

**Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
June 22, 2010
6:00 p.m.**

A Public Hearing and the Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners were held Tuesday, June 22, 2010 at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia, with Chairperson Linda Fussell presiding.

Members Present: Emily C. Davis
Linda Fussell
Sammy Hall
Faye Smith
Bubba Williams

Also Present: David Waddell
Ralph McMullen
Cindy Cunningham
Linda Zarkowsky
Dawn Hudson
Scott Deason

Call to Order

Chairperson Linda Fussell called the June 22, 2010, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Hearing

Chairperson Linda Fussell stated a public hearing will be held regarding a proposed Property Maintenance Ordinance.

Assistant County Manager Ralph McMullen opened the public hearing to consider the proposed Property Maintenance Ordinance. He stated the purpose of the hearing is to present details of the ordinance and to solicit public input on the proposed ordinance which would strengthen the present ordinance governing property maintenance and dilapidated structures. Mr. McMullen reported notice of the public hearing was published and copies of the proposed ordinance were given to Commissioners and were also made available for public review prior to the meeting. He stated efforts to use the court system to hold property owners accountable for violations of the present property maintenance ordinance have been held up over the court's concerns that the current ordinance may not be sufficient to prosecute violators. Environmental Compliance Officer Marion Nelson stated a stronger ordinance would give the County the tools necessary to pursue the most egregious offenders.

There were no comments from the public regarding the proposed Property Maintenance Ordinance.

After discussion, Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to table the proposed ordinance until a later meeting to allow for further review and possible amendments to the Property Maintenance Ordinance. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

The public hearing was closed at this time.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Bubba Williams asked that the minutes reflect he was unable to attend a portion of the June 1, 2010 meeting due to being stranded because of mechanical problems; however, he arrived for the Executive Session and the remainder of the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Resolution for Heritage Vista Apartments

Assistant County Manager Ralph McMullen stated Gateway Construction Corporation proposes to develop Heritage Vista Apartments, a 72 unit affordable housing apartment community to be located on Heritage Place and to be funded with Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Mr. McMullen presented a Resolution of support for the application which would allow the developer to be eligible for tax credits.

Vice Chairperson Faye Smith made a motion to approve for discussion the Resolution in support of Heritage Vista Apartments. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bubba Williams made a motion to table the issue until the next meeting in order to get public input. The motion was seconded.

After discussion, Commissioner Bubba Williams withdrew his motion to table the Resolution.

Chairperson Fussell called for a vote on the motion to approve the Resolution of support. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Resolution of support for Heritage Vista Apartments.

A copy of the Resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Downtown Parking

Commissioner Bubba Williams asked Commissioners to consider assisting downtown merchants with the parking situation due to work currently being done on the streetscape project. He asked if gates on the lower parking deck could be raised to allow access for free parking until the project is completed. Assistant County Manager Ralph McMullen and Captain Scott Deason presented information on downtown parking citing the number of court sessions that are scheduled for the Courthouse as well as normal Courthouse business.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to have Assistant County Manager McMullen and Captain Deason develop a temporary plan, expiring Labor Day, September 6, 2010, for the lower parking deck in order to assist merchants with downtown parking. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Jail Inmate Costs

Commissioner Bubba Williams made a motion to have the County Attorney research options for recouping costs accrued by inmates while being held in the Baldwin County jail. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Kitchens Road Update

Assistant County Manager Ralph McMullen presented an update on improvements to Kitchens Road. He stated a pre-construction conference was held; and due to additional quantities of materials, additional funds of \$9,000.00 were required for the project. He reported repaving is now complete.

Affordable Senior Housing

Ms. Carrie Jarrett, of Baldwin Park Senior Village, presented an update on affordable senior housing in the community. She stated Baldwin Park Senior Village, a 56 unit apartment complex, is a gated facility, being built on Irwin Street with the anticipated opening date of fall 2010. Ms. Jarrett outlined amenities of the complex and discussed guidelines and requirements for occupancy.

2010 Justice Assistance Grant

Assistant Finance Director Dawn Hudson reported Baldwin County, with the assistance of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, has completed a grant application on behalf of the Sheriff's Department to the U.S. Department of Justice through the Justice Assistance Grant program. She stated the grant amount is \$24,547.00 with no required match from the County. She stated funds will be used for renovation of the existing E 911 Center and for upgrades to the electrical and plumbing facilities. Ms. Hudson reported copies of the grant application are available for public review and comments.

Vice Chairperson Faye Smith made a motion to authorize the submission of the grant application and to authorize the Chairperson to execute necessary grant documents. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Accounts Payable List Dated June 22, 2010

Vice Chairperson Faye Smith made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list dated June 22, 2010. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Other Business

Commissioner Sammy Hall expressed his appreciation to David Waddell for his many years of outstanding service as Baldwin County Attorney. Commissioner Hall welcomed David McRee as County Attorney.

Adjournment

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion that the Board of Commissioners meeting be adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Fussell
Chairperson

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk