

December 20, 2011
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 Ray Mosley 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 Mosley, Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Development Services Director Andy Welch, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, County Engineer Kirk Tatum, Deputy Clerk Christy Strickland, Statesboro-Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, Magistrate Judge June Braswell, Public Facilities and Environmental Management Director Bob Smith, Human Resources Director Karen Grabenstein, BCCI Warden Chris Hill, and BCCI Deputy Warden Wayne Smith, and Zoning Administrator Randy Newman.

After Roll Call, Chairman Nevil asked for amendments or modifications of the General Agenda. County Manager Thomas Couch asked that the General Agenda be amended by: (1) adding to as Presentation #1 an annual report for the Georgia Forestry Commission given by Chief Ranger Doug Chassereau. Hearing no further amendments or modifications, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as amended. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The next item of business was the approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting and Executive Session held on December 6, 2011. Chairman Nevil called for corrections or modifications to the Minutes. Without hearing any corrections or modifications, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil stated that the Board received a petition for a Presentation by Chief Ranger Doug Chassereau of the Georgia Forestry Commission regarding the annual report. Chief Ranger Chassereau introduced himself to the Board, and quickly reviewed the Annual Report. Mr. Chassereau stated that Georgia experienced a historical high number of wild fires this past year, which hurt the budget. After his report, Chairman Nevil and the Board of Commissioners thanked the Chief Ranger for his hard work and dedication to Bulloch County.

Chairman Nevil stated that the Board received a petition for a Presentation by Trey Monroe of Merchant Capital, LLC., regarding the proposed 2013 SPLOST bonds. Mr. Monroe discussed the difference between private placement bonds and public offering bonds, and recommended that the County pursue the public offerings option for financing the industrial park at US 301 and Interstate 16. After further discussion, Chairman Nevil thanked Mr. Monroe for his presentation.

Next, 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. Jerry Washington, a former Bulloch County employee, presented several grievances about the termination of his employment as a Corrections Officer with the Bulloch County Correctional Institute. In response, Public Facilities and Environmental Management Director Bob Smith, BCCI Warden Chris Hill, former Warden Billy Tompkins, and Deputy Warden Wayne Smith all presented documentation and explanations regarding the termination of Mr. Washington. After further discussion, Chairman Nevil thanked everyone for the information given and stated that the Board and Staff would further review the matter at a later date. Hearing no further comments from the public, Chairman Nevil moved forward to the next item on the Agenda.

Chairman Nevil stated that the next item on the Agenda was to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: (1) to approve a new alcoholic beverage license for retail beer and wine sales to Komal Thakore of Saina LLC., doing business as Tbyrds #2, located at 898 Lakeview Road; (2) to approve a bid for Spring 2012 Youth Baseball/Softball uniforms from Pro Sports Team Outfitters for the Statesboro-Bulloch County Recreation Department (See Exhibit #2011-151); and (3) to approve the

reappointments of Yolanda Tremble and Charles Chandler to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Without discussion, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Gibson 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 approve a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for striping and signage on approximately 62 miles of various County roads. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that the GDOT will reimburse the County in an amount not to exceed \$485,000.00, and that the County will solicit bids for the re-striping and signage that are located primarily in the southwest quadrant of the county. Without discussion, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to approve a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for striping and signage on approximately 62 miles of various County roads (See Exhibit #2011-152). Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil stated that the second item of New Business was the discussion and or action to authorize the sole source procurement for Voice over Internet Protocol telecommunications and computer hardware and software for the Magistrate Court. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that the Magistrate Court has been in need of upgrading its computer network and equipment as they are using obsolete machinery which impedes their productivity and effectiveness, and stated that in addition to the upgrades, that they may pilot a VOIP solution recommended and negotiated with Georgia Technologies of Statesboro. After some discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to authorize the sole source procurement for Voice over Internet Protocol telecommunications and computer hardware and software for the Magistrate Court (See Exhibit #2011-153). Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

With no further items of New Business, Chairman Nevil asked each Commissioner to take thirty seconds for any general comments or statements, beginning

with Commissioner Ethridge and then proceeding down the bench accordingly. Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson all wished each other and the Staff a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, and asked that everyone remember those in our community that are in need this holiday season.

