

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

June 8, 2023

5:00 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 5:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairman Lee Hearn called the June 8, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present. Commissioner Charles Rousseau was absent.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Chairman Lee Hearn

Chairman Lee Hearn offered the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Charles Oddo moved to accept the agenda as written. Vice Chairman Edward Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:

1. Presentation by Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) - Creating One Great Region Together.

Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Director, Anna Roach, provided the Board a brief overview of the ARC - *Creating One Great Region Together*. Ms. Roach thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak with them and to the constituents of Fayette County. Ms. Roach acknowledged the Fayette County representatives that sat on the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) these individuals were the voice of the County; Chairman Lee Hearn, Mayor Edward Johnson, and Bob Reeves. Ms. Roach stated that Fayette County was a vital partner for ARC. She stated that the objective and goal of ARC was to enhance quality of life, spark economic development in the communities, and to "be One Great Region." Ms. Roach stated that the vision of creating *One Great Region Together* was adopted by the Board in early 2023. She stated that for the purpose of this presentation the focus was on one of the biggest challenges throughout the region which was transportation. She advised that ARC was conducting a four-year update to the long-range regional transportation plan through 2050. Ms. Roach stated that this plan held a great deal of promise for shaping Fayette County and the rest of the region for decades to come. Ms. Roach briefly reviewed how the ARC was impacting the lives of constituents of Fayette County. She stated that the ARC was established via the Georgia Planning Act in the principal role of supporting local communities with community planning. She noted that over the years that principal role expanded beyond that initial state designation, and now included the ARC being the federal transportation planning agency for the region, engaging in community development through the economic development agency via the federal government, and so many more responsibilities. She stated that although this was a broad scope of responsibilities, they were all intertwined. Ms. Roach stated that through these roles ARC has had a direct impact in Fayette County. This was seen in the allocation of over \$4M via federal and state transportation funds, and over \$600K investment for older adult services, and three grant awards to Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) communities. Ms. Roach reminded the Board that the ARC was conducting an update to its long-

range regional transportation plan through 2050. This plan was called the Metropolitan Participation Plan (MTP). At stake in this plan was \$173B worth of resources that would flow through the ARC to communities across the region. She encouraged the Board as well as citizens to participate in the ARC's Metropolitan Participation Plan (MTP) by filling out the online survey and provide input. She provided a brief overview of potential project envisioned by the ARC for Fayette County. In conclusion, she stated that the goal of the ARC was to promote healthy communities, make strategic investment, foster a competitive economy, and encourage diverse stakeholder participation. She encouraged participation in the Metropolitan Participation Plan (MTP) by filling out the online survey. Ms. Roach stated the ARC "did not want to create the plan in a bubble" but it was their goal to get community involvement and input.

PUBLIC HEARING:

2. First of two Public Hearings on Fayette County's proposed annual budget for Fiscal Year 2024 which begins on July 1, 2023 and ends June 30, 2024.

Chief Financial Officer Sheryl Weinmann presented an overview of the proposed FY2024 Budget. She stated that the Board had already seen some of the slides being outlined in previous Budget presentations. In review of the General Fund Balance financial projections, she stated that the projected total Fund Balance would be \$32.6M. Ms. Weinmann stated that this amount included the CIP for next year FY2024, as well as Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$18.7M, leaving the unassigned fund with \$4.7M. In reviewing the Budget Summary, the positive impact for the General Fund was \$395,123. Ms. Weinmann stated that as a part of the previous Budget presentation and included in the budget were the following three items that staff needed the Board to vote on individually.

Ms. Weinman stated that the first item was regarding Constitutional Officers. Included in the budget was a 12.5% increase for the four constitutional officers, as outlined in the presentation. This included a state funded supplement for \$5K that Constitutional Officers received on January 1, 2023. Ms. Weinman stated that the proposed amounts that would bring each Constitutional Officer to the 12.5% was noted in the presentation and would total \$49,873.14. She noted that this does not include the proposed increase they would receive from the state on January 1, 2024 in the amount of \$2K.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve budget discussion Item #1: Constitutional Officers. Commissioner Oddo seconded.

