

April 28, 2011
Statesboro, GA

Special Called Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met at 12:15 p.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 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, Elections Superintendent Pat Lanier Jones, Human Resource Director Heather McNeal, 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. Hearing no amendments or modifications, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as presented. Commissioner Gibson 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 Old/Unfinished Business Agenda.

Chairman Nevil stated that the only item of Old/Unfinished Business was the discussion and/or action to approve two Intergovernmental Agreements with the Town of Portal for a \$50,000.00 loan for sewer infrastructure. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that Intergovernmental Agreement #1 would lower the interest rate per annum to one-half a percent (0.5%) for the current \$550,000.00 loan that was agreed upon for the

2007 SPLOST. Mr. Couch stated that Intergovernmental Agreement #2 would allow Portal to repay an additional loan of \$50,000.00 to the County over a period of twenty years (20) at two percent (2%) per annum. Chief Finance Officer Harry Starling stated that County would pay Portal the \$50,000.00 out of the Hospital Fund. After further discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement #1 (See Exhibit #2011-39) and Intergovernmental Agreement #2 (See Exhibit #2011-40) with the Town of Portal regarding a \$50,000.00 loan for sewer infrastructure. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil stated that the first item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to approve a bid from Preeminence in the amount of \$7,044.00 for site furnishings for the Beasley Trailhead and \$6,084.00 for site furnishing for the S&S Greenway. Chairman Nevil called on Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins to initiate discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Rollins stated that Preeminence bid on each item and was the lowest bidder to meet the specifications. Mr. Rollins also stated that the site furnishings would be paid for by transportation grant and trails grant. After further discussion, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to approve a bid from Preeminence in the amount of \$7,044.00 for site furnishings for the Beasley Trailhead and \$6,084.00 for site furnishing for the S&S Greenway (See Exhibit #2011-41). 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 approve a bid from Hanson Pipe and Precast of Rincon, Georgia, in the amount of \$2,774.59 for the annual pipe contract. Chairman Nevil called on Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling to initiate discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Starling stated that the bid was for a yearly contract and that Hanson Pipe already held the contract for 2010-2011. Mr. Starling also stated that the bid is based on an estimate of amount of concrete that will be needed for a year. After further discussion, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve a bid from Hanson Pipe and Precast of Rincon, Georgia, in the amount of \$2,774.59 for the annual pipe contract (See Exhibit #2011-42). Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil stated that the third item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to approve an extension for the 2007 to 2013 Special Purpose Local Option

Sales Tax (SPLOST). Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that if approved, the extension referendum would be placed on the ballot for the November election. Mr. Couch stated that a letter would need to be sent to all the cities asking for another six year agreement regarding the terms of an estimated \$74,000,000.00. After further discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to authorize the County Manager to start the SPLOST extension process and to work with the cities for an agreement. Commissioner Ethridge 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 thanked the Elections Superintendent Pat Lanier Jones for helping with the SPLOST extension process. Commissioner Thompson asked questions regarding the Sign Ordinance in regards to farmers selling produce. Commissioner Gibson stated that an Economic Development Administration grant for 1.4 million dollars has been approved for the Gateway Industrial Park. Chairman Nevil congratulated Commissioner Thompson for the Deen Day award and Commissioner Mosley for completing the ACCG Commissioner Training Program. After further discussion, Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the Staff, and Elections Superintendent Pat Lanier Jones stated that Dr. Lewis Holloway, Board of Education Superintendent, would like to discuss district lines in the future.

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

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board