

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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



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

April 23, 2024

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.

OFFICIAL SESSION:

Call to Order

Chairman Lee Hearn called the April 23, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present. Vice Chairman Edward Gibbons was absent.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Charles Oddo

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

Acceptance of Agenda

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

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:

PUBLIC HEARING:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The following residents made comments during public comments: Abriel (last name not provided), Taryn Prestidge, Elodie Prestidge, Laura Line, Cassier Reiss, Victoria Trevillian, Jenefer Alvarez, Stacia Godwin, Darby Alvarez, Joel Harrelson, Rick DeLoach, Debbie Carroll, Suzanne Aaron, Mary Ellen Willey, Anne Wittenburg, Rae Sansom, Stephanie Cohran, Vanessa Parker, Kate Osborn, Cynthia Saracino, Tami Hurst, Gail Drouillard, and Paul Austin.

Comments included concerns and frustration regarding the new animal shelter. Citizens expressed their disappointment with the size of the kennels, the lack of outdoor space/runs, the lack of appropriate shade, lessened interest in the care of the cats, lack of community input, insufficient use of funds, and lack of strategic design of the facility.

One Citizen also expressed his concern regarding being a concession vendor at the parks with the local sports associations and access to information regarding the process to do so.

Mr. Rapson stated that staff had met with Mr. Austin explaining the process for becoming a concession vendor with the local sport association. He noted that Mr. Austin did not agree with the answers provided. Mr. Rapson stated that staff would continue to provide guidance and assist Mr. Austin in any way possible.

Mr. Rapson stated that during public comment he wrote down 23 animal shelter improvement suggestions. He stated that it was his goal to do better and incorporate these suggestions to find solutions. Mr. Rapson noted that as soon as he was aware of the concerns and issues at the animal shelter, he began looking for ways to rectify the problems. He openly acknowledged the need for changes and stated that he was willing to accept input from subject matter experts regarding the animal shelter facility's design. His goal was to have an efficient animal shelter that represented Fayette County well.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. **Approval to purchase Nutanix server and storage main computing infrastructure package from reseller CDWG for a total invoice amount of \$189,316.06.**
2. **Approval to purchase a Ventrac 4500 series slope mower in the amount of \$40,525 for replacement of Kut-Kwick slope master.**
3. **Approval of the April 11, 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.**

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

4. **Request to approve the Parks and Recreation Selection Committee's recommendation to appoint Kynthia Gaines to the Recreation Commission for a term beginning April 1, 2024 and expiring March 31, 2028.**

Parks and Recreation Director Anita Godbee stated that after going through the interview process, the Selection Committee recommended the appointment of Kynthia Gaines to the Recreation Commission. She stated that the selection committee felt Ms. Gaines would bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and excitement to the Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Maxwell moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Selection Committee's recommendation to appoint Kynthia Gaines to the Recreation Commission for a term beginning April 1, 2024 and expiring March 31, 2028. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Vice Chairman Gibbons was absent.

Commissioner Maxwell asked Mrs. Godbee how long she had work with Fayette County.

Mrs. Godbee stated that it would 37 years in August.

Commissioner Maxwell thanked her for her dedicated service. He noted that she was one of his favorite department heads to work with. He stated that he was very proud of her and knew the hard work and effort she had consistently provided to the citizens and residents of Fayette County. He noted that he did not appreciate the verbal attack mentioned in public comments. Commissioner Maxwell stated that the County was in the midst of a big Parks and Recreation facility project and he hoped this facility would be a great success, with no problems.

Mrs. Godbee stated that she was taking notes and used every chance as a learning opportunity.

Chairman Hearn thanked Mrs. Godbee for her leadership and stated that it does not go unnoticed.

Commissioner Rousseau reiterated comments regarding Mrs. Godbee's leadership and dedication and added that of the County Clerk, Tameca Smith, as she served in her position appropriately maintaining county records and access to such as outlined by the law.

