

June 19, 2012
Statesboro, GA

Regular 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. Commissioner Roy Thompson 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 Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Development Services Director Andy Welch, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Purchasing Manager Kenneth Trapnell, Deputy Clerk Christy Strickland, and Zoning Administrator Randy Newman.

After Roll Call, Chairman Nevil asked for amendments or modifications of the General Agenda. County Manager Thomas Couch asked that the General Agenda be amended by: (1) Adding as Item #3 to the New Business Agenda for the discussion of water and sewer infrastructure at the proposed I-16/US Highway 301 industrial park. Hearing no further amendments or modifications, Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as amended. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried with votes from Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson.

Chairman Nevil stated that the Board would hold the first of two Public Hearings with regard to the Fiscal Year 2013 General Appropriations Budget, as was duly advertised on Tuesday, June 12, 2012, in the Statesboro Herald (See Exhibit #2012-60). Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to report on the budget, and Mr. Couch stated he would have a final reconciliation completed and distributed by Friday, June 22, 2012. After further discussion, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to open the Public Hearing. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson voting in favor of the

motion. Mr. Ronnie Pope spoke regarding the need for reductions for property taxes, and stated that taxes should be paid by all people. Mr. Pope stated that services should be reduced when revenues continue to decrease. Mr. Pope also encouraged the Board to contact Representative Jan Tankersley regarding the collection of sales taxes for web based businesses. After further discussion from Mr. Pope and the Board and after hearing no further discussion from the public, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson voting in favor of the motion.

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 next item on the Agenda.

Chairman Nevil stated that the Board was petitioned to hear one presentation by Mr. Lawton Sack regarding concerns with changes to the Occupational Tax Ordinance. Mr. Sack discussed the lack of notification to businesses regarding the changes, and also stated that his business saw an increase in the tax from a flat charge of \$125.00 to \$308.00 due to being charged by the number of employees in the business. After further discussion, Mr. Sack asked that the Board set a cap of \$125.00 for the tax. Chairman Nevil thanked Mr. Sack for his Presentation, and stated that the Board and Staff would continue to research and try to improve the Occupational Tax Ordinance.

Next, 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 Special Called Meeting and Executive Session held on May 31, 2012, and the Regular Meeting and Executive Session held on June 5, 2012; (2) to approve the appointments of Connie Sanders and Walt Strickland to the Statesboro Regional Library Board; (3) to approve the reappointment of Dr. Jack Beasley to the Department of Family & Children Services Board; (4) to approve the appointment of Lori Durden and the reappointment of Henry Strickland to the Coastal Workforce Investment Board (CWIB); (5) to approve the

reappointment of Dr. Bobby Mooney to the Bulloch County Alcohol & Drug Council; (6) to authorize the County Manager to execute the annual contract renewal for concrete pipe acquisition (See Exhibit #2012-61); (7) to grant an alcoholic beverage license to Pervez Chaudhry of USMAN Corporation doing business as Tobacco & More #2 located at 17216 GA Highway 67 in Unincorporated Bulloch County; and (8) to authorize the County Manager to execute an agreement for Inmate Excess Loss medical insurance (See Exhibit #2012-62). Without discussion, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated that the first item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to dispense with the reading and adopt a resolution authorizing the conveyance of land to the Hospital Authority of Bulloch County. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that the resolution authorizes the conveyance of 1.36 acres of land to the Hospital Authority, on the condition that the Hospital Authority conveys the property to Ogeechee Area Hospice, Inc., subject to certain terms and conditions. After some discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the conveyance of land to the Hospital Authority of Bulloch County (See Exhibit #2012-63). Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated that the second item of New Business was the discussion and/or action to authorize the sale of revenue bonds by the Development Authority of Bulloch County to finance construction for Georgia Southern University. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that the Development Authority is requesting the Commissioners' approval of the Series 2012 Revenue Bonds in which the proceeds will be used to finance construction of student dining facilities on the campus of Georgia

Southern University. After some discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to authorize the sale of revenue bonds by the Development Authority of Bulloch County to finance construction for Georgia Southern University (See Exhibit #2012-64). Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated that the third item of New Business was the discussion regarding water and sewer infrastructure at proposed I-16/US 301 industrial park. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that he has written a letter to the City of Statesboro's City Manager, Frank Parker, regarding the City's lack of participation in the water and sewer infrastructure. Mr. Couch stated that after several attempts to negotiate the terms of the City's involvement, the letter would serve as the conclusion to the deal. After further discussion, there was an informal consensus from the Board to disregard Mr. Couch's draft letter, and to send a letter to Mr. Parker informing him of the County's terms, and asking for a final water/sewer agreement to be delivered to the County by Friday, June 29, 2012. No formal action was taken regarding this matter.

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, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson thanked the Staff and the County Manager for all their hard work. Commissioner Rushing also stated that there is a need for some swing sets at Mill Creek Park.

After further discussion, Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the Staff, and County Manager Thomas Couch discussed the resurfacing of Harville Road.

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 Mosley offered a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters (See Exhibit #2012-65). Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson voting in favor of the motion.

The meeting was reconvened, and Chairman Nevil asked if there were any further comments from the Commission or Staff. Hearing no comments from the Board or Staff, Chairman Nevil asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rushing offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson voting in favor of the motion.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board