the firm was appreciative of the County selecting them to perform the audit. Mr. Chapman stated that the responsibility of the audit was to render an opinion on the financial statements as a whole, in accordance with Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and Government Auditing Standards (GAS). The objective was to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the basic

financial statements are free from material misstatement. He stated that Nichols, Cauley and Associates does review and consider the internal control structure of the County in rendering their opinion, but do not render an opinion of 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). Mr. Chapman stated that as far as required communications a letter was issued that itemized a complete list of the communications. Mr. Chapman stated as a highlight from the letter the financial statements included the accounting policies used by the County which were described in Note One (1). He added that the County was in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and similar government organizations. He stated that Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC also reviewed the accounting estimates to ensure they were reasonably stated and upon review, no problems were noted. Mr. Chapman stated that in addition, upon review of the Financial Statement Disclosures, no problems were noted. Mr. Chapman continued in discussing required communications stating that as it related to the relationship with management, they received full cooperation from the County's management, staff, and others. He stated that there were no disagreements with management on accounting issues or financial reporting matters. Mr. Chapman stated that there was an audit adjustment proposed to the records of the County and had been recorded in the County's financial statements. He stated that the adjustment was not due to an error but came to light after the closure of the year and was a sales tax adjustment for a refund for prior years. He stated that there were no passed audit adjustments. Mr. Chapman stated that as a part of the audit they do get representations from management, where they requested, and received, written representations from management relating to the accuracy of information included in the financial statements and the completeness and accuracy of various information requested. Mr. Chapman stated that 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 & Associates, LLC was independent with regard to the County and its financial reporting process. Mr. Chapman briefly outlined the financial highlights discussing various trends as it related to property tax, Local Occupational Sales Tax (L.O.S.T) and the millage rate.

County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that a letter with the audit findings/suggestions have been placed in each of the Commissioners mailboxes for review. Mr. Rapson acknowledged that this was the seventh year the County received a "clean" audit. He stated that although this audit report was relatively boring, that's exactly what you would want to receive from an audit. Mr. Rapson extended his appreciation for the finance office and commended all the departments involved in the audit for their cooperation and assistance.

Chairman Hearn extended his appreciation for staff and the constitutional officers for their help.

PUBLIC HEARING:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tom Waller stated that his grandfather built Starr's Mill and requested that the "Starr's Mill" sign be put back on the building.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

3. **Approval of Water Committee recommendation to approve the amendment to the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) Memorandum of Agreement for the single-family toilet rebate program rebate structure change and approval for the Chairman to sign the related document.**
4. **Approval of Water Committee recommendation to approve the amendment to the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) Memorandum of Agreement for the multi-family toilet rebate program rebate structure change and approval for the Chairman to sign the related document.**

5. Approval of the January 28, 2021 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Consideration of staff's recommendation to appoint Zulema Green to the Fayette County Library Board for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2025.

Commissioner Oddo moved to approve to appoint Zulema Green to the Fayette County Library Board for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2025. Commissioner Maxwell seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

7. Consideration of staff's recommendation to appoint Valerie Mallon to the Fayette County Library Board for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2025.

Commissioner Oddo moved to approve to appoint Valerie Mallon to the Fayette County Library Board for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2025. Commissioner Maxwell seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

8. Consideration of staff's recommendation to approve Task Order 2 for Contract #1825-B, Annual Contract for Waterline Extensions for Fiscal Year 2021, to allow Shockley Plumbing to proceed with the Veteran's Parkway water main extension, with a not-to-exceed price of \$471,050.

Fayette County Water Systems Director Vanessa Tigert stated that The Veterans Parkway loop was the completion of approximately 3285 linear feet of 16" ductile iron pipe (DIP) water main and appurtenances, which would run south along Veteran's Parkway from State Route 54 to Georgia Military College. Ms. Tigert stated that this project would provide better redundancy for water service for Piedmont Fayette Hospital when they develop the infrastructure for the proposed entrance off Veteran's Parkway.

Chairman Hearn stated that Shockley Plumbing had a good history of working with the County.

Ms. Tigert stated that was correct.

Commissioner Rousseau asked how far away the City of Fayetteville's water lines would be from the project.

Ms. Tigert stated that this would be in the City of Fayetteville.

Commissioner Oddo moved to approve Task Order 2 for Contract #1825-B, Annual Contract for Waterline Extensions for Fiscal Year 2021, to allow Shockley Plumbing to proceed with the Veteran's Parkway water main extension, with a not-to-exceed price of \$471,050. Commissioner Maxwell 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 highlighted the Kenwood Road culvert replacement, Mercedes Trail culvert replacement, and Fire Station #2, and Starr's Mill Tunnel path. Mr. Rapson also advised that an email was sent to the Board regarding the State Board of Elections findings. He added that as updates were received, they would be forwarded to the Board as well.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated there were three items for executive session. There was one item of threatened litigation, one item of real estate acquisition, and the review of the January 28, 2021 Executive Session Minutes for consideration in Executive Session.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Commissioner Oddo:

Commissioner Oddo thanked staff for another clean audit, he noted that "it's really easy to discuss but not easy to do". He extended his kudos to staff for their hard work. Commissioner Oddo also stated that the firm that performed the audit underwent peer reviews, ensuring they "stay on their toes" proving they provide quality service.

Vice Chairman Gibbons:

Commissioner Gibbons apologized for his physical absence but stated he had family matters to tend to. He also thanked staff for a great job preparing the audit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

One item of threatened litigation, one item of real estate acquisition, and the review of the January 28, 2021 Executive Session Minutes for consideration in Executive Session. Commissioner Oddo moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Maxwell seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 7:23 p.m.

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

Approval of the January 28, 2021 Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner Oddo moved to approve the January 14, 2021 Executive Session Minutes. Commissioner Maxwell seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Oddo moved to adjourn the February 11, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Maxwell seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

The February 11, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Marlena M. Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk

Lee Hearn, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 25th day of February 2021. Documents are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Marlena M. Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk