

July 19, 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. Commissioner Carolyn Ethridge 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, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Development Services Director Andy Welch, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, County Engineer and Capital Projects Director Kirk Tatum, Deputy Clerk Christy Strickland, Outside Legal Counsel George Rountree, Area Road Superintendent Mike Boyett, Area Road Superintendent Therman Fail, Airport Manager Jeff Herrington, and Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins.

After Roll Call, the first 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 amend the General Agenda by adding Item #2 to the Presentation Agenda to allow Outside Legal Counsel, George Rountree, to report on Pending Litigation and to add as Item #3 to the New Business Agenda for the discussion and/or action to authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Statesboro concerning the Five Mile Fire District. Hearing no further amendments or modifications, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as amended. Commissioner Mosley 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 Meeting that were both held on July 5, 2011. Chairman Nevil called for corrections or modifications to the Minutes. Without hearing any corrections or modifications, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to approve the

minutes as presented. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

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. Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Nevil moved forward to the scheduled Presentations.

Chairman Nevil stated that the Board received a petition to appear before the Board for a Presentation by Mr. Eddie Akins, Conservation Ranger for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Conservation Ranger Dave Sims was also present to assist Mr. Akins. Mr. Akins stated that all Conservation Rangers are being encouraged to introduce themselves to the local governments around Georgia. Mr. Akins stated that his office was located in Metter, Georgia, and gave a brief presentation reviewing all the responsibilities of the DNR and the Conservation Rangers. After the Presentation, Chairman Nevil thanked Mr. Akins and Mr. Sims for informing the Board of all of their duties, and for keeping Bulloch County safe.

Next, Chairman Nevil stated that the Board received a petition to appear before the Board for a Presentation by Mr. George Rountree, Outside Legal Counsel, regarding pending litigation. Mr. Rountree informed the Board that the Screven County Court ruled against Pegasus, LLC, with a judgment for \$10,000.00 for delinquent rent and unpaid fuel bills at the Statesboro Bulloch County Airport. Mr. Rountree stated that a Distress Warrant was filed against airplanes and equipment owned by Pegasus in hopes to recover some of the \$10,000.00 that is owed to the Airport. After further discussion, Chairman Nevil thanked Mr. Rountree for his report.

Chairman Nevil stated that the next item on the Agenda was to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: (1) to authorize the County Manager to award a contract and purchase order based on the lowest and most responsible quantities bid for the construction of the Great Dane interior access road at Gateway Industrial Park to the Baker Infrastructure Group of Garden City, Georgia, with an initial total cost estimate of \$740,786.90 to be paid with proceeds from the Georgia Department of Transportation Grant Funds (See Exhibit #2011-78); (2) to authorize the County Manager to award a

contract and purchase order based on the lowest and most responsible lump sum bid to Smith Steel Structures of Statesboro, Georgia, for a shade structure at Splash in the Boro in the amount of \$13,347.00 to be paid out of the Aquatic Center Operating Budget (See Exhibit #2011-79); (3) to authorize the County Manager to award a contract and purchase order based on the lowest and most responsible lump sum bid to Smith Steel Structures of Statesboro, Georgia, for a maintenance building at Roebuck Park in Brooklet, in the amount of \$25,343.00 to be paid out of the CIP/SPLOST Funds under Capital Project Number PR-12-1 (See Exhibit #2011-80); (4) to reappoint Dr. Ron Schiffler of Georgia Southern University to the Coastal Regional Commission for a one year term; (5) to reappoint Ms. Devra Walker, Mr. Paul Roesel, and Mr. Billy Allen to the Development Authority of Bulloch County for four year terms; (6) to authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute a Lease Agreement for facility space with the Georgia State Defense Force on behalf of the Statesboro-Bulloch County Airport for a one year term (See Exhibit #2011-81); and (7) to authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute a Lease Agreement for hangar space with Dr. Russell Herrington on behalf of the Statesboro Bulloch County Airport for a one year term (See Exhibit #2011-82). Without discussion, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Without any Old or Unfinished Business, Chairman Nevil stated that the first item of New Business was the discussion and/or action regarding the reading and adoption of a Resolution calling for the imposition of a referendum for approval of a 1% Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax in the Special District of Bulloch County. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that the resolution mirrors the project descriptions and estimated amounts for those projects in the intergovernmental agreement that has been entered into with all the municipalities in Bulloch County. Mr. Couch stated that the resolution also authorizes the issuance of up to \$12,000,000.00 in general obligation debt by Bulloch County, and the debt question would also be on the referendum for approval. Without discussion, Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to approve the reading and adoption of a Resolution calling for the imposition of a referendum for approval of a 1% Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax in the Special District of Bulloch County (See

Exhibit #2011-83). Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil stated that the second item of New Business was the discussion and/or action regarding the purchase of real estate for the purpose of constructing a new Solid Waste Convenience and Recycling Center. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that the Board needed to vote to approve or to reject the purchase of the real estate that was discussed during the Executive Session of the first meeting in July. Mr. Couch reminded the Board that the property consists of 1.4 acres and would cost \$12,500.00. Without discussion, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the purchase of real estate in the Leefield area for the purpose of constructing a new Solid Waste Convenience and Recycling Center. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil stated that the third item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to consider authorizing the Chairman of the Board to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Statesboro pertaining to the Statesboro Five Mile Fire Tax District. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that there has been a verbal agreement with the City of Statesboro since July 1st for the continuation of fire services in the district, but that the written Intergovernmental Agreement has been amended to provide \$120,000.00 to Bulloch County. Without discussion, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Statesboro pertaining to the Statesboro Five Mile Fire Tax District (See Exhibit #2011-84). Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil stated that the next Item of Business was a Workshop regarding the proposed Ag Arena. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that his firm recommendations to the Board consisted of the following: (1) Take available financial resources (\$4.1 million) for the multi-purpose arena and obligate those funds for the original concept which would include one open air arena with mobile seating, one

practice field, and up to one hundred stalls; (2) Instead of abandoning the indoor facility, simply delay it until some point in the future when both capital and operating funds are deemed available; (3) Consider visiting by October 1, no more than two (2) facilities of similar scale; (4) Conduct a final assessment which can be done internally by November 1, and develop a five-year financial operating plan which will serve as the decision-point for proceeding with final planning, design, and construction; and (5) Evaluate construction delivery options by January 1, including (a) design-bid-build, (b) design build, (c) construction-management at-risk, or (d) internal project management. Mr. Couch stated that upon considering and evaluating this data, project plans could be developed with a goal of making all such decisions by no later than March 1st. After some discussion, Commissioner Thompson asked Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald to research open air arenas in Georgia and surrounding states, and then present six of the best arenas to the Board during the first meeting in September. Ms. Fitzgerald agreed, and stated that she would also meet with members of the Ag Community to see which arenas in Georgia that they feel would work for Bulloch County. Chairman Nevil stated that it was time to move forward with the project because the goal was to build it over ten years ago.

Next, Commissioner Gibson stated that he has been receiving negative feedback regarding the roundabout that the Georgia Department of Transportation has purposed to locate at the intersection of Pulaski Road and Veteran's Memorial Parkway. Commissioner Gibson stated that GDOT has informed him that the roundabout project would move forward unless the Board of Commissioners agreed that the project would not benefit the area. County Engineer Kirk Tatum stated that GDOT held a public hearing regarding the roundabout and did not receive any negative feedback about the project. After further discussion, Chairman Nevil stated that roundabouts are becoming an alternative means to red lights and four-way stops. In conclusion, Chairman Nevil stated that the employees at GDOT are the road building experts and that they would engineer the roundabout properly which would make the intersection safer and would help keep traffic moving at all times.

With no further Workshop Items, 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 thanked Mike Rollins and his staff for keeping Mill Creek Park a beautiful and safe location for the citizens of Bulloch County to enjoy. Commissioner Thompson thanked the Roads Department for the quick and nice job that was done to prepare Jerry Hall Road for paving. With no further comments from the Board, Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the Staff, and Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald stated that Dr. Brent Tharp of the Georgia Southern Museum is still working on an exhibit for the side lobby of the North Main Annex. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that Dr. Tharp plans on showcasing Bulloch County's National Guard Unit throughout the years, and hopes that the exhibit will be placed in the lobby within a few months.

Hearing no further comments from the Board or Staff, Chairman Nevil asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board