

March 17, 2009
Statesboro, GA

Workshop

The Board of Commissioners reconvened for a Workshop at 9:35 a.m. following the regularly scheduled meeting. Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to approve the Workshop Agenda. Commissioner Tankersley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Tankersley, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, Staff Attorney Jeff Akins, Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Planning and Zoning Development Director Andy Welch, Zoning Administrator Randy Newman and Deputy Clerk Christy Strickland.

Chairman Nevil called the Workshop to order. The first item on the Workshop Agenda was a presentation by Executive Director Allen Burns from The Coastal Regional Developmental Center. Mr. Burns stated there were some changes with the CRDC Board members that would be in effect on July 1, 2009. Mr. Burns stated that Bulloch and the surrounding counties will be losing seats on the board. Mr. Burns stated that the county currently has two board members, Commissioner Jackson and Commissioner Gibson but will need to cut back to only one member. Mr. Burns stated that it is for the discretion of the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to decide who would remain on the board and who would step down from the board. Mr. Burns also stated that effective July 1, 2009, the dues will increase from ninety cents per capita to one dollar per capita in order to be able to match state funds. Mr. Burns apologized for any inconvenience, to contact him if there were any questions.

The second item on the Workshop Agenda was a presentation made by Richard Deal of Thigpen, Westerfield, Lanier and Deal Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Deal presented the FY 2008 Audit Results. After some discussion, Mr. Couch asked for a five minute recess at which time Commissioner Jackson excused himself from the workshop.

After the recess Chairman Nevil turned the floor over to County Manager Tom Couch for the third item on the Workshop Agenda, a presentation regarding manufactured homes and fire fees. Mr. Couch deferred to Mr. Welch and Mr. Newman. Mr. Welch explained that Mr. NeSmith came to the March 3, 2009, Board of Commissioners meeting concerning an old manufactured home. Mr. Welch stated that Mr. NeSmith was utilizing the manufactured home for storage for over 30 years, but was still being charged a residential fire fee and requested to have the fire fee waived. Mr. Welch explained to the board that the Manufactured Home Ordinance states that a manufactured home cannot be used for storage. He presented a suggestion for a text amendment to the Manufactured Home and Zoning Ordinance to address the issue. The two ordinances, Manufactured Home Ordinance Section 9.5(c)(4) and Zoning Ordinance: Article 2, Section 202: General Definitions: Manufactured Home (1), would add the following text: "However, a manufactured home may be used for storage if it meets the following conditions: 1) initially permitted as a residence, 2) used for storage prior to adoption of the Zoning Ordinance (November 4, 1994), 3) continuously maintained a tag from the Tax Assessor Office. After some discussion, it was decided that the situation is not common and would cause further detriment changing the ordinance than to deal with this one case and Mr. Akins is going to look into the procedure to have the fire fees waived.

The last item on the Workshop Agenda was a follow-up discussion on the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Couch stated that due to time he wanted to encourage the Board to read the plan, and if there were any questions or concerns please contact him or Mr. Welch.

Chairman Nevil asked if there were any comments from the commissioners or staff. Mr. Couch stated that following the commissioners meeting there would be a meeting at the Development Authority to discuss water and sewer installation toward I-16. Mr. Couch stated that he needs a commitment in writing from the Federal Government concerning the future use of the Old Georgia State Patrol Building for a VA Health Clinic. Mr. Couch explained that he did not want the county to be responsible for an unusable building if the legislation deeded the building to the county and then the Federal Government decided not to locate the VA Clinic in Bulloch County.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to adjourn the Workshop. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. The Board adjourned the Workshop at 11:40 A.M.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Christy Strickland, Deputy Clerk of the Board