Commissioner Oddo asked why this was being voted on separately from the budget and not merely included in the budget.

Ms. Weinmann stated that these items were included in the budget. These items were brought up in discussion at the Retreat but were not a part of the original discussion regarding the 12.5% increase. Based on the Board request from Retreat this was being brought before the Board consideration.

Mr. Rapson added that based on his position as County Administrator he could only make recommendation regarding County employees, he could not make recommendation for adjustments or supplements for elected or constitutional officers. He stated that based on direction received at Retreat that was why these items was before the Board.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve budget discussion Item #1: Constitutional Officers. Commissioner Oddo seconded the motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

Ms. Weinman stated that the second item was regarding the Magistrate Court. She stated that the 12.5% increase was included in the budget, however staff wanted to present it before the Board for approval. The total amount for these increases was \$10,364.08.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve budget discussion Item #2: Magistrate Court. Commissioner Oddo seconded.

Commissioner Oddo asked again why this was being voted on separately from the budget and not merely included in the budget.

Ms. Weinman reiterated previous comments. She noted that based on the Board request from Retreat this was being brought before the Board for consideration. She stated that staff did not have the authority to include these items in the budget and that it had to be voted on by the Board of Commissioners.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve budget discussion Item #2: Magistrate Court. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

Ms. Weinman stated that the third item was regarding the Griffin Judicial Circuit and was a little more complicated. She stated that, as depicted in the presentation, the 12.5% increase was for both Superior Court and Juvenile Court and included increases for Judges and staff. Ms. Weinmann stated that each county that participated in the circuit would have a contribution increase based on the 12.5% increase. Fayette County's annual allocation would increase by \$40K. The total Griffin Judicial Circuit increase would be \$104K. She noted that while this was included in the budget, until approval was received by the remaining counties, this increase would be pending. And depending on when those approvals are received, this increase may have a different implementation date.

Chairman Hearn asked if staff had touched base with the other Griffin Judicial Circuit counties regarding this increase.

Mr. Rapson stated that he had been in contact and working with Will Simmons who was the Court Administrator for the Griffin Judicial Circuit. He added that he had received tentative agreement from Upson County but was still working with Pike and Spauling counties. Mr. Rapson stated that Mr. Simmons was aware that the trigger date for this increase was July 1 if agreements were received prior to that date. Otherwise, it would be approved whenever we received the remaining counties' approvals.

Commissioner Oddo moved to approve budget discussion Item #3: Griffin Judicial Circuit. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

Ms. Weinman stated that was the last item that needed to be discussed and because these were already included in the proposed budget there would not be any changes.

Ms. Weinmann concluded the presentation with the following budget highlights:

- No Millage Rate Change – Requires Advertising as Property Tax Increase
- General Fund impact from maintenance & operations is positive.
- Proposed Budget increases General Fund Balance \$394,123
- Funds Rolling 5 Year Capital Improvement Program of \$6,975,732
- Changes in Personnel levels protect the existing outstanding service delivery to our citizens
- Budget continues to maintain the commitment to balance current year revenues with current year expenses.
- Maintains Employee Benefits – Medical/Dental/Vision & Retirement
- County-Wide departmental cooperation continues to yield positive results.

The second public hearing and budget adoption will be held Thursday, June 22, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roy Bishop of Fayetteville expressed his concern regarding seeing an increased number of black garbage bags being dumped along the side of the road. He noted that the garbage dumping increased coincidentally with fee increase at the transfer station. He asked if this could be looked at.

The following citizens made comments about the Rick Ross rodeo/car show in their community: Dorothy Herring, Alpha Bryan, Alice Jones, Johnnie Jones, Representative Debra Bazemore, Mimi Phillips, Mike King.

Residents expressed their appreciation to the County and the event planning staff for improvements made from last year's event. Residents stated that there were still concerns regarding traffic control/safety and felt that this event disrupted their quality of life.

