

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 Special Called Meeting

November 20, 2023
2:00 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 November 20, 2023 Special Called Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
A quorum of the Board was present. Commissioner Charles Rousseau was absent.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Acceptance of Agenda

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Request to redirect \$610,663 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds awarded in CY2023 from audio-visual modernization for the Griffin Judicial Circuit Fayette County court rooms to CY2024 for the funding of personnel and expenses to address the backlogs of court cases in the circuit.**

County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that this agenda item was to redirect the \$610,663 from the audio-visual project at the Justice Center, to the continued backlog issues at the Justice Center. Based on feedback of the grant request, staff was not optimistic about receiving the grant funds.

Judge Fletcher Sams stated that every circuit "quadrupled" their request for funds during the application process and so we would only receive 80% - 81% of the request of the ARPA funds. He stated that he was asking to redirect the funds to personnel, to maintain the staffing. He stated that the \$610,663 would allow him to keep six positions for 2024 and 2025.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve to redirect \$610,663 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds awarded in CY2023 from audio-visual modernization for the Griffin Judicial Circuit Fayette County court rooms to CY2024 for the funding of personnel and expenses to address the backlogs of court cases in the circuit. Commissioner Oddo seconded.

Commissioner Maxwell inquired about the audio-visual project.

Mr. Rapson stated that at the last commission meeting, funds were redirected to pay for the audio-visual project. It is moving forward.

Commissioner Maxwell stated that he had spoke with Judge Sams regarding the fact that this was a sole source bidded project and that Judge Sams informed him that there may be some issues.

Mr. Rapson stated that the County provided a sole source justification letter and sent it to Judge Sams, who sent it off and was told it was fine. He stated that as more people entered the process, it was “kicked to a higher level” and we were then told that this would not be accepted if it did not go through the federal procurement process. He stated that while the County had a sole source justification and that the sole source was approved, the County was put on notice that they had changed their minds about allowing the sole source.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to approve to redirect \$610,663 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds awarded in CY2023 from audio-visual modernization for the Griffin Judicial Circuit Fayette County court rooms to CY2024 for the funding of personnel and expenses to address the backlogs of court cases in the circuit. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

ATTORNEY’S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that there were three items for Executive Session. One item involving threatened litigation and the review of the October 26, 2023 and November 9, 2023 Executive Session Minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

One item involving threatened litigation and the review of the October 26, 2023 and November 9, 2023 Executive Session Minutes. Commissioner Oddo moved to go into Executive Session. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 2:07 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 2:17 p.m.

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

Approval of the October 26, 2023 Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner Oddo moved to approve October 26, 2023 Executive Session Minutes. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

Approval of the November 9, 2023 Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner Oddo moved to approve November 9, 2023 Executive Session Minutes. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to adjourn the November 20, 2023 Special Called meeting. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Rousseau was absent.

The November 20, 2023 Special Called meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Tameca P. Smith, 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 14th day of December 2023. Attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk’s Office.