

## **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**

July 11, 2024

5:00 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 5:00 p.m.

### **OFFICIAL SESSION:**

#### **Call to Order**

Chairman Lee Hearn called the July 11, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present. Commissioner Eric Maxwell was absent.

#### **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Chairman Lee Hearn**

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

#### **Acceptance of Agenda**

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

### **PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

#### **Hopeful Baptist Church**

Dean Breest of Fayetteville invited all in attendance to the Hopeful Baptist Church upcoming concert event. He expressed his concern regarding the Georgia Power transmission lines encroaching church property. He asked for Board assistance in reaching out with legislature to help control and regulate this type of process, as it affected public health, safety and quality of life.

#### **Animal Shelter**

Dr. Jennifer Alvarez, Stacia Godwin, Laura Line, Nelsonya Graves, Taryn Prestidge, Elodie Prestige, Susan Griffith, Cynthia Saracino, Barbara Cokely, Robin Allgood, Rose Mary Glenning, Lotte Commerford, Lynn Lasher, and Tracy Florczak made public comments.

Comments reiterated past concerns and frustration regarding the new animal shelter. Citizens expressed their disappointment with the Board not accepting guidance from UGA (University of Georgia) expert, the size of the kennels- specifically the RO/holding area, the lack of outdoor space/runs, the need for more volunteers, outdoor seating accessibility, increase focus on the care of the cats, lack of community input, poor use of taxpayer funds, and lack of strategic design of the facility.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

1. **Approval of staff's recommendation to add Arborvale Phase One (FKA The Grange) subdivision to Fayette County's Street Light Program.**
2. **Approval of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement and Assurances (40 CFR Part 21.7).**
3. **Approval of the June 27, 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

4. **Consideration of an Annexation Notification from the Town of Brooks regarding a request to annex one (1) parcel, Parcel No. 0409 064, approximately 8.28 acres, located south of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Line and Price Road.**

Planning and Zoning Director, Deberah Bell, stated that this request was to annex one (1) parcel, approximately 8.28 acres, located south of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Line and Price Road. She stated that the applicant proposed to combine this parcel with another parcel that they owned that was previously annexed. Since the parcel in question was currently landlocked, combining these parcels would resolve this nonconformity. Ms. Bell advised that staff had no objections to the request.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to not object to the Annexation Notification from the Town of Brooks regarding a request to annex one (1) parcel, Parcel No. 0409 064, approximately 8.28 acres, located south of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Line and Price Road. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Maxwell was absent.

5. **Consideration of an Annexation Notification from the City of Fayetteville regarding a request to annex two (2) parcels, Parcel No. 0538091 and 0538028, approximately 1.4 total acres, located on Ellis Road near GA 85 N.**

Ms. Bell stated that this request was to annex two (2) parcels, approximately 1.4 total acres, located on Ellis Road near GA Highway 85 N. She stated that the current zoning was C-H (Highway Commercial) and the County's Future Land Use Plan designation was commercial, so the proposed zoning and land use under the City's regulations was consistent with the County's Future Land Use Plan. Ms. Bell advised that staff had no objections to the request.

Commissioner Rousseau asked about the condition regarding right-of-way dedication dating back to 1981 that was also a part of a previous rezoning request from 1968 that seemingly had not been fulfilled.

County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that upon review of the zoning history it was determined that the appropriate right-of-way was dedicated in 1968, and as a result, this condition was met as outlined.

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to not object to the Annexation Notification from the City of Fayetteville regarding a request to annex two (2) parcels, Parcel No. 0538091 and 0538028, approximately 1.4 total acres, located on Ellis Road near GA 85 N. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Maxwell was absent.

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

Parks and Recreation Director Anita Godbee stated that this item was requesting Board approval to appoint Bobby Ferrell to the Recreation Commission for a term beginning April 1, 2024 and expiring March 31, 2028. She stated that the Selection Committee for this recommendation consisted of Charles McCollum, Chair of the Recreation Commission, Bradley Klinger, Assistant Director Fayette County Road Department, and Anita Godbee, Director of Parks and Recreation. Ms. Godbee noted that Mr. Ferrell had a background in public safety and a passion for fostering community involvement.

Chairman Hearn thanked Mr. Ferrell for his willingness to serve.

Mr. Ferrell thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and thanked the Recreation Commission for the recommendation. He stated that he was thrilled to be a part of this service team that focused on the betterment of the community and enjoyment of Fayette County parks. He gave a special thanks to his wife and children for their support.