Residents stated that they resented having to present a permit to gain access to their homes/property where they pay taxes. Residents expressed concerns regarding noise pollution due to the "rap concert". Residents reiterated their request for the car show to be held at a different location, if requested in the future.

State Representative Debra Bazemore stated that she represented the constituents in the area where this event was held. She expressed her appreciation for the county staff regarding the meetings and discussions that were had with Mr. Ross' team in preparation of this event. Representative Bazemore suggested starting preparation for this event for next year earlier. She stated from her review of the aftermath of this event, there was need for improvement. She specifically mentioned trash being left all over Old National Highway/ Highway 279. She expressed her appreciation of coordination and collaboration of law enforcement, public safety, and other departments. She stated that it was her goal to have a meeting with Mr. Ross regarding being a good neighbor and being respectful of the community. She concluded that she was willing and ready to provide her assistance whenever needed.

Michael King event planner for the Rick Ross event thanked the County and public safety staff for their assistance in providing guidance and direction in working through this event. He also thanked community neighbors for their input. Mr. King provided the Board a brief overview of the event successes and shortcomings outlining things that happened that they had not considered, such as residents making copies of the car permits and charging for golf cart rides. He also apologized for the temporary power outage prior to the event caused a mishap with a power pole. Mr. King stated that his team put forth every effort to ensure the community safety and that they adhered to County guidance. He stated that his team did learn from this event and would implement changes if this event was granted next year. He noted that as promised in initial meetings with the community, he did follow through and was present at this meeting after the event.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

3. **Approval of a Property Owner Marker Easement Agreement to place a historical marker for Fayette County native Nellie Mae Rowe at Heritage Park.**
4. **Approval of the May 25, 2023 Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting Minutes.**
5. **Approval of the May 25, 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.**

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

6. **Request to approve an Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration to accept a \$312,000 grant from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation under the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program.**

Fayette County Transportation Engineer, Paola Kimbell, advised the Board that this request was seeking approval to enter an official agreement with the Federal Highway Administration, under the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program. She stated that the grant was in the amount of \$312,000, with a local match of \$78,000 funded via the 2023 SPLOST.

Chairman Hearn asked how the funds would be used.

Ms. Kimbell stated that these funds would be used to develop and complete a safety action plan, analyzing past motor vehicle crashes, hot spots, etc. This plan supported the initiative to prevent death and serious injuries throughout all the roads in Fayette County. Ms. Kimbell noted that the safety action plan should be completed within 24-months.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve an Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration to accept a \$312,000 grant from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation under the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. Commissioner Oddo seconded.

Commissioner Oddo asked what the next steps were once the action plan was completed.

Ms. Kimbell stated the once completed the action plan would be used to seek additional grant funding to implement plan findings such as intersection improvements, path development and others.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve an Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration to accept a \$312,000 grant from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation under the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

7. Request to accept the Temporary Construction Easement between Fayette County and the City of Peachtree City to construct the potable water distribution line connection to Coweta County Water and Sewerage Authority.

Water System Director Vanessa Tigert stated that this request was a housekeeping item and the last step needed before construction began on the potable water distribution line connection to Coweta County Water and Sewerage Authority. She stated that on June 1, 2023 the City of Peachtree City Council approved the temporary easement to Fayette County which would allow for boring under Wynnmead Road, without inhibiting any traffic.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve to accept the Temporary Construction Easement between Fayette County and the City of Peachtree City to construct the potable water distribution line connection to Coweta County Water and Sewerage Authority. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

8. Request to award Contract #2232-S; Siemens Industry, Inc. for the maintenance of the building automation equipment and software within the Justice Center, Jail, Jail Annex, Sheriff's Office and the Library for a three (3) year period in the total amount of \$226,654.

