

May 15, 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. County Manager Thomas Couch 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, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald, Development Services Director Andy Welch, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, County Engineer Kirk Tatum, 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) removing the Presentation by County Attorney Jeff Akins regarding Amendments to the Open Meetings Act and (2) adding as Item #1 of New Business, the discussion and/or action regarding an Amendment to the Occupational Tax Ordinance and Fee Schedule. Hearing no further amendments or modifications, Commissioner Gibson 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, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson.

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. Mrs. Linda Nunnally, of Burkhalter Road, discussed an issue with her neighbor regarding cows being placed on land that is not zoned for agriculture. Mr. Couch asked the neighbors to be patient until the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Commissioners hear

the issue. Mr. Maurice Hill, who owns the cows, explained that he wasn't aware of the zoning, but would have the cows moved by May 18th. Zoning Administrator Randy Newman stated that Mr. Shaver, who owns the land, was cited for the cows, but that Mrs. Nunnally also has chickens on her residentially zoned property. Mr. John Hills stated that he is concerned about possible health hazards from the cows manure. Mrs. Lillian Huff also stated that she is concerned about the cow feces contaminating the well water. After further discussion, Chairman Nevil thanked everyone for their comments, and stated that the matter would be heard at the first meeting in July. Hearing no further comments from the public, Chairman Nevil moved forward to the next item on the Agenda.

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 Regular Meeting and Executive Session held on May 1, 2012, and (2) to approve a bid for \$12,140.00 from Lewis Color for the Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department's print bid for recreation guides and other brochures. Without discussion, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated that the only item of New Business was the discussion and/or action with regard to amending the Occupational Tax Ordinance and Fee Schedule. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Thomas Couch to initiate the discussion regarding the matter, and Mr. Couch stated that a Public Hearing was held at 5:30 pm on Thursday, May 10, 2012, regarding the matter, and that no one was present for the hearing to voice their concerns. After some discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to approve the amendments to the Occupational Tax Ordinance and Fee Schedule (See Exhibit #2012-51). Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson voting in favor of the motion.

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 Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson thanked the Staff for their hard work and thanked the citizens for attending the meeting.

After further discussion, Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the Staff, and County Manager Thomas Couch stated that the Board would need to hold a brief Budget Workshop within the next two weeks, and that he would like to hold a meeting someplace in Portal very soon. Mr. Couch also discussed naming the interior road at Gateway. Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald and Chairman Nevil discussed upcoming events.

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 Mosley 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, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson voting in favor of the motion.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board