After further discussion, Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the Staff. Allen Burns, Executive Director of the Coastal Regional Commission, stated that Commissioner Gibson has been doing an excellent job serving as the Chairman of the Coastal Regional Commission. Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald reminded the Board about upcoming events and office closures for the holidays.

Chairman Nevil asked if there were any further comments from the Commission or Staff. Hearing no further comments from the Board or Staff, Chairman Nevil stated that the Board would take a five minute recess, and then reconvene for the scheduled Workshop.

WORKSHOP

The meeting was reconvened for the scheduled Workshop, and Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to introduce the first item for discussion, which was matters regarding the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 54 Statement. Mr. Couch reviewed a Power Point presentation, and discussed the implementation of the statement, which requires the county to report fund balance in a different manner beginning for FY 2011, and influencing the auditor's representation of fund balances for the annual financial report. After further discussion, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling stated that the changes will make governmental financial reports easier to understand and more in-line with private businesses reporting. No action was taken regarding this matter.

Next, Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to introduce the second item for discussion, which was matters regarding alcoholic beverage licensing and administration. Mr. Couch reviewed a Power Point presentation, and discussed the recommended implementation of changes to the alcoholic beverage ordinance such as (1) the licensing of non-resident wholesale distributors and (2) changes in reporting

requirements for excise taxes to minimize underreporting or unreported revenues. County Attorney Jeff Akins also discussed amending the ordinance to allow the use of bon-a-fide coin-operated amusement machines located on a premise that sells alcohol. After further discussion, County Manager Thomas Couch stated that the Staff would bring these ordinance amendments to the Board after the New Year for approval. No action was taken regarding this matter.

Next, Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to introduce the third item for discussion, which was matters regarding the Sign Ordinance. Mr. Couch stated that this was a follow up from a previous meeting where the revenue structure and permitting of small signs had been discussed, and then reviewed by the Staff. Mr. Couch referred to Development Services Director Andy Welch, who discussed adding a foot note regarding a non-residential use sign of 40 square feet would require a permit, but no fee. After further discussion, County Manager Thomas Couch stated that the Staff would bring these ordinance amendments to the Board after the New Year for approval. No action was taken regarding this matter.

| Table 2: Sign District 1 – Residential District (AG-5, R-80, R-40, R-25, R-15, R-2, R-3, MHP) | | | |
|--|---|---|----------------------------|
| | Residence on an Individual Lot¹ | Residential Development or Subdivision² | Non-residential Use |
| <i>FREESTANDING SIGNS:⁴</i> | | | |
| 1. Freestanding Sign Maximum Square Feet | N/A | 40 square feet (Per development entrance sign) 18 square feet (Per sign identifying a development common area or facility) | 40 square feet* |

* Permit required, no fee will be charge.

Next, Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to introduce the fourth item for discussion, which was matters regarding Occupational Taxes. Mr. Couch updated the Board about the Staff’s research regarding Occupational Taxes and other counties. Mr. Couch stated that the Staff was still working on some formulas and rates that would achieve the goal of minimizing the financial burden for small businesses while also minimizing the negative impact on revenues collected. Mr. Couch stated that any changes would go into effect for the FY 2013 upon action to amend the ordinance of the

fee schedule. After further discussion, County Manager Thomas Couch stated that the Staff would bring these ordinance amendments to the Board after the New Year for approval. No action was taken regarding this matter.

Chairman Nevil stated that there was no further business for the Workshop, and asked if there were any further comments from the Commission or Staff. Hearing no further comments from the Board or Staff, Chairman Nevil stated that there was no further business expected for the open session of the workshop agenda, and the Board must close the meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss Potential Real Estate Acquisition. Chairman Nevil stated that at the conclusion of the Executive Session, which was expected to last about fifteen minutes, the Board would reconvene and in all likelihood move for adjournment. 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, Jeff Akins, for the purposes of deliberating on Potential Real Estate Acquisition. Without further discussion, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Potential Real Estate Acquisition (See Exhibit #2011-54). Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Gibson voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting was reconvened, and Chairman Nevil asked if there were any further comments from the Commission or Staff. Hearing no comments from the Board or Staff, Chairman Nevil asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rushing offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board