

May 31, 2011
Statesboro, GA

Workshop

The Board of Commissioners met for a Budget Workshop at 11:45 a.m. in the Community Room of the North Main Annex.

The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Vice Chairman Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Library Regional Director Sharon Rowe, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Fire Chief Randy Walker, E-911 Director Kelly Barnard, Human Resources Director Heather McNeal, Library Head of Business Services Alison Solomon, and Development Services Director Andy Welch.

Chairman Nevil called the Workshop to order, welcomed the Staff, and called on County Manager Thomas Couch for the Invocation. After the Invocation, Mr. Couch called for a fifteen minute recess for lunch. After lunch, the meeting was reconvened, and Mr. Couch stated that, since last week's meeting, he has not been able to reach City of Statesboro's City Manager Frank Parker in order to initiate discussion regarding a proposal for the cost of the installation of water and sewer infrastructure at the I-16/Hwy 301 Industrial Park with funding from the proposed renewal of the 2013 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and the issues regarding the Rural Fire District.

Without anything new to report regarding the 2013 SPLOST, Mr. Couch asked Commissioner Rushing to discuss his concerns with the County's AG-5 Zoning. Commissioner Rushing stated that five acres should not be taken out of production for crops once someone decides to place a mobile home or build a house on the property. Mr. Couch stated that the Staff would research zoning regulations in order to see if there are more advanced agricultural zoning regulations available. Chairman Nevil stated that AG-5 was created to keep residential developments from encroaching on rural farm land. After further discussion, Mr. Couch stated that the Staff would research zoning

regulations this summer to try to find a delicate balance that the County would be able to implement and maintain.

Next, Mr. Couch stated that the second item of business was the discussion and/or action regarding the FY 2012 Budget. Mr. Couch discussed changes that were made to the proposed FY 2012 Budget since last week's meeting. Mr. Couch stated that General Fund figures would fall somewhere between \$30.4 million to \$30.5 million, and that the County will operate with a planned deficit of about \$500,000.00. Mr. Couch reviewed budget requests that have yet to be approved, funding for the Coastal Coaches program and the Senior Meals program for Concereted Services, and the non-funding of the of Safe Haven, the Art Center, and the Farmers Market. After further discussion, Mr. Couch stated that he would contact Mr. Allen Burns and Mrs. Barbara Hurst of the Coastal Regional Commission regarding a future presentation where they would be able to answer questions regarding the funding of the Coastal Coaches Program. Mr. Couch discussed expected expenditures, revenues, and fees. Mr. Couch discussed Capital Projects for FY 2012, and stated that the Special Funds for KBB, Rural Fire, Agri-Business Center, and E-911 are all on the "watch" list. In conclusion, Mr. Couch stated that the Board has until June 21st to make further changes to the budget.

Mr. Couch stated that the last item of business was the discussion and/or action regarding County Fire Services. Mr. Couch stated that after last week's meeting he was unable to reach Mr. Parker, but that this week he would continue to pursue the matter. Mr. Couch stated that he would inform Mr. Parker that the County is interested in collecting a percentage of the Fire District funds, or consolidate and the County will take over the district. Commissioner Rushing stated that the consolidation would save the City from having to purchase several tanker trucks. Mr. Couch stated that he discussed the matter with Skip Starling and the major concern would be having enough capital funds to take over the district and maintain it effectively. After further discussion, Commissioner Thompson reminded the Board and Staff that a decision regarding the district would need to be made before June 30th.

Without further discussion, Mr. Couch yielded the floor to the Chairman. Chairman Nevil asked for further questions or comments from the Board. Hearing none, Chairman Nevil adjourned the Workshop at 1:45 p.m.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board