

**Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
July 19, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

A Public Hearing and the Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, July 19, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

Members Present: Emily C. Davis
Tommy French
Sammy Hall
Henry Craig

Absent: John Westmoreland

Also Present: David McRee
Ralph McMullen
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Sammy Hall called the July 19, 2016, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Hearing

Chair Hall called the Public Hearing to order. He stated the purpose of the hearing is to solicit public input and comments on the proposed abandonment of right of way on Montpelier Church Road. He stated a letter was received from the Montpelier United Methodist Church Board of Trustees requesting that County right of way on an old abandoned road be deeded to Montpelier UMC. Chair Hall opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Jerry Williams, President of Montpelier UMC Board of Trustees, stated that Montpelier Church is in the process of having the church property resurveyed to establish property lines after purchasing property over the years. He stated the Trustees are requesting the County abandon this portion of right of way on Montpelier Church Road and deed the abandoned road to Montpelier UMC. He stated no other property owners would be affected.

County Manager Ralph McMullen reported all legal requirements have been met for public notification of the hearing. No comments were received regarding the proposed abandonment.

Chair Hall asked if there were any further comments. There were no other public comments.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Call to Order

Chair Hall called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2016, Regular Meeting as submitted. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Georgia Military College

Mr. Randy New, Chairman of the GMC Board of Trustees, expressed his appreciation to the Board for allowing President Caldwell and other key staff members to present an update on Georgia Military College.

Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell IV, President of Georgia Military College, introduced GMC staff members in attendance. He stated that in addition to himself Ms. Laura Booth, Academic Dean; Col. Patrick Beer, Commandant of Cadets & Dean of Students; and Principal Pam Grant would make presentations on the update of GMC. President Caldwell and his staff discussed the following: mission of GMC, economic impact on Milledgeville/Baldwin County, statistics regarding enrollment and graduation rates, academic majors and programs of study, dual enrollment, scholarships, leadership awards, school year 15-16 milestones, campuses/extension campuses, Junior College Corps of Cadets, and the GMC Prep School.

Abandonment of Right of Way on Montpelier Church Road

County Manager Ralph McMullen stated a public hearing was held prior to the Regular Meeting regarding the abandonment of right of way on Montpelier Church Road. He reported legal requirements for advertising the public hearing have been met, and no objections were received prior to or during the hearing.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the abandonment of right of way on Montpelier Church Road as advertised and presented at the hearing. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

County Attorney David McRee stated he would prepare necessary legal documents for the abandonment of said right of way.

REDLEG Loan Application for Development Authority

Development Authority Executive Director Matt Poyner stated the Development Authority would like to apply for a REDLEG loan through Tri-County EMC to complete work in the industrial park. He introduced Regional Commission staff member Jonathan Connell who would be working with the Development Authority in preparing the loan application pending approval from the Board. Mr. Poyner stated the request will be for a million dollar loan for ten years interest free, and the loan will be repaid through allocated SPLOST funds to the Authority in the amount of \$970,000. Mr. Connell stated the application must be submitted by the end of this month.

Commissioner Craig asked for clarification that the loan will come from the USDA to Tri-County EMC to the Development Authority, and the loan will stay open until all money is recouped and repaid to USDA. Chair Hall commented the liability is with the Development Authority to repay the loan. Vice Chair Davis asked that the record reflect that the Authority's SPLOST allocation will be used to repay the loan.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the request for Regional Commission technical assistance on behalf of the Development Authority to submit a REDLEG loan application to Tri-County EMC. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program

County Engineer Brian Wood presented a bid tabulation for the 2016 LMIG program. He reported three bids were received with Georgia Asphalt, Inc., Macon being the low bidder in the amount of \$816,222.35. Mr. Wood stated the bids include resurfacing, chip / crack seal, striping, in order to receive better pricing. He recommended the bid be awarded to Georgia Asphalt, Inc. in the amount of \$816,222.35.

Vice Chair Davis made a motion to award the bid for the 2016 LMIG Program to Georgia Asphalt in the amount of \$816,222.35 as recommended. Commissioner Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Update on Water Department

Water / Sewer Superintendent Jason Kidd reported on the status of various water / sewer projects including the GEFA project on Kenan Drive and the line on 441 South to the Fall Line Regional Development Authority site.

He also discussed the assistance provided to the City of Milledgeville by the County during the recent water incident caused by the failure of the City's water pump. He stated the County was contacted by the City, and the County agreed to help supply them water. He reported valves were opened at tie-in points to provide water, and 7.3 million gallons were used during this time. Mr. Kidd stated County tank levels remained normal with adequate pressure to supply water.

Commissioners discussed the importance of both the City and County working together during situations like the pump failure. They discussed having a second source of water ensures that residents are not without water. The City acquired water from the County during this time in order to provide water to City water customers. In addition, a fire tanker was placed at Oconee Regional Medical Center in the event the chiller went down.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation to the Water / Sewer Department employees for their service in working with the City during this time.

Report on 2016 Tax Digest

Finance Director Dawn Hudson presented the 2016 Tax Digest. She stated the digest reflects a net decrease of **\$57,843** due to the decrease in motor vehicles; however, it is anticipated losses should be made up on the TAVIT side of motor vehicle collections. She reported the net taxes levied amount to \$9,663,942 with a net M & O millage of 9.85 which is the same as last year. She requested the millage rate be kept at the current rollback rate of 9.85. Ms. Hudson stated the 2016 Tax Digest and Five Year History will be advertised on July 23rd with the digest adoption set for the August 2nd meeting.

Technical Assistance Request to Middle GA RC for CREATE Facility

County Manager Ralph McMullen reported Development Authority Executive Director Matt Poyner, on behalf of Greg Barnes, sent him information for a technical assistance request to the Middle GA RC for the CREATE facility located on Highway 22 West. Mr. McMullen stated the County can't submit this request on behalf of a private, non-profit agency, and he had notified Mr. Barnes of this. Mr. McMullen reported the County has refused such requests in the past from other non-profit organizations and felt this should be handled in the same manner.

Chair Hall commented the tax dollars are paid to the Regional Commission as required dues, and he does not feel tax dollars should be used to assist individual organizations or businesses.

Vice Chair Davis made a motion to approve the request for assistance from the Middle GA RC for the CREATE facility. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion for discussion.

After discussion, Chair Hall called for a vote to approve the request for assistance for the CREATE facility. The motion failed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

New Business

Chair Hall stated that Commissioner John Westmoreland was absent due to his attendance at the Republican National Convention.

Commissioner French reported that many groups had come together for a very successful River of Life where 45 projects were completed throughout the community.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Ralph McMullen had nothing further to report.

Public Comment Period for Non-Agenda Items

Adjournment

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk

