

August 4, 2015  
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 called the meeting to order and welcomed staff. Commissioner Gibson 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 Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Gibson, and Commissioner Rushing. The following staff were present: County Manager Tom Couch, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Assistant County Manager Andy Welch, Chief Financial Officer Whitney Richland, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Transportation Director Dink Butler, Statesboro-Bulloch Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, Solid Waste Director Fred White, Management Analyst Cindy Steinmann, Chief Deputy Jared Akins, Tax Commissioner James Deal, and Tax Assessor John Scott.

Chairman Nevil asked for changes or modifications of the General Agenda. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the General Agenda as presented. Commissioner Simmons 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 all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the next item on the agenda was for a public hearing for the proposed property tax increase. He called on Mr. Couch to initiate discussion on the matter. Mr. Couch stated the public notice has been duly given and two public hearings were held on July 28, 2015, with the third one being held at the current meeting. He discussed the proposed millage rate increase and stated the 2015 millage rates were on the agenda for the Board to approve. Chairman Nevil asked if there was anyone present to speak concerning the item. Hearing none, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to close the public hearing for the proposed property tax increase. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil asked for public comments from the audience at large or in writing. Mr. John Smith discussed the issues he is having with the Disc Golf Course adjacent to his property. Mr. Smith stated that he initially purchased this property as a result of recommendations by the Board that his business should be located in an area zoned light industrial. Mr. Smith stated his problems with Disc Golf revolve around safety concerns as participants are often entering his property and could possibly be injured by the tools he has on his property. He requested that the County either place a fence around his property or purchase his property for the recreation department. Mr. Couch informed the Board if they are considering placing a fence around Mr. Smith's property there are various steps that would need to be considered as the cost estimate would require the submission of bids and a budget amendment pursuant to the County's financial and purchasing policies. Mr. Smith stated that he would like the issue to be resolved as soon as possible. Commissioner Rushing suggested the Disc Golf Course might be temporarily closed until the situation is resolved. After some discussion, the Board informed Mr. Smith that within 90 days, he would have an indication of how this issue would be resolved.

Mrs. Judy Womack expressed her opposition to the removal of the Confederate monument on the courthouse lawn and asked the Board not to relocate or alter the Confederate monument. Mr. Michael Mull reiterated his opposition to the removal of the Confederate monument and asked the Board to leave the monument where it is.

Dr. Lisa Leege expressed her desire to see the continuation of the curbside recycling program and discussed the benefits of the program for the community as a whole. Dr. Leege stated that she would like for the Board to revisit the decision to terminate the curbside recycling program and continue the curbside recycling program until a solution could be reached. Mr. Couch shared some of the negative operating issues for the curbside recycling program as follows: (1) poor program design; (2) poor promotion, outreach and feedback; (3) poor collection practices; and (4) inadequate materials recycling facility. He stated these issues have resulted in an operating loss of \$41,825 and an aggregate loss of \$67,825. Mr. Couch stated the County is recommending termination of the program as the County cannot afford to supplement the program with tax payers' dollars to fix the problems with the program. Mr. Couch stated that the County is working on a solution with the City to have something in place for residents within the city prior to the September deadline.

Mrs. G. Clifton Miller expressed her concerns with the condition of BJ Clifton Road and her desire to see Rough Rider Road and Spring Creek Road paved. Chairman Nevil briefly shared with Mrs. Miller the process of having a road paved and stated the Board will review her concerns and provide some feedback. Chairman Nevil thanked everyone for their comments.

Chairman Nevil stated the next item on the agenda was a presentation by Patsy Salazar and Chelsea Glosser with the Up with People Organization. Ms. Salazar and Ms. Glosser shared a description of the organization and upcoming events. They stated the organization is looking for 35 local host families to assist with transportation, meals and community integration activities for their members while they are visiting Statesboro. Ms. Salazar stated there will be an Up with People show on August 28, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Statesboro High School. Chairman Nevil thanked both Ms. Salazar and Ms. Glosser for their presentation and for visiting Bulloch County and the Statesboro area.

Chairman Nevil stated the next item on the agenda was to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: (1) approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting held on June 30, 2015 and the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 21, 2015; and (2) approve a resolution for the adoption of the recently approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (See Exhibit #2015-095). Commissioner Rushing 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 all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the first item under Old Business was for discussion and/or action regarding the Confederate monument at the courthouse. Without further discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to have the Confederate monument remain on the courthouse lawn. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion. Commissioner Mosley recommended the Board consider forming a committee to further review options regarding the monument and other memorials.

Chairman Nevil stated the first item under New Business was for discussion and/or action to approve the 2015 millage rates as follows: (1) Bulloch County Board of Commissioners M&O would be 12.340 Mills; (2) Statesboro Fire Tax District M&O would be 1.800 Mills; (3) Bulloch

County Board of Education M&O would be 9.848 Mills; and (4) Bulloch County Board of Education Bond would be 0.450 Mills. After hearing no further discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to approve the levy of the millage rates as presented for calendar year 2015 (See Exhibit # 2015-096). Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil called for general comments or statements from the commissioners and staff. The commissioners thanked everyone for their attendance, and thanked everyone for sharing their comments and input. Commissioner Simmons invited the audience to attend the monthly meetings in order to see what issues were being discussed by the Board. Commissioner Rushing stated that every effort was made to keep the budget low and all of the commissioners looked at every component before coming to the decision to raise taxes. Commissioner Thompson stated in comparison to 2010 and the current year with the proposed tax increase, most taxpayers would still be paying lower amounts. He stated he would also like to see a workshop scheduled to discuss the curbside recycling program. Mr. John Scott thanked everyone for their efforts in the budgeting process and stated he is open to any discussion concerning the property tax increase. He thanked the County for all the valuable services it provides. Mr. Couch thanked the elected body and the county staff for all that they do. Chairman Nevil thanked everyone for their attendance and comments.

Hearing no further comments from the Board or Staff, Chairman Nevil stated that 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 #2015-097). Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge 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. Hearing no further comments from the commissioners or staff, Chairman Nevil asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rushing offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

---

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Olympia Gaines, Clerk of the Board