

July 21, 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. County Manager Tom Couch 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 Thompson, Commissioner Ethridge, and Commissioner Mosley. Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Gibson, and Commissioner Simmons were absent. The following staff was present: County Manager Tom Couch, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Assistant County Manager Andy Welch, Chief Financial Officer Whitney Richland, Chief Accountant Kristie King, Management Analyst Cindy Steinmann, Solid Waste Director Fred White, Statesboro Bulloch Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, Transportation Director Dink Butler, County Engineer Kirk Tatum, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Chief Christopher Ivey, Statesboro-Bulloch Airport Director Kathy Boykin, and Chief Deputy Jared Akins

Chairman Nevil asked for changes or modifications of the General Agenda. Mr. Couch asked to modify the agenda by adding item #3 (approval of Tentative Allocation from GDOT for land and easement acquisition) for discussion and/or action under New Business. Without further discussion, Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to approve the General Agenda with the modification requested by Mr. Couch. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Mosley and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the next item on the agenda was public comments from Mr. John Smith. Commissioner Thompson informed the Board that Mr. Smith would like to postpone comments until a later date.

Chairman Nevil stated the next item on the agenda was public comments from Mr. Michael Mull. Mr. Mull reiterated his concerns in opposition to the removal of the Confederate statue from the courthouse lawn because he believes it serves as a landmark and a testament of the fortitude of Bulloch County residents following the aftermath of the War Between the States.

Mrs. Judy Womack expressed feelings of opposition to having the statue relocated. Ms. Womack stated according to the Bylaws of the Georgia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, when a Chapter disbands or becomes defunct such as the Statesboro Chapter UDC, all assets including their monuments and markers become the property of the Georgia Division United Daughters of the Confederacy. Mr. Michael Sorrell and Mr. Jimmy Hayes also expressed feelings of opposition to the removal of the Confederate statue from the courthouse lawn.

Mr. Frances Johnson asked that the Board take action on the recommendation to form a committee to review this matter. Mrs. Pearl Brown expressed her concerns that the statue symbolizes the inequality in education and employment practices in Bulloch County and stated that she is in favor of the removal and relocation of the statue. Ms. Jessica Orbis recommend that the Board look at other solutions such as establishing a committee to look at this issue. Mr. James Woodall reiterated his support for the removal of the Confederate statue and the establishment of a committee to come up with solutions for this issue and similar issues. Mrs. Adrienne McCollar expressed feelings of why the Confederate statue should be removed, discussed some confusion with the law concerning the statue and asked the Board to take action on establishing a committee to handle the issue with the statue.

Chairman Nevil thanked everyone for their comments. He stated 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 July 7, 2015; (2) to approve the reappointment of Maurice Hill, Phillip Tremble and Jared Akins to the Alcohol and Drug Council; (3) to approve the appointments of Diane Prosser Allen and Beth Mathews and the reappointment of Ceil Hardin to the Regional Library Board; (4) to approve an alcohol beverage license for package retail beer and wine sales to Ashleigh Handy for J& D Grocery located at 8090 Nevils Groveland Road (See Exhibit #2015-091); (5) to approve Mutual Aid Agreement between Pembroke Fire Department and Bulloch County Fire Department (See Exhibit #2015-092); ( 6) to approve the Amended and Restated Plan Document and Summary Plan Description for the Employee Health Care Plan (See Exhibit #2015-093). Without further discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Mosley and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the first item under New Business was for discussion and/or action to approve an alcohol beverage license for package retail beer and wines sales to Om Food Mart (Vinod Jetwani and Cassandra Wiggins) located at 10941 Hwy 301 South. Chairman Nevil called on Mrs. Gaines to initiate discussion on the matter. Mrs. Gaines reminded the Board that the store's previous owner was denied a license and the store now has a new owner. Without further discussion, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to approve an alcohol beverage license for package retail beer and wine sales to Om Food Mart (Vinod Jetwani and Cassandra Wiggins) located at 10941 Hwy 301 South (See Exhibit #2015-094). Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the next item under New Business was for discussion and /or action to approve Solid Waste operational matters. Chairman Nevil called on Mr. Couch to initiate discussion on the matter. Mr. Couch stated Mr. Fred White would make a brief presentation on operational matters to include changing operational days and hours at convenience centers, discontinuing the acceptance of bulk waste and scrap tires, and some fee proposals in efforts to lower operating costs. Mr. White stated they currently have 170 cardboard baskets which have been given out free of charge to businesses and serviced by the department three times per week. Mr. White stated they also have 75 wire containers that were also given out. He is proposing to collect a fee of \$10 per month for the wire baskets and \$20 per month for the cardboard containers. Mr. White stated this additional revenue would help with labor, fuel, and maintenance costs for the department. Mr. White proposed closing the convenience centers on Sunday in order to give the staff a day off to spend with family. He also proposed discontinuing the acceptance of bulk waste due to a lot of commercial contractors dumping waste at the convenience centers. Mr. White stated bulk waste has grown 700 tons from FY2015 to FY2016 and the county will pay at least \$350,000 in tippage fees for bulk waste this year. After some discussion, Mr. Couch recommended Mr. White develop a policy proposal and then bring the issue back before the board for discussion. No action was taken on this matter.

Chairman Nevil stated the last item under New Business was for discussion and/or action to approve the tentative allocation from GDOT for land and easement acquisition. Mr. Couch provided a brief background concerning the land and easements needed for the runway protection zones for the Statesboro Bulloch Airport in order to meet FAA guidelines. Without

further discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to approve the tentative allocation from GDOT for land and easement acquisition. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Mosley, 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 the staff for all their hard work. Commissioner Mosley thanked everyone for their comments and appreciated the sharing of ideas, and thanked Mr. White for his presentation. Mrs. Gaines reminded the commissioners and staff of the upcoming ribbon cutting for Pineland's Women Center on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Hearing no further comments from the Board or Staff, Chairman Nevil, asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Mosley and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

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J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

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

Olympia Gaines, Clerk of the Board