5. Request to submit a grant application and accompanying letter of commitment and resolution for the existing SR 279 Realignment project (PI 0017813) to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in response to the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) solicitation with an estimated project cost of \$26,779,691.

Public Works Director Phil Mallon stated that the next four items would be presented collectively but subsequently voted on separately. He stated that these items were seeking approval to submit three grant applications to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for federal aid transportation projects. He was additionally seeking approval to provide a letter of support for the County's prorated share of a Clayton County project that was in the best interest to participate in. Mr. Mallon stated that the application submission deadline was May 6th. If awarded, the County would be notified later in the year. He noted that the start of these project was at least 18 months out, with the actual construction was about 7-9 years out. Mr. Mallon stated that each of these projects had a local match requirement. He noted that he worked with Mr. Rapson and the Finance Department in reviewing the existing SPLOST programs to ensure the local match funding was available. He stated that the projects were submitted to the ARC in an order of priority and they would be presented to the Board in that recommended order, feedback regarding the order of priority was welcome.

Transportation Engineer, Paola Kimball, provided the Board a brief overview of the projects being recommended for the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) solicitation via the Atlanta Regional Commissioner (ARC). She outlined that the project schedule would be for 2025-2028. Ms. Kimball stated that the ARC utilized a "Key Decision Point (KDP) Framework which outlined how projects were selected. The key points were Eligibility and Policy Filters, Project Evaluation, Finals Factors, and Funding Decisions. She continued highlighting the four recommended projects (in order of priority): Project A: SR 279 Realignment project (PI 0017813), with an estimated project cost of \$26,779,691. She noted that the PE (preliminary engineering) funding was available for this project. The application would be for right-of-way, utilities, and construction. Project B: Resurfacing project with an estimated project cost of \$8,521,371. This application would be for all phases of the project. Project C: Clayton County McDonough Road Improvement with an estimated project cost of \$1,050,000. This project would be a Clayton County application for preliminary engineering with Fayette County support. Project D: Intersection Improvements to Sandy Creek Road, Eastin Road, Sams Drive, and Trustin Lake Drive with an estimated project cost of \$5,000,000. This application would be for all phases of the project. Ms. Kimball provided a funding breakdown for each project, highlighting the local match requirement for each.

Mr. Rapson advised that on the dais for Board's review, was the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) TIP solicitation which tied back to the Fayette County resurfacing project #6, which noted Dividend Drive as a requested Peachtree City allocation but was not included in this application based on Board direction.

Chairman Hearn stated that it looked good that we were working with Clayton County with the McDonough Road project and added that he liked the project order of priority as presented.

Commissioner Maxwell asked with the pending May 6th submission deadline, was Peachtree City aware of the Dividend Drive resurfacing project being excluded from the application.

Mr. Rapson stated that he sent an email to the City Manager advising him.

Commissioner Maxwell stated that a similar situation occurred years ago and resulted in Peachtree City missing out on valuable federal aid. He noted that they needed the County more than the County needed them, and the goal was to work together as partners. He stated that he was in support of all the projects.

Commissioner Maxwell moved to approve to submit a grant application and accompanying letter of commitment and resolution for the existing SR 279 Realignment project (PI 0017813) to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in response to the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) solicitation with an estimated project cost of \$26,779,691. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Vice Chairman Gibbons was absent.

6. Request to submit a Resurfacing grant application and accompanying letter of commitment and resolution to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in response to the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) solicitation with an estimated project cost of \$8,521,371.

Commissioner Maxwell moved to approve to submit a Resurfacing grant application and accompanying letter of commitment and resolution to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in response to the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) solicitation with an estimated project cost of \$8,521,371. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Vice Chairman Gibbons was absent.

7. Request to support a Clayton County McDonough Road Improvement grant application and accompanying letter of commitment and resolution to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in response to the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) solicitation with an estimated project cost of \$1,050,000.

Commissioner Maxwell moved to approve to support a Clayton County McDonough Road Improvement grant application and accompanying letter of commitment and resolution to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in response to the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) solicitation with an estimated project cost of \$1,050,000. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Vice Chairman Gibbons was absent.

8. Request to submit a grant application and accompanying letter of commitment and resolution, for Intersection Improvements to Sandy Creek Road, Eastin Road, Sams Drive, and Trustin Lake Drive to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in response to the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) solicitation with an estimated project cost of \$5,000,000.

Commissioner Maxwell moved to approve submit a grant application and accompanying letter of commitment and resolution, for Intersection Improvements to Sandy Creek Road, Eastin Road, Sams Drive, and Trustin Lake Drive to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) in response to the 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) solicitation with an estimated project cost of \$5,000,000. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Vice Chairman Gibbons was absent.

Mr. Rapson advise that during the meeting, he sent an email to the Interim City Manager of Peachtree City advising of Board direction and deadline of notice, if a favorable response was received.

County Attorney Dennis Davenport outlined the process of posting notice and scheduling of a Called Meeting, if the City of Peachtree City did respond favorable.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

Chairman Hearn expressed his appreciation on how Mr. Rapson handled the discussion regarding improvements at the Animal Shelter.

Hot Projects

Mr. Rapson stated that the Hot Projects report was forwarded to the Board and included updates on the Parks and Recreation multi-use facility, Redwine Road multi-use path, Redwine Road/Bernhard Road/Peachtree Parkway roundabout, Coastline Bridge improvements, and a Water System update.

ACCG Annual Conference

Mr. Rapson advised that leadership staff would be attending the upcoming ACCG Annual Conference held in Savannah April 24-29.

Swearing-In Ceremony

He advised that County Clerk, Tameca Smith, would be sworn-in as the new secretary of the Georgia County Clerks Association during the Conference.

Savannah Port Tour

Mr. Rapson also gave a shout out to Road Department Assistant Director, Bradley Klinger, for facilitating a Savannah port tour for staff attending the Conference.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that there were two items for Executive Session. One item involving threatened litigation and the review of the April 11, 2024 Executive Session Minutes.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Commissioner Rousseau

Commissioner Rousseau expressed appreciation to Mr. Rapson for his engagement with and response to concerns regarding the Animal Shelter, they have been adequate. He relayed encouragement to Interim Animal Shelter Director, Reginald Jordan and his team and expressed his appreciation for their continued efforts. He stated that while the Animal Shelter was important, his focus had shifted to providing "human services" to the community. Commissioner Rousseau stated that from his vantage point providing human services in the form of the new Recreation multi-use facility and the renovation of the new Health Center was the priority. He acknowledged that improvements were needed as it related to the Animal Shelter and would be addressed. He stated that he was available to listen to residents' concerns regarding needed improvements.

Commissioner Rousseau expressed his condolences to the family of Wilma Baxter a 96-year-old resident of Fayette County and a dear friend, who recently passed away. He added that he would celebrate her life this evening as he mourned her loss.

Commissioner Oddo

Commissioner Oddo stated that the Board was listening during public comment as residents expressed their concerns and frustration and suggestions provided would be analyzed for consideration, the overall goal was to make things better.

Chairman Hearn

Chairman Hearn stated that he had visited the Animal Shelter and hears the concerns expressed by residents. He noted that the Board cared about the safety and wellbeing of the animals at the Shelter and would put measures in place to "do better", with that in mind he asked for patience.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

One item involving threatened litigation and the review of the April 11, 2024 Executive Session Minutes. Commissioner Oddo moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Vice Chairman Gibbons was absent.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 7:31 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. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval of the April 11, 2024 Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner Oddo moved to approve the April 11, 2024 Executive Session Minutes. Commissioner Maxwell seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Vice Chairman Gibbons was absent.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Oddo moved to adjourn the April 23, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Rousseau seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Vice Chairman Gibbons was absent.

The April 23, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 7:31 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 9th day of May 2024. Attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Marlena Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk