

September 28, 2010
Statesboro, GA

Special Called 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 staff. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Vice Chairman Rushing, Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, Staff Attorney Jeff Akins, Development Services Director Andy Welch, County Engineer Kirk Tatum, Purchasing Director Kenneth Trapnell, Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, Public Facilities and Environmental Management Director Bob Smith, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, and Zoning Administrator Randy Newman.

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 Ethridge offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as presented. Commissioner Mosley 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 comments from the public, Chairman Nevil moved forward to the next item on the Agenda.

The next item on the Agenda was to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: (1) To authorize a purchase order and contract for the lowest and most responsible bid to Recycling and Equipment Service of Baxley for \$47,853.00 for conveyor system installation at the Recycling Center; (2) To authorize a purchase order and fixed price contract for the lowest and most responsible bid for Public Works and Corrections uniforms to R.J. Pope of Statesboro, Georgia (See Exhibit #2010-166); (3) To dispense with the reading and adopt a Resolution designating Gateway Industrial Park and other

lands as a Recovery Zone under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (See Exhibit #2010-167); and (4) To authorize an agreement between the Sheriff's Department and the City of Statesboro for Mutual Aid for Law Enforcement (See Exhibit #2010-168). Without discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Without any items of Old or Unfinished Business, Chairman Nevil stated that the first item of New Business was the discussion and/or action on recommendations concerning the regulation of signs in Unincorporated Bulloch County. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that the Staff has been in the process of a comprehensive review of the Sign Ordinance. Mr. Couch deferred to Development Services Director Andy Welch who stated that the Staff has used the City of Statesboro's new Sign Ordinance as a model, and then discussed the purpose of the Sign Ordinance. Mr. Welch reviewed the possible revisions to the Sign Ordinance, and discussed the potential fees, application and permitting process, and how violations would be dealt with by the ordinance. After further discussion, Mr. Couch stated that a public hearing and possible town hall meetings would be held to discuss the revisions with citizens, contractors, and local sign builders. No action was taken regarding the Sign Ordinance.

Chairman Nevil stated that the second item of New Business was the discussion and/or action on recommendations with regard to the disposition of property of the current Sallie Zetterower Elementary School. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch deferred to Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins. Mr. Rollins discussed how the Parks and Recreation Staff have outgrown the available office space in the Honey Bowen building, and stated that teachers and students will be moving out of the current Sallie Z School during Christmas holidays. Mr. Rollins reviewed the adaptive re-use plans for the buildings that were completed by Martin, Rule, and Associates, and asked the Chairman and the Commissioners to discuss the potential acquisition of the property with the Board of Education. After further discussion, Mr. Couch stated that the

Board would move forward with discussing the matter of the Sallie Z property with the Board of Education.

Chairman Nevil asked if there were any comments from the Commission or Staff. 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. Hearing no comments from the Board, Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the Staff. Staff Attorney Jeff Akins asked to address the Board, and discussed moving forward with the creation of a Road Tax District ordinance. Mr. Akins also discussed the paving of prescriptive roads. After further discussion, Mr. Couch asked to address the Board, and discussed a loan request from the City of Portal for \$50,000.00 for a new Water and Sewer system. Mr. Couch and the Board also discussed the possibility of hiring a financial or Court systems consultant to work with the Clerk of Court to improve some issues in that office.

Chairman Nevil asked for further questions or comments from the Board. Hearing none, Commissioner Gibson 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