

December 15, 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. Vice Chairman Roy Thompson 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, Vice Chairman Thompson, Commissioner Tankersley, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, Staff Attorney Jeff Akins, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, Fire Chief Randy Walker, County Engineer Kirk Tatum, Transportation Director Eddie Smith, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Purchasing Director Kenneth Trapnell, 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 that was held on December 1, 2009. Chairman Nevil asked for corrections or modifications. Without hearing any corrections or modifications, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting as presented. Commissioner Gibson 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 asked to address the Board, and presented the following modification to the General Agenda: (1) To add as Item #7 under New Business the discussion and/or action authorizing the County Fire Department to apply for an ARRA Stimulus funding grant from the Emergency Management Agency for Firefighter Staff. Staff Attorney Jeff Akins asked to address the Board, and stated that the General Agenda needed to be modified by removing Item #4 under New Business which was the discussion and/or action to amend the Code of Ordinances. Hearing no further amendments or modifications for the General Agenda, Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to

approve the General Agenda as amended. Commissioner Simmons 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 both stated there were no formal requests or petitions received in writing. Mr. Kim Parker, of Sterling Court, addressed the Board, and discussed his request for a Special Tax District for his subdivision in order for the County to pave the road, which is 150 yards long. After some discussion from the Board, the Staff was instructed to create a Resolution for a Special Tax District for Sterling Court. Hearing no further public comments, Chairman Nevil moved forward to the scheduled Presentation.

The next item on the Agenda was a Presentation to introduce the new Library Director Mrs. Sharon Rowe. However, Mrs. Rowe was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Couch stated that Mr. Allen Burns, Executive Director of the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center, was in the audience, and asked Mr. Burns to come forward to say a few words to the Board. Mr. Burns wished the Board a Merry Christmas and stated that he appreciated working with Bulloch County. Without further comments, Chairman Nevil 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 Chairman of the Board to execute a polling place agreement with the Middleground Community Center (See Exhibit #2009-159); (2) To authorize the re-appointment of Mr. Bobby Simmons to a five year term on the County DFACS Board; (3) To authorize the appointment of Mr. Thomas Joyner to a one year term on the Georgia Resource Conservation and Development Board; and (4) To authorize a temporary thirty day alcoholic beverage license for package retail beer and wine sales to Mr. Brook Hallet for Fast and Easy III, which is located at 235 Lanier Drive, Statesboro, Georgia, in unincorporated Bulloch County. Without discussion from the Board, Commissioner Gibson 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 the first item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to dispense with the reading and adopt a Resolution to create a County Streetlight Tax District for Phase I of Westridge

