

February 28, 2013  
Statesboro, GA

## Workshop

The Board of Commissioners met for a Workshop at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Room of the North Main Annex. Chairman Nevil gave the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Christy Strickland, 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 Ethridge, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Vice-Chairman Walter Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Developmental Services Director Andy Welch, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn; and Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins.

Chairman Nevil called the Workshop to order and asked for amendments or modifications of the General Agenda. Hearing no amendments or modifications, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as presented. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated that the first item of Business was for discussion on the FY 2013 County Economic Update. He called on County Manager Tom Couch to initiate discussion on the matter. Mr. Couch gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the macro-economic outlook for the United States, Georgia, the coastal region of Georgia, and Bulloch County. The presentation included data concerning economic growth, employment, inflation and spending, interest rates, sector analysis, and housing. Mr. Couch stated that given the macro outlook, and the performance of key local indicators, it is likely that Bulloch County's economic growth for 2013 will trail slightly behind the state and nation. Mr. Couch proceeded with the second items on the agenda, FY 2013 Mid-Year Report on his PowerPoint Presentation. He discussed the revenues, expenditures, forward expectations, special revenue funds, and SPLOST 2007. Mr.

Couch proceeded with the third item on the agenda, FY 2014 Budget Goals and Strategies. He discussed where the county is as an organization, the major accomplishments and milestones, community overview, organizational assessment-governance, citizen and employee expectations, identification of future needs and issues for short and long terms, and priorities. Mr. Couch proceeded with the fourth item on the agenda, SPLOST GO Bond Proceeds. He discussed the preliminary Capital Improvements Project (CIP) and what the funds would be used for and where does the county go from here into the future. Mr. Couch asked for any questions or concerns from the Board. Commissioner Carolyn Ethridge asked if there were any plans to implement a IT Department for the County. Mr. Couch explained that Developmental Services Director Andy Welch was currently acting as the County's IT Department but he would look into the idea further. Commissioner Thompson discussed the Ag Arena and inquired how long it would take to be built and asked if it would be a self-operating facility. Mr. Couch stated the site is tight and it may need additional space for parking but once the design plans were finalized they would have more information about what it needed and if it would be self operating.

Statesboro Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins asked if he could address the Board concerning the re-financing of Splash in the Boro. He presented two proposals from Sea Island Bank and Robert W. Baird Co. Mr. Rollins stated it was a great time to refinance and after speaking with both companies he would recommend going with the proposal with Sea Island Bank but would need a decision soon to be able to lock in the rates that were given by the companies. Commissioner Thompson stated due to time restraints and wanting to keep the loan local he would make a motion to approve the proposal from Sea Island Bank for the refinancing of Splash in the Boro (See Exhibit # 2013-018). Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the fifth item on the agenda is for Discussion on the I-16/Hwy 301 Plan Agreement. Chairman Nevil stated that discussion on the plan has been going on for over a year and they had finally come to a fifty/fifty agreement with the City

of Statesboro. There was some discussion on the rates that were in the agreement. Commissioner Thompson stated this had been a lengthy process and he thinks the agreement is fair. Commissioner Rushing asked if the agreement was approved between the city and county then how long would it be before work began. County Attorney Jeff Akins stated there was not anything in the agreement that gave a timeline on how long after the agreement was signed that the project had to begin. Commissioner Rushing asked what the staff's opinion was on the agreement. County Manager Tom Couch stated he believed it was the best agreement for both parties. After some additional discussion Commissioner Simmons made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Bulloch County Board of Commissioners and the City of Statesboro for the Interstate 16/Highway 301 Plan. (See Exhibit# 2013-019) Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the sixth item on the agenda was for Initiated Topics. He asked if anyone had any concerns they wanted to discuss. Commissioner Ethridge asked if there had been anymore information found out about allowing Personal Care Homes in Bulloch County. Developmental Services Director Andy Welch stated Zoning Administrator Randy Newman was looking into throughout the state to see what other county ordinances are and would give an update soon.

Chairman Nevil asked for further questions or comments from the Board. Hearing none, Chairman Nevil called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to adjourn the Workshop. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Vice-Chairman Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

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J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

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Attest: Christy A. Strickland, Clerk of the Board