

August 18, 2009
Statesboro, GA

Regular Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Room of the North Main Annex. Chairman Nevil welcomed guests and called the meeting to order. Commissioner Walter Gibson gave the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board, performed the roll call of the commissioners and staff. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Tankersley, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, Staff Attorney Jeff Akins, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Transportation Director Eddie Smith, County Engineer Kirk Tatum, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, EMS Director Lee Eckles, Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, Zoning Administrator Randy Newman, Deputy Clerk Christy Strickland, and Planning and Zoning Development Director Andy Welch.

After Roll Call, the first item of business was the approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on August 4, 2009. Without hearing any corrections or modifications, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings as presented. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The next item of business was the approval of the General Agenda. Chairman Nevil asked for amendments or modifications of the General Agenda. County Manager Thomas Couch requested to amend the agenda by: (1) Adding Item #2 under the New Business Agenda for the discussion and/or action to authorize the procurement of a Hydroseeder for the Transportation Department to be funded under C.I.P. Project Category #TR-10-5 and (2) Adding Item #3 under the New Business Agenda for the discussion and/or action to consider the procurement of ambulances to be funded under C.I.P. Project #PS-10-8. Without hearing any further amendments or modifications, Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to approve the General Agenda with the two

modifications as requested by the County Manager. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil asked for public comments from the audience at large or in writing. Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald and County Manager Thomas Couch stated there were no formal requests or petitions received in writing. Hearing no Public Comments from the audience, Chairman Nevil moved forward to the scheduled Presentation.

Chairman Nevil stated that the Presentation was petitioned by Mr. Bib Lewis to discuss a clarification of the sign ordinance. Chairman Nevil called on Mr. Lewis to come forward and proceed with his Presentation. Mr. Lewis asked for clarification regarding why he was being fined \$50.00 a month for his business signs that he placed on his property which is located on the Veteran's Memorial Parkway. Zoning Administrator Randy Newman stated that the Bulloch County Sign Ordinance only allows for a three month temporary permit, per calendar year, for signage located on property that does not contain a business on site. Mr. Newman stated that the temporary permit costs \$50.00 a month. After further discussion from Mr. Newman and Mr. Lewis, Chairman Nevil and the Board of Commissioners decided to allow Mr. Lewis to apply for another temporary sign permit, while the Sign Ordinance is reviewed by Staff. Chairman Nevil thanked Mr. Lewis for his presentation, and moved forward to the next item on the Agenda.

The next item on the Agenda was to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: (1) To authorize the County Manager to execute a Lease Agreement with Pineland Mental Health for the rental and occupancy at 11 College Street (See Exhibit #2009-116) and (2) To dispense with the reading and adopt a Resolution authorizing the Bulloch County Sheriff's Department and Ogeechee Judicial Court Circuit to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Justice for computers and equipment, and to pass through any grant funds from the Judicial Circuit through the County Treasury (See Exhibit #2009-117). Without discussion from the Board, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Tankersley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

With no items of Old or Unfinished Business, Chairman Nevil stated that the first item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to grant an Alcoholic Beverage

License for Retail Package Beer and Wine to Mrs. Pallavi Patel for the Country Club Food Mart, which is located at 4355 Country Club Road, Statesboro, Georgia. Chairman Nevil called on Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Ms. Fitzgerald stated that she and Sheriff's Department Detective Jared Akins thoroughly reviewed Mrs. Patel's application, including her dismissed possession of gambling equipment charges, and recommended approval by the Board. Without discussion from the Board, Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to grant an Alcoholic Beverage License for retail beer and wine sales to Mrs. Pallavi Patel for the Country Club Food Mart. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried with a 5 to 1 vote. Commissioner Tankersley, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Gibson voted against the motion.

The second item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to authorize the County Manager to award a purchase order based on the Staff recommendation for the lowest and most responsible quote of \$18,980.00 for a Hydroseeder from Turfmaker Corporation of Towlett, Texas, for the Transportation Department to be funded under C.I.P. Project Category #TR-10-5. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that the Hydroseeder purchase on such short notice is necessary for EPD compliance with some shoulder work and for work waiting to be completed at Gateway Industrial Park. After further discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to authorize the County Manager to award a purchase order based on the Staff recommendation for the lowest and most responsible quote of \$18,980.00 for a Hydroseeder from Turfmaker Corporation of Towlett, Texas, for the Transportation Department. Commissioner Tankersley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The third and final item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to consider the procurement of ambulances to be funded under C.I.P. Project #PS-10-8. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that a few years ago the County procured two Ford F-350 ambulances, which consistent with many other counties and private companies that procured the same ambulances, have experienced tremendous

maintenance issues with this model. Mr. Couch stated that the County does have some budgeted funds for the procurement of new ambulances this year; the County may need to advance the purchases and in the interim study the cost effectiveness of either purchasing or leasing the ambulances. Mr. Couch requested to defer to EMS Director Lee Eckles, and Mr. Eckles explained the reasons for the maintenance issues with the Ford F-350 model ambulances and informed the Board about how much time those two ambulances spent at the repair shop this past year. Mr. Eckles also explained the potential problems with purchasing new ambulances, and that he was not exactly sure what make and model ambulances he would purchase. After further discussion, Mr. Couch stated that he recommended that the Board authorize the Staff to create a procurement plan for three ambulances in order to determine the cost benefit of pay-as-you-go versus lease-purchase. Mr. Couch also recommended that the Board make a formal motion to allow the staff to expedite a cost benefit analysis of how to procure and finance the vehicles, and the additional privilege of allowing, if necessary, the sole source procurement given the scarcity of potential reliable vendors. Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to allow the staff to expedite a cost benefit analysis of how to procure and finance the vehicles, and the additional privilege of allowing, if necessary, the sole source procurement given the scarcity of potential reliable vendors. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion. Chairman Nevil called for any discussion desired by the Board and Staff, and Commissioner Tankersley suggested that the Board contact the Hospital Authority for possible grant funds to help purchase new ambulances. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the Agenda was an Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. Chairman Nevil stated that with no further business on the Regular Agenda, the Board must close the meeting to discuss some Executive Session items that are pending and that upon conclusion of the Executive Session; the Board will take a brief recess and then reconvene at approximately 10:00 a.m. for the Work Shop Agenda. Chairman Nevil called for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. 50-14-3, and other applicable laws, pursuant to the advice of the Chief Corporate Counsel, Mr. Jeff Akins, for the purposes of deliberating on Personnel Matters. Without further discussion, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to enter into

Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. Commissioner Tankersley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously (See Exhibit #2009-118). Commissioner Tankersley, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Gibson, and Commissioner Thompson voted in favor of the motion.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board