Commissioner Charles Rousseau stated that he had personally worked with Mr. Ferrell on various issues within the community. He stated that he supported this recommendation and thanked Mr. Ferrell for his continued service and engagement in the community.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve the Parks and Recreation Selection Committee's recommendation to appoint Bobby Ferrell to the Recreation Commission for a term beginning April 1, 2024 and expiring March 31, 2028. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded.

Commissioner Oddo stated that he also had come to know Mr. Ferrell and acknowledged him as a "voice of reason", as he interacted with him on various community meetings and activities.

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

**7. Request to award Bid #2424-B, HIP and Micro Surfacing in the amount of \$636,608.00 to Gallagher Asphalt Co, Inc.**

Road Director, Steve Hoffman, stated that this request was to approve Bid #2424-B, HIP and Micro Surfacing in the amount of \$636,608.00 to Gallagher Asphalt Co, Inc. He advised that this project would resurface Goza Road from Highway 92 to Highway 85.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve the Bid #2424-B, HIP and Micro Surfacing in the amount of \$636,608.00 to Gallagher Asphalt Co, Inc. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded.

Chairman Hearn asked how long was this segment of road that this project would cover.

Mr. Hoffman stated that this would cover a little over three (3) miles. He noted that upon approval resurfacing was scheduled to begin in September 2024.

Commissioner Oddo thanked Mr. Hoffman for his leadership and creative approach with this project as a result taxpayers saved about \$260K.

Commissioner Rousseau thanked the Road Department staff as they labored and worked through some very stressful conditions specifically the weather. He stated that he wanted to ensure that staff worked safely and had adequate supplies i.e. water and/or sports drinks for hydration. He wanted to recognize them as the unsung hero in the community for their hard work and dedication.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to approve the Bid #2424-B, HIP and Micro Surfacing in the amount of \$636,608.00 to Gallagher Asphalt Co, Inc. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Maxwell was absent.

**8. Acknowledgment of the Fayette County Development Authority's Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) hearing for an issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds by the Fayette County Development Authority in the not-to-exceed amount of \$200,000,000 on behalf of the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.**

Mr. Rapson stated that this request was approving the Fayette County Development Authority's Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) hearing. He noted that this was acknowledgment of the Fayette County Development Authority, issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds in the not-to-exceed amount of \$200,000,000 on behalf of the United States Soccer Federation, Inc.

Commissioner Rousseau asked if the proper notifications regarding the hearing had been appropriately posted.

Mr. Rapson stated yes, all notifications had been posted. He advised that Fayette County Development Authority President & CEO, Nikki Vanderslice, and their attorney was present and available to answer any questions.

Commissioner Rousseau advised Mrs. Vanderslice that he would be highlighting the Development Authority activities to garner more community interaction and engagement.

Commissioner Oddo moved to approve Fayette County Development Authority's Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) hearing for an issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds by the Fayette County Development Authority in the not-to-exceed amount of \$200,000,000 on behalf of the United States Soccer Federation, Inc. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Maxwell was absent.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:**

**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 AMI project update.

Mr. Rapson thanked Reginald Jordan for his hard work and dedication as interim Animal Shelter Director. He introduced Tracey Thompson as the new Animal Shelter Director.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:**

Assistant County Attorney Ali Cox stated that there were two items for Executive Session. One item involving threatened litigation and the review of the June 27, 2024, Executive Session Minutes.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

**Commissioner Rousseau**

Commissioner Rousseau stated that as we welcomed the new Animal Shelter Director his invitation to meet with animal advocates as well as individuals with concerns related to the Georgia Power transmission lines project remained open.

**Commissioner Oddo**

Commissioner Oddo welcomed Ms. Thompson as the new Animal Shelter Director. He also wanted to recognize the hard work of our public safety and Fire and Emergency Services staff he highlighted two recent incidents where two lives were saved. Commissioner Oddo stated that this was an incredible group of people and thanked them for all they do, noting that "when you need them, they are there."

**Chairman Hearn**

Chairman Hearn briefed the Board on his recent Atlanta Regional Commission Meeting (ARC) highlighting some upcoming projects. He noted that discussion topics included the Metropolitan Planning boundary as well as county population and how it affected federal funding for the County.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**One item involving threatened litigation and the review of the June 27, 2024, Executive Session Minutes.** Commissioner Oddo moved to go into Executive Session. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Maxwell was absent.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 6:21 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 6:32 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 Maxwell was absent.

**Approval of the June 27, 2024 Executive Session Minutes:** Commissioner Oddo moved to approve June 27, 2024 Executive Session Minutes. Vice Chairman Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Maxwell was absent.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Vice Chairman Gibbons moved to adjourn the July 11, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Maxwell was absent.

The July 11, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

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Marlena M. Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk

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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 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 2024. Attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

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Marlena Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk