

January 20, 2015
Statesboro, GA

Regular Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met at 8:30am in the Community Room of the North Main Annex. Chairman Nevil welcomed guests and called the meeting to order. Commissioner Rushing gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Olympia Gaines, Clerk of the Board, performed the roll call of the commissioners and staff. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Anthony Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff was present: County Manager Tom Couch, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Assistant County Manager Andy Welch, Chief Financial Officer Whitney Richland, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Zoning Administrator Randy Newman, Purchasing Manager Faye Bragg, Management Analyst Cindy Steinmann, Chief Accountant Kristie King, Transportation Director Dink Butler, and Planning and Zoning Commission Chairwoman Jeanne Anne Marsh.

After Roll Call, Chairman Nevil asked for changes or modifications of the General Agenda. Mr. Couch asked to modify the agenda by adding item #2 under New Business for an Economic Development Update from the Development Authority of Bulloch County, and by adding an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. After hearing no further modifications or amendments, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the General Agenda with the modifications requested by Mr. Couch. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Rushing, Vice-Chairman Thompson and Commissioner Mosley voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil asked for public comments from the audience at large or in writing. Hearing none, he stated the next item on the agenda was to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: (1) approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 6, 2015; (2) to approve an alcohol beverage license for package retail beer and wine sales to Jagdishchandra Bhatt and Mitul Patel (designee) of Shree Aksharmurti, Inc. doing

business as Zip N Food #11 located at 7462 Stilson Leefield Road, Brooklet, Georgia (See Exhibit #2015-005); (3) to approve a contract with Robertson Industries, Inc. to resurface Splash in the Boro Spray Pad (See Exhibit #2015-006). Without further discussion, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Simmons and Commissioner Mosley voting in favor of the motion.

With no items of Old or Unfinished Business, Chairman Nevil stated that the first item of New Business was the discussion of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to update definitions and standards for community residences (group homes, personal care homes, etc.). Mr. Couch stated that the current language in the ordinance needs to be updated to reflect changes in definitions and licensing by the State of Georgia. After some discussion, the consensus was to move forward with an ordinance amendment to reflect necessary updates based on changes in definitions and licensing by the State of Georgia, while maintaining the status quo regarding which zoning districts allow personal care homes as conditional uses.

Chairman Nevil stated the second item under New Business was an Economic Development Update from the Development Authority of Bulloch County. Mr. Benjy Thompson, Executive Director of the Development Authority, stated that project activity has increased and that in 2013 there were 8 “named” projects with four of those requesting information, and in 2014 there were 19 “named” projects with two requesting information. Mr. Thompson referenced successes in 2014 with Viracon’s expansion resulting in over 125 jobs and 2 million dollars in capital investment, and the partnering of the alternative fuel company Efficien with Georgia Southern University. Mr. Thompson reported that for FY2014 there was an increase in cash-on-hand for strategic uses such as land purchases, infrastructure costs, etc., and that overall the Authority spent 75% of the FY2014 budget on annual expenses. Mr. Thompson stated that the strategic plan for 2014 was: (1) to increase understanding of economic development and the Development Authority’s role to the community, government and business leaders, which is an ongoing initiative; (2) to secure financial stability and capacity for the Development Authority in order to increase competitiveness for jobs and capital investment; (3) to

understand the requirements for locating projects and increase the Authority's ability to invest in those projects; and (4) to secure additional land to attract large manufacturing projects. Mr. Thompson stated the FY2015 activities included: (1) Boyette Study; (2) Workforce Business Case; (3) Utilities to I-16/301; (4) marketing for I-16/301; (5) OneGeorgia awards grant to Georgia Southern, Ogeechee Tech, and the Development Authority in the amount of \$500,000 for Bulloch County industry training and innovation labs, which grant is currently available and ready to use; (6) recent prospect activity to include 6-8 projects focusing on advance manufacturing; and (7) working to support existing industries in the community.

Chairman Nevil called for general comments or statements from the Commissioners and staff. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Thompson for his presentation, thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and thanked the staff for all their hard work. Mr. Couch reminded the Commissioners of the information regarding the local buyers preference policies and would like feedback from the Commissioners to see if this matter could be brought back before the Board for the next meeting scheduled on February 3, 2015. Mr. Couch also stated that there is a work session scheduled for next Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 11:45am until 1:15pm. Chairman Nevil mentioned to the Commissioners there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony for Papa Murphy's Pizza on January 27th at 11:15am and asked for support of this event. Mrs. Richland introduced Mrs. Kristie King as the new Chief Accountant.

Hearing no further comments from the Board or Staff, Chairman Nevil 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 to discuss Personnel Matters. 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) (2) and other applicable laws, pursuant to the advice of County Attorney Jeff Akins, for the purpose of discussing and deliberating on Personnel Matters. Without further discussion, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to adjourn and enter into Executive Session to discuss and deliberate on Personnel Matters (See Exhibit #2015-007). Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Gibson,

Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley 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 commissioners or staff. Mr. Akins informed the Board and staff that he now has the deeds to Clark Farm Road and Miller Street Extension. Hearing no further comments from the Commissioners or staff, Chairman Nevil asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commission Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Simmons all voting in favor of the motion.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: _____

Olympia Gaines, Clerk