

April 3, 2012
Statesboro, GA

Regular Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met at 5:30 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, present as Clerk of the Board, performed the roll call of the commissioners and staff. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald, Deputy Clerk Christy Strickland, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, and Zoning Administrator Randy Newman.

After Roll Call, Chairman Nevil opened the meeting for Public Hearings regarding Zoning and Land Use matters and stated that the first item of business was the approval of the Zoning and Land Use Agenda. Chairman Nevil asked for amendments or modifications of the Zoning and Land Use Agenda. Hearing none, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the Zoning and Land Use Agenda as presented. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chairman Nevil asked Zoning Administrator Randy Newman to present the one item of business.

Zoning Administrator Randy Newman presented Item #1 which was an application submitted by Yolanda Gonzalez requesting a rezone from R-2 (Multi-family) to R-40 (Residential 40,000 square feet) in order to place a manufactured home on the property, and that Mr. Walter Johnson rezoned the property to R-2 for the purpose of building duplexes, which were never constructed. Mr. Newman stated that the property consists of 1.23 acres and is located on Hodges Lane, tax map #MS18 000012 000. The Staff recommended and the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to approve the rezone request. Mr. Newman stated that no one signed up to speak for or against the request. Without discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to approve the rezone request with no conditions submitted by Yolanda Gonzalez. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Sign-in sheets for Zoning Matters are shown in Exhibit #2012-40.

Chairman Nevil closed the Public Hearings regarding Zoning and Land Use matters, and 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.

Chairman Nevil stated that the Board was petitioned to hear three presentations, and that the first presentation would be given by Mr. Tony Deal with regard to concerns about the Bulloch County Fire Department. Mr. Deal presented a power point slide show, and discussed the slides which consisted of the past to present of the Fire Department, the positives, budget issues, bang for the buck, roller coaster, goals, and moving forward. Mr. Deal also discussed how the department would like to continue to lower the ISO rating for the County and how to gain better response times. After further discussion, Chairman Nevil thanked the County Fire Department, and stated that the department has come a long way and that progress will continue.

Chairman Nevil stated that the Board received a second petition for a presentation by Ogeechee Area Hospice. Mrs. Jean Bartels, President of the Board of Directors, thanked the Board for deeding the Hospital Authority two pieces of land for Hospice, and requested a third parcel of 1.36 acres. Mr. Richard Mellett, Vice President of the Board of Directors, stated that the parcel would be landscaped, and would possibly include a walking trail, a picnic pavilion, and an area to expand the parking lot. Mrs. Trish Tootle, Secretary of the Board of Directors, thanked the Board for their support. After further discussion, Chairman Nevil thanked the Hospice members for their presentation.

Chairman Nevil stated that the Board received a third petition for a presentation by Mr. William Fouche regarding a noise complaint. Mr. Fouche, who lives near Eldora Farms, stated that he recently spoke to Captain Nesmith with the Bulloch County Sheriff's Department regarding the constant noise and speeding of dirt bikes and four wheelers on paved and unpaved road. Mr. Fouche stated that Captain Nesmith stated that the Sheriff's Office would increase patrols in that area. Mr. Fouche asked the Board to consider amending the Noise Ordinance in order to make it stricter. After further

discussion, County Manager Thomas Couch thanked Mr. Fouche for his presentation, and stated that the Staff would review the ordinance with the Sheriff's Department.

Next, Chairman Nevil asked for public comments from the audience at large or in writing. County Manager Thomas Couch and Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald both stated that there were no formal requests or petitions received in writing. Commissioner Roy Thompson asked to address the Board and the Firefighters in the room, and discussed rumors regarding the Bulloch County Fire Department. Commissioner Thompson further stated that he is committed to doing a good job for the County, and if anyone wants to know what he thinks, they should just ask him. Hearing no further comments from the public, Chairman Nevil moved forward to the next item on the Agenda.

Chairman Nevil stated that the next item on the Agenda was to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: (1) to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 20, 2012; (2) to grant an alcoholic beverage license for the sale of retail package beer and wine to Nitaben Patel of Yogiji Inc., doing business as Quick Stop, which is located 17216 Highway 67 in Unincorporated Bulloch County; (3) to authorize the appointments of Bubba Hunt (Seat H), Steven Sanders (Seat I), Todd Hall (Seat A), Craig Tremble (Seat B), Matthew Wise (Seat C), Tony Natson (Seat D), and Beth Sands (Seat E) to the Recreation Advisory Board; and (4) to enter into an agreement with the State of Georgia with regard to statewide mutual aid and assistance in the event of emergencies, disasters, and homeland security matters (See Exhibit #2012-41).

Without any items of Old or Unfinished Business, Chairman Nevil stated that the only item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to consider the recommendation of the review committee to enter into negotiations for bond underwriting services with R.W. Baird. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that the unanimous recommendation from the review committee was to enter into negotiations with R.W. Baird based on the best written proposal, favorable fees, and interview performance. Without further discussion, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to allow the Staff to enter into negotiations for bond underwriting services with R.W. Baird. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

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 Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Gibson, all thanked the students and the Firefighters for attending the meeting. Chairman Nevil discussed the economy, and stated that the County is financially strong because we do not spend money we do not have in the bank.

After further discussion, Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the Staff, and County Manager Thomas Couch thanked the Firefighters for all of their hard work and dedication to Bulloch County. Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald informed the Firefighters that Holli Deal Bragg was unable to attend the meeting to cover the presentation due to a family emergency. City of Statesboro's Public Safety Director, Wendell Turner, apologized to the Firefighters for a letter from the Statesboro Fire Department that was published in the Statesboro Herald last summer. Mr. Turner stated that the City does appreciate everything they do and all of their help.

Chairman Nevil asked if there were any further comments from the Commission or Staff. Hearing no further comments from the Board or Staff, Chairman Nevil stated that there was no further business expected for the open session of the regular agenda, and the Board must close the meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. Chairman Nevil stated that at the conclusion of the Executive Session, which was expected to last about fifteen minutes, the Board would reconvene and in all likelihood move for adjournment. Chairman Nevil called for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 and other applicable laws, pursuant to the advice of the Chief Corporate Counsel, Jeff Akins, for the purposes of deliberating on Personnel Matters. Without further discussion, Commissioner Rushing offered a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters (See Exhibit #2012-42). Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting was reconvened, and Chairman Nevil asked if there were any further comments from the Commission or Staff. County Manager Thomas Couch asked to address the Board, and stated that, in the next few months, he would be using SPLOST funds to pay for the rewiring of the North Main Annex in order to move EMS Billing from the EMS building to the Annex. Mr. Couch also stated that EMS Billing would then be transferred to the Finance Department. Hearing no further comments from the Board or Staff, Chairman Nevil asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board