

February 18, 2014  
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. He 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: Commissioner Ethridge, Vice-Chairman Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Tom Couch, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Developmental Services Director Andy Welch, Transportation Director Dink Butler, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Chief Accountant Whitney Richland, Chief Deputy Jared Akins, County Engineer Kirk Tatum, Statesboro-Bulloch Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, and EMS Director Doug Vickers.

After Roll Call, Chairman Nevil asked for amendments or modifications of the General Agenda. Hearing none, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as presented. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil asked for public comments from the audience at large or in writing. There was no one present for public comments and nothing had been submitted in writing.

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 February 6, 2014; (2) To approve a contract for the Main Band for the Firecracker Fest (See Exhibit # 2014-014); (3) To adopt a resolution authorizing the County Manager to apply for a Gateway Grant for improvement to the I-16/US 301 interchange (See Exhibit # 2014-015); (4) To approve a contract with Coca-Cola Bottling Company United East LLC for March 1, 2014 through February 28, 2015 (See Exhibit #2014-016).

Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the first item under Unfinished Business was for Discussion/Action to authorize an amendment to Appendix I of the Purchasing Policy and called on County Manager Tom Couch to initiate discussion on the matter. Mr. Couch stated there are two proposed amendments to Appendix 1. The first one is to modify the redundant language regarding the purchasing card committee. He stated the second is an amendment to add language regarding violations and actions for improper use or documentation. Mr. Couch stated the primary purpose is to provide for progressive corrective action for employees who misuse or abuse cards, or who fail to provide documentation for transactions. He stated there has not been any widespread abuse with any employee but there are some who do not provide adequate or timely documentation. He stated the existing policy does provide for sanctions, but they are not specific or progressive enough to properly handle certain situations, and the amendment would provide a procedure to handle such cases more specifically. Commissioner Ethridge asked if the Department Heads would be made aware of the modifications if it is approved. Mr. Couch stated he will have a meeting with them next week and advise them of the changes. Hearing no further discussion, Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to approve an amendment to Appendix 1 of the Purchasing Policies as requested by the County Manager (See Exhibit #2014-017). Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the second item under Unfinished Business was for discussion only to review policy structure for speed bumps and called on County Manager Tom Couch to initiate discussion on the matter. Mr. Couch stated at the January 21, 2014 regular meeting Ms. Amanda Moore of Olney Station Subdivision requested that the County install speed bumps in the subdivision. He stated the County

does not have a policy for installing speed bumps and he would recommend a policy and funding structure before proceeding. Mr. Couch went over a matrix of speed bump policies from different counties in Georgia. He stated if the Board would like to proceed he would draft a policy for further action at a future meeting. Chairman Nevil stated if he would like to present a draft to the board they would review it. There was no action taken.

Commissioner Thompson asked to address an article which was put in the Statesboro Herald under letters to the editor. He stated the concerned citizen stated that she had addressed the Board of Commissioners about a few issues and never got a reply from them or any of the staff. Commissioner Thompson stated he just wanted to clarify that the concerned citizen attended the May 21, 2013 meeting and spoke, and when she had finished speaking he addressed the concerns. Chairman Nevil thanked Commissioner Thompson for his comments.

Chairman Nevil stated the first item under New Business was for Discussion/Action to form an FY 2015 Budget Committee. He called on County Manager Tom Couch to initiate discussion on the matter. Mr. Couch stated he is requesting the formation of a budget committee that would consist of no less than two (2) Commissioners, the County Manager, the Chief Financial Officer and possibly two (2) alternates. He stated the purpose of the committee would be to review and discuss the upcoming fiscal year budget proposals from departments and agencies and have hearings involving some or all of them, and also to increase the Commissioners' involvement, awareness, and transparency in the budget process. Mr. Couch passed out a tentative 2015 Budget Preparation Calendar (See Exhibit # 2014-019) and stated the budget committee would also convene to discuss and make recommendations to the County Manager as a budget officer who will then submit a final recommended budget to the Board of Commissioners. He stated the meetings would be open to the public, including meetings where departments and agencies would be called on for interviews. Commissioner Thompson and Commissioner Ethridge both stated they would like to be on the committee. Mr. Couch stated he would give them some time to think about it and would bring it back at one of the meetings in March. There was no action taken.

Chairman Nevil stated the second item under New Business was for Discussion/Action to request the board to approve a change order with Mill Creek Construction for resurfacing the roads in Mill Creek Park and the new Brooklet Maintenance Facility. He called on County Manager Tom Couch to initiate discussion on the matter. Mr. Couch stated the change order is to add resurfacing to the roads at Mill Creek Regional Park (no parking areas) to the existing contract between Mill Creek Construction and Bulloch County for subdivision resurfacing and also the Brooklet Maintenance Facility. Hearing no discussion on the matter, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the change order with Mill Creek Construction for resurfacing the roads in Mill Creek Park in the amount of \$53,877.00 and the new Brooklet Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$8,991.00. (See Exhibit # 2014-020). Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the third item under New Business was for Discussion/Action to request that the Board approve a cost estimate for relocation of EMC utility poles for the widening of AJ Riggs Road. He called on County Manager Tom Couch to initiate discussion on the matter. Mr. Couch stated Georgia Power had already moved the utility poles they had at the site but that EMC is now requesting the ones they own be moved. He stated it would be appropriated from 02 SPLOST Gateway funds. Hearing no further discussion, Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to approve the cost estimate of \$109,404.46 for relocation of Excelsior EMC utility poles at the AJ Riggs Widening project (See Exhibit # 2014-021). Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the fourth item under New Business is for Discussion/Action to authorize an appropriation from 2013 SPLOST Go Bond proceeds. He called on County Manager Tom Couch to initiate discussion on the matter. Mr. Couch stated in consultation with Maxwell-Reddick and the Development Authority of Bulloch

County (DABC), the purchase of wetland credits is needed in the approximate amount of \$ 210, 000. He stated in an effort to create an industrial park that will be conducive to entice larger industrial prospects to locate on the 203.9-acre tract of property, located at I-16 and US Highway 301, and to avoid limiting the marketability of the property, it was desirable to mitigate a portion of the wetlands that were located within the boundaries of the property. Mr. Couch stated the purchase of these mitigation credits will allow 8.98 acres of wetlands to be filled and leave approximately 8.42 acres of wetlands along the perimeter of the property. He passed out an invoice from Margin Bay LLC (See Exhibit # 2014-022). Hearing no discussion on the matter, Commissioner Rushing offered a motion to authorize an appropriation from the 2013 SPLOST Go Bond proceeds. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil asked for any general comments or statements from the Commissioners. He and Commissioners Ethridge, Simmons, Mosley, Rushing, Thompson and Gibson thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication.

Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the staff. Clerk of the Board Christy Strickland stated that Bulloch County's Jarrett Cartee was nominated for the First Lady's Servant Heart award and was one of the nominees throughout the state of Georgia. She stated the Governor and First Lady would be hosting a photo op on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 10:00 A.M., and that if any of the Commissioners would like to attend to let her know. She also stated the Annual ACCG Conference was in April and she needed to know who would like to attend.

Chairman Nevil asked for any other comments from the staff. Hearing none, he stated 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 after a five minute recess. Chairman Nevil stated that at the conclusion of the Executive Session, which was expected to last about five 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(b)(1)(B) and other

applicable laws, pursuant to the advice of the County Attorney, Jeff Akins, for the purpose of discussion of authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property. Without further discussion, Commissioner Rushing offered a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(B). (See Exhibit #2014-023). Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

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Chairman Nevil asked if there were any further comments from the Commissioners or Staff. Hearing none from the Board or Staff, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

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J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

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Attest: Christy Strickland, Clerk of the Board