Subdivision. Chairman Nevil called on Mr. Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that 100% of the lot owners signed the petition that was submitted to the County, and therefore a public hearing was not required for this Resolution. Without discussion, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to adopt a Resolution to create a County Streetlight Tax District for Phase I of Westridge Subdivision (See Exhibit #2009-160). Commissioner Tankersley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The second item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to approve the lowest and most advantageous bid of \$28, 140.00 from A. D. Starr for youth baseball and softball uniforms for the Parks and Recreation Department. Chairman Nevil called on Mr. Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that he recommended approval of the bid. Without discussion, Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to approve the lowest and most advantageous bid of \$28, 140.00 from A. D. Starr for youth baseball and softball uniforms for the Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The third item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to approve the lowest and most advantageous bid of \$29,995.00 from Sheppard Well Company for the purchase and installation of a six inch well and pump combination at Fletcher Park for the parks and Recreation Department. Chairman Nevil called on Mr. Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch reminded the Board that this issue was discussed during the December 1st meeting. Mr. Couch then called on SBCPRD Director Mike Rollins to present new information regarding the matter. Mr. Rollins stated that a request to irrigate out of the pond had been filed with the City Manager, and that after careful analysis it was determined that a six inch well would have the capacity needed to pump the gallons per minute needed to keep the pond full and to use the pond for irrigation. Commissioner Rushing and Mr. Glen Thrift agreed that a six inch well with a 7.5 pump will need a permit from EPD, and that a four inch well with a 7.5 pump would be enough to manage the pond and irrigation. After further discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to reject the bids for the six inch well, and to authorize the Staff to solicit quotes for a four inch well for Fletcher Park. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The fourth item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to dispense with the reading and adopt a Resolution to approve Equipment Schedule #4 with the Suntrust Master Lease Agreement #04487. Chairman Nevil called on Mr. Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that the resolution is necessary to establish the lease purchase for three Chevrolet ambulances, one Stryker power stretcher, three safety backup cameras, three Toughbook computers, and one Eventide 72-channel digital voice recorder with dual DVD drive. Without discussion, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to adopt a Resolution to approve Equipment Schedule #4 with the Suntrust Master Lease Agreement #04487 (See Exhibit #2009-161). Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The fifth item of New Business was the discussion of the proposed County Capital Improvements Plan through 2015. Chairman Nevil called on Mr. Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch discussed the CIP document and asked the Board to review the document over the holidays in order to vote on it during the second meeting in January. Mr. Couch stated that including the authorized expenditures for FY 2010, the CIP assumes approximately \$40.3 million in project expenditures among 70 categories through the close of FY 2015. After further discussion from Mr. Couch, no action was taken regarding this matter.

The final item of New Business was the discussion and/or action with regard to authorizing the County Fire Department to apply for A.R.R.A. Stimulus funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for firefighter staffing. Chairman Nevil called on Mr. Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that the Staff would be funded by the Rural Fire Tax District once the grant funding was exhausted. Fire Chief Randy Walker stated that the three year Safer Grant, if awarded, would pay for 100% of the cost for the staff for two years, and then the County would have to pay 100% of the cost of the staff for one year, which would cost about \$180,000.00. Chief Walker stated that the full-time firefighters would be able to respond to calls during the day when it is harder for volunteers to respond, the firefighters would assist EMS on medical calls, would be able to manage inmates if necessary, the career firefighter positions create more credit for ISO. After further discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to authorize the County Fire Department to apply for

A.R.R.A. Stimulus funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for four firefighter positions.

With no further items of New Business, Chairman Nevil asked if there were any comments from the Board or Staff. Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald asked to address the Board, and reminded the Commissioners about Mayor Bill Hatcher's retirement party, the ACCG 2010 Legislative Conference, and the Chamber of Commerce's Community Retreat. Commissioner Tankersley and Transportation Director Eddie Smith discussed the condition of the dirt roads with all of the rain the County has experienced in the past week. Commissioner Tankersley also discussed passing an ordinance to enforce residents to keep collars on their dogs, but Public Safety Director Ted Wynn stated that there is already a State Law in effect to keep dogs collared with rabies tags and that the County's Animal Enforcement does a good job managing those cases through Magistrate Court. Commissioner Thompson and Chairman Nevil discussed why the Community Retreat is held out of town and not within Bulloch County.

Chairman Nevil stated that there was no further business for the Open Session of the Regular Agenda, and that the Board would close the Regular meeting to Recess for ten minutes, and then enter into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate Acquisition and Personnel Matters. Chairman Nevil stated that upon the conclusion of the Executive Session, which was expected to last fifteen to thirty minutes, the Board would reconvene in all likelihood to move for adjournment and may or may not take further action on the items discussed. Chairman Nevil called for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. 50-14-2, 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 Real Estate Acquisition and Personnel Matters (See Exhibit #2009-162). Without further discussion, Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate Acquisition and Personnel Matters. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Tankersley, and Commissioner Thompson voted in favor of the motion.

After the Executive Session, Chairman Nevil called for a motion to return to open session. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to return to open session for the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. With the Regular Meeting in open session, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to secure the property as presented in Executive Session for a total of \$73,000.00. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chairman Nevil asked for any further comments or questions from the Board or Staff. Hearing none, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board