County Administrator, Steve Rapson, stated that this item was seeking approval to award the Siemens Industry, Inc, contract. This contract was in the amount of \$226,654 and was for the maintenance of the building automation equipment and software within the Justice Center, Jail, Jail Annex, Sheriff's Office and the Library for a three (3) year period.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve to award Contract #2232-S; Siemens Industry, Inc. for the maintenance of the building automation equipment and software within the Justice Center, Jail, Jail Annex, Sheriff's Office and the Library for a three (3) year period in the total amount of \$226,654. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau seconded.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

A: Contract #2245-S: grounding & Lightning Protection – Consultant

Hospital Authority Selection Committee

Mr. Rapson stated that he needed a selection committee for the Hospital Authority position.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to appoint Chairman Hearn and Commissioner Maxwell to serve on the Hospital Authority Selection Committee. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

Hot Projects

Mr. Rapson stated that the Hot Projects report was forwarded to the Board and included updates on the Redwine Road multi-use path, Inman Road culvert replacement, Redwine Road/Bernhard Road/Peachtree Parkway roundabout, Parks and Recreation multi-use facility, and the Elections building renovation.

Rick Ross Rodeo/Car Show After-Action Meeting

Mr. Rapson stated that there would be an after-action meeting regarding the Rick Ross Rodeo/Car Show held on Friday, June 9, 2023 at 10 a.m. in the Commission Chambers.

Chairman Hearn stated that from the reports he'd received, the event was much smoother this year with less hiccups. He acknowledged there were some traffic concerns but noted that was expected with an event of the size. He commended staff for their efforts in working through this event.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that there were four items for Executive Session. One item of real estate acquisition, two items involving pending litigation and the review of the May 25, 2023 Executive Session Minutes.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Commissioner Maxwell

Commissioner Maxwell in response to citizen comments regarding trash dumping, stated that there were no longer any inmate clean-up details.

Mr. Rapson stated that he made notes of trash dumping concerns and had just executed a contract that would be used to hire additional seasonal staff to target the area previously serviced by the inmate crews.

Commissioner Maxwell in response to comments regarding the rodeo/car show event, stated that he was on the citizens' side and wanted to do all he could to have the issue regarding the rodeo/car show resolved. He continued that he surprisingly received zero emails after the event, which indicated to him that the event was managed a lot better this year. He noted that if there was a request for this event next year the Board would be in anticipation of it and welcomed community input and suggestions. Commissioner Maxwell commended both the event organizer and County staff for their coordination of the event.

Vice Chairman Gibbons

Vice Chairman Gibbons reminded those in attendance that last Monday was the 69th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion, which was a very important day in American history and started the liberation of Europe.

Vice Chairman also gave a shot out to the Roads Department for a job well done in maintaining Fayette County roadways. Vice Chairman Gibbons concluded that when it came to how he approached local government and taking care of every citizen in the County, "he did not need any help in doing so, from the State Capital". He continued that "if a representative from the State Capital wanted to come in and observe a meeting, he felt that was great, however he did not need anyone telling him how to do their job". He stated that he did not appreciate past comments made to him by Representative Jackson and felt confident in the ability of his fellow colleagues on the Board as well as staff to care for the needs of the Fayette County citizens, and if that was not the case advised, "don't vote for us".

Commissioner Oddo

Commissioner Oddo advised all in attendance that Wednesday, June 14, 2023, was Flag Day. He noted that the flag was an important symbol and although it was a less popular day, it should be recognized for its importance. He encouraged those in attendance to put their flags out in recognition of Flag Day.

Chairman Hearn

Chairman Hearn expressed his kudos to staff for their due diligence and efforts put forth in working through the Rick Ross event. He stated that he felt there had been a lot of improvement made from last years event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

One item of real estate acquisition, two items involving pending litigation and the review of the May 25, 2023 Executive Session Minutes. Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Oddo Commissioner seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 6:18 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 6:43 p.m.

Return to Official Session and Approval to Sign the Executive Session Affidavit: Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to return to Official Session and for the Chairman to sign the Executive Session Affidavit. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

Approval of the May 25, 2023 Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner Oddo moved to approve May 25, 2023 Executive Session Minutes. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to adjourn the June 8, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

The June 8, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 6:44 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 22nd day of June 2023. Attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Marlena Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk