

October 20, 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. County Manager Thomas Couch gave the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board, performed the roll call of the Commissioners and Ex-Officio Staff. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Tankersley, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, County Attorney Charles Brown, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Transportation Director Eddie Smith, County Engineer Kirk Tatum, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, Planning and Zoning Development Director Andy Welch, Deputy Clerk of the Board Christy Strickland, and Probate Judge Lee Deloach (arrived after Roll Call).

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. Hearing none, Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as presented. Commissioner Simmons 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 October 6, 2009. Without hearing any corrections or modifications, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting as presented. Commissioner Rushing 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. Hearing no public comments, Chairman Nevil moved forward to the scheduled Presentation.

Chairman Nevil stated that the Presentation was petitioned by Kay Anderson and Luree Bowen to discuss the possibility of a future Homestead Exemption for Senior 65 years old and older. Chairman Nevil called on Luree Bowen to come forward and

proceed with her Presentation. Mrs. Bowen discussed Bryan County's Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption, and stated that the exemption was passed in 2007 and is still in effect today. After Mrs. Bowen's presentation, Mrs. Kay Anderson addressed the Board, and stated that many Senior Citizens in Bulloch County are now housing their children and grandchildren because of the economy and high unemployment rate. Mrs. Anderson stated that Seniors in Bulloch County are struggling right now, and that a Homestead Exemption, such as Bryan County's, would help those people that are 65 and older who are having a difficult time financially because of the economy. After further discussion, Chairman Nevil thanked Mrs. Bowen and Mrs. Anderson, and stated that Board and Staff will research the possibility of a future Homestead Exemption for Senior Citizens.

Chairman Nevil stated that before the Board could proceed with further business for the Open Session of the Regular Agenda, that the meeting must be closed to discuss some Executive Session items that are pending, and that upon conclusion of the Executive Session the Board would reconvene to proceed with the meeting agenda. Chairman Nevil called for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. 50-14-2, O.C.G.A. 50-14-3, and other applicable laws, pursuant to the advice of the County Attorney, Charles Brown, for the purposes of deliberating on Personnel Matters, Pending Litigation, and Future Real Estate Acquisition. Without further discussion, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters, Pending Litigation, and Future Real Estate Acquisition. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously (See Exhibit #2009-133). Commissioner Tankersley, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson voted in favor of the motion.

After adjourning the Executive Session, the Board reconvened for the Regular Meeting. The next item on the Agenda was to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: (1) To dispense with the reading and adopt a Resolution to enable and establish Records Management System (See Exhibit #2009-134); (2) To authorize the County Manager to execute a short-form construction contract with Coursey Contracting for the demolition and removal of debris from the pools at Luetta Moore Park (See Exhibit #2009-135); (3) To authorize the appointments of Ms. Theresa S. Jackson, Mr.

J.D. Dunn, and Ms. Wendy Denton to the Bulloch County Board of Elections and Registration; and (4) To authorize the appointment of Mr. Paul Roesel to the Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority. Without discussion from the Board, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

With no items of New Business, Old or Unfinished Business, Chairman Nevil asked if there were any comments from the Board or Staff. County Attorney Charles Brown asked to address the Board, and summarized the legal and financial issues of assisting with the abandonment of Southern Links Golf Course as requested by the neighboring subdivision's property owners. Next, County Manager Thomas Couch asked to address the Board, and informed the Board of an invitation by Columbia County to attend their Georgia State Patrol Post Grand Opening. Mr. Couch also discussed three potential dates of which the Board could host a farewell dinner for Georgia Southern University's resigning President Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Grube. After some discussion, Commissioner Robert Rushing informed the Board about another vehicle accident at the intersection of Highway 301 and Highway 46.

Chairman Nevil asked for any further comments or questions from the Board or Staff. Hearing none, Chairman Nevil stated that the Board would recess for ten minutes, and then reconvene for a Board Workshop to discuss the 2015 Surface Transportation Improvement Plan that is now under development by the Staff. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to recess for ten minutes. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board