

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
September 6, 2016
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, September 6, 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
John Westmoreland

Also Present: David McRee
Ralph McMullen
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Sammy Hall called the September 6, 2016 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2016, Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

StormReady Presentation

Mr. David Nadler of the National Weather Service congratulated Baldwin County on becoming a StormReady community which is valid for three years (2015-2018). He commended Fire Chief / EMA Director Troy Reynolds and his staff on their hard work and commitment to the citizens of Baldwin County in attaining this status. The StormReady program's focus is an understanding of how to monitor weather conditions and disseminate information. Street signs indicating that Baldwin County is a StormReady jurisdiction will be placed at the entrances into the County.

Update on Middle Georgia Consortium Programs

Consortium Executive Director Carolyn Robertson discussed the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs provided in the ten counties covered by the Middle Georgia Consortium. She stated Baldwin County serves as fiscal agent for the Consortium. She presented information on WIOA programs for adults, dislocated workers, National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) participants and youth stating there were 435 enrollees throughout the area. She reported approximately 68% of adult enrollees had credential attainment at job search / exit with 71% gaining employment at exit; 67% of dislocated worker enrollees had credential attainment at job search / exit with 88% employment at exit; NDWG program had 85% credential attainment at job search / exit and 100% employment at exit.

Ms. Amy Varnum, Business Service Director, presented information on various grants, recruitment efforts, and area partnering agencies such as the Development Authority.

Commissioner Henry Craig asked if resources are available through the Consortium to develop a Summer Youth Program with Baldwin County Departments. Ms. Varnum stated she would be happy to discuss this further with Commissioners and staff.

Chair Hall asked for information on how program funds are allocated to various counties. Ms. Robertson responded the State has weighted measures on which the numbers are based.

Ms. Varnum stated one issue in program participation is finding individuals who will stay involved and remain active throughout the duration of programs. Commissioner French responded public education of program availability is an absolute necessity. He stated program information and participation should be more accessible to everyone.

Ms. Robertson and Ms. Varnum discussed their networking with community based organizations and agencies such as Department of Family & Children Services and Overview, Inc. reiterating their commitment of services to Baldwin County.

Annexation Notifications from City of Milledgeville

County Manager Ralph McMullen stated annexation notifications have been received from the City of Milledgeville for two properties. One property is located at 102 Garrett Way NW, and the other property is located at 137 Jacqueline Terrace NW. He reported the property owners have requested these properties be annexed into the City. County Attorney David McRee stated he has reviewed the notifications.

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to accept the notifications for annexation of two parcels as presented. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

SAFER Grant Award

Finance Director Dawn Hudson reported the County has received a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant award in the amount of \$263,802 for three full-time firefighter positions for 2017 & 2018. She stated that unlike previous SAFER hiring awards there is no obligation for Baldwin County to continue funding these positions after the grant period expires.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to accept the SAFER grant award in the amount of \$263,802 and to authorize the Chair to execute related documents. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Finance Director Hudson stated another grant award was received after the Agenda was published, and it must be returned prior to the next Commissioners meeting being held. She requested the Board's consideration of this grant as well.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to amend the Agenda to add the grant award for consideration. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Finance Director Hudson presented a Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMHSA) grant award in the amount of \$13,000 for equipment and training for the Emergency Response Team.

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to accept the GEMHSA grant award in the amount of \$13,000 as presented and to authorize the Chair to execute related documents. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DOT Property Acquisition

County Manager Ralph McMullen stated the Department of Transportation (DOT) notified the County regarding a proposal to purchase property owned by the County on

Highway 49 for right of way for the widening project on SR 49. DOT offered the fair market value of \$2,200 for Parcel 76 and \$1,600 for Parcel 81. Mr. McMullen stated the County has the option of selling the property or donating it to DOT.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to accept the proposal from DOT for the purchase of right of way on parcel 76 and parcel 81 for \$2,200 and \$1,600 respectively. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

Chair Sammy Hall stated Commissioners and County staff had a strategic planning meeting, and he felt it was an exceptional meeting proving to be very informative on budget requests and other County issues.

New Business

Chair Hall recognized and welcomed Putnam County Commissioner Janie Reid who serves as Chair of the Chief Local Elected Officials Board.

Fire Chief Troy Reynolds invited everyone to attend the 15th Anniversary 9/11 Ceremony Saturday, September 10th at Fire Headquarters.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Ralph McMullen reported the County received notification of a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant Award for Sewer Improvements on Richards Drive. He stated the grant funds will be used to replace the old infrastructure in the area.

Mr. McMullen reported the County has been notified by the Department of Transportation that we must relocate an additional 1,000' of infrastructure along the Fall Line Freeway. He stated the County has spent approximately \$1.5 million for this project, and he recommends contacting DOT officials to oppose these additional costs.

Mr. McMullen stated the Second Annual Employee Appreciation Day will be held at Central Georgia Tech on December 9th.

Public Comment Period

Mr. James Andrews and Ms. Margaret Benson addressed the Board regarding the speed limit on Horace Veal Road. They requested the speed limit be lowered.

Amendment to Agenda

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to amend the Agenda to have an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment into Executive Session

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chair Hall asked that the County Manager and County Attorney be excluded from the Executive Session.

Regular Meeting

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to reopen the Regular Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Chair Hall stated no action is necessary regarding Executive Session matters.

Adjournment

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:18 p.m. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk