

March 6, 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. Commissioner Roy Thompson 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, Vice Chairman Ethridge, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Development Services Director Andy Welch, Deputy Clerk Christy Strickland, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, County Engineer Kirk Tatum, Area Road Superintendent Therman Fail, 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 Mosley offered a motion to approve the Zoning and Land Use Agenda as presented. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chairman Nevil asked Zoning Administrator Randy Newman to present the two items of business.

Zoning Administrator Randy Newman presented Item #1 which was an application submitted by Scott B. Martin requesting a modification that was placed on his rezone and conditional use request by the Board of Commissioners on February 2, 2010, that stated, "The use shall be limited to a concrete manufacturing business." Mr. Newman stated that Mr. Martin is requesting to be able to sell pre-fabricated buildings and trailers and to have U-Haul rentals on the property, and that the property consists of two parcels totaling 3.26 acres. Mr. Newman stated that the property is located on Highway 80 West, tax map #MS27 000008 000. The Staff recommended and the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to approve the request. Mr. Newman stated that no one signed up to speak for or against the request. Without discussion, Commissioner

Gibson offered a motion to approve the modification request submitted by Scott B. Martin (See Exhibit #2012-25). Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Zoning Administrator Randy Newman presented Item #2 which was an amendment to the Sign Ordinance. Mr. Newman yielded the floor to Development Services Director Andy Welch, who discussed the request by the Board of Commissioners to amend the Sign Ordinance regarding the permitting of temporary signs. After further discussion, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the amendment to the Sign Ordinance (See Exhibit #2012-26). Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Sign-in sheets for Zoning Matters are shown in Exhibit #2012-27.

Chairman Nevil closed the Public Hearings regarding Zoning and Land Use matters, and 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 of New Business the discussion and/or action to adopt a resolution making the final amendment of the Fiscal Year 2011 budget to clear potential notes to the financial statements that will be represented in the forthcoming annual financial report and (2) to add as Item #4 of New Business the discussion and/or action to consider issuing a request for proposals for employee health insurance using an independent benefits consultant. Hearing no further amendments or modifications, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as amended. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The next item of business was the approval of the Minutes for the Workshop held on February 14, 2012, and the Regular Meeting held on February 21, 2012. Chairman Nevil called for corrections or modifications to the Minutes. Without hearing any corrections or modifications, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil stated that the Board would conduct a Public Hearing to accept comments on the request made by Mr. W.M. Sheppard to abandon and close portions of Lee Williams Road, County Road #364, and Bailey Road, County Road #419, where

notice to the public has been duly given according to County requirements and O.C.G.A. 32-7-2 (See Exhibit #2012-28 for Lee Williams Road and See Exhibit #2012-29 for Bailey Road), and called for a motion to open the Public Hearing for citizen input. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to open the Public Hearing. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chairman Nevil called for comments and/or questions from the public. Mrs. Susan Cassidy of Lee Williams Road stated that the roads are both very active, and closing the roads would displace heavy traffic onto other roads. Mr. Don Marsh, representing Mr. Sheppard, stated that Mr. Sheppard is requesting to close the portions of the roads where he owns property on both sides in order to place center pivots in the fields for crop irrigation. Attorney Charlie Aaron, representing Mrs. Connie Collins (Wimmer), spoke in opposition of closing portions on both roads because the closures would create over a two mile trip to get to the main roadway. Attorney Michael Classens, representing the Cowart family, stated that closing portions of both roads would create problems for public safety, and requested that a compromise be made to close the portion of Lee Williams Road and leave the portion of Bailey Road open to the public. Mr. David Myrick of Bailey Road also expressed his concerns about a potential issue with public safety, extra traffic, and finding places for the County motor graders to turn around without driving in people's yards. After further discussion, Commissioner Rushing offered a motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

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. Hearing no 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 dispense with the reading and adopt a resolution to accept the Staff recommendation authorizing the execution of a technical amendment to an agreement by the Chairman of the Board or the County Manager regarding the Bulloch County Employee Retirement Plan (See Exhibit #2012-30) and (2) to accept the Staff recommendation to reappoint Dr. Angela Gerguis for a six year term to the County

Board of Health. Without discussion, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Ethridge 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 regarding the reading and adoption of a resolution to consider the abandonment of a portion of County Road #364, also known as Lee Williams Road. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch summarized previous discussions regarding the proposed road abandonment from the Public Hearings. After further discussion, Commissioner Rushing offered a motion to approve and adopt the resolution to abandon a portion of County Road #364, also known as Lee Williams Road (See Exhibit #2012-31). Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil stated that the second item of New Business was for the discussion and/or action regarding the reading and adoption of a resolution to consider the abandonment of a portion of County Road #419, also known as Bailey Road. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch summarized previous discussions regarding the proposed road abandonment from the Public Hearings. After further discussion, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to deny the request and resolution to abandon a portion of County Road #419, also known as Bailey Road. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil stated that the third item of New Business was for the discussion and/or action to adopt a resolution making the final amendment of the Fiscal Year 2011 budget to clear potential notes to the financial statements that will be represented in the forthcoming annual financial report. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that the final FY 2011 Appropriations Budget amendment would close out that budget for the yearly audit. After further discussion, Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to approve and adopt a resolution making the final amendment of the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget (See

Exhibit #2012-32). Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil stated that the fourth item of New Business was for the discussion and/or action to consider issuing a request for proposals for Employee Health Insurance coverage using an independent benefits consultant. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated the County implemented the services of Wethe & Associates several years ago to bid out the Employee Health Insurance and that his services were instrumental in receiving the best price for health care coverage. After further discussion, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to authorize the County Manager to execute an engagement letter to Wethe & Associates as the County's independent benefits consultant (See Exhibit #2012-33). Commissioner Gibson 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 Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Gibson, and Commissioner Mosley all welcomed the audience and thanked Mr. Couch for his hard work and dedication to the County.

After further discussion, Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the Staff, and County Manager Thomas Couch thanked Commissioner Thompson for reminding the Board about the appointment policy, and stated that on the next Agenda, the meeting minutes would be placed on the Consent Agenda. Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald reminded the Board members about registering for the ACCG Annual Meeting in Savannah.

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 asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board