

**Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing / Work Session
October 18, 2016
5:15 p.m.**

A Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the Baldwin County Code of Ordinances Section 6-32 (c) and Section 22-34 (b) and Work Session of the Baldwin County Commissioners were held Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 5:15 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

Members Present: Tommy French
Sammy Hall
Henry Craig
Johnny Westmoreland

Members Absent: Emily C. Davis

Also Present: David McRee
Ralph McMullen
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Sammy called the Public Hearing / Work Session to order at 5:15 p.m.

Public Hearing

Chair Sammy Hall stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public input on proposed amendments to Baldwin County Code Section 6-32 (c) and Section 22-34 (b).

Finance Director Dawn Hudson discussed proposed increases of the County's Occupation Tax – Section 22-34 (b). She reported the Occupation Tax is based on the number of employees of a business and has not been changed since the 1990s. Ms. Hudson recommended the current tax rate be increased in two phases - in years 2017 & 2018 rather than implementing a total increase in 2017. She stated she has done research of fees in surrounding cities and counties, and Baldwin County's proposed rates are in line.

Chair Hall opened the floor for discussion and comments from the public. There were no public comments.

Finance Director Hudson presented proposed changes to Section 6-32 (c) (1) – Alcoholic Beverage License Fees. She stated these fees have not been changed since implemented, and Baldwin County's Alcoholic Beverage License Fees are slightly lower

than some jurisdictions in surrounding areas. Ms. Hudson presented proposed fee increases.

Ms. Hudson reported that the current ordinance Section 6-32 (c) (2) exempts Class A & Class B Alcoholic Beverage License Holders from purchasing a general business license. She recommended that this section be deleted and that the exemption no longer be allowed.

Chair Hall opened the floor for discussion and public comment. There was no discussion, and no public comment on the proposed amendment.

Adjournment of Public Hearing

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 5:20 p.m. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Call to Order of Work Session

Chair Hall called the Commissioners' Work Session to order at 5:20 p.m.

Presentation for Georgia's Old Capital Museum Location

Mr. David Wells, Chairman of the Museum Board of Trustees, addressed Commissioners regarding the relocation of the museum. He introduced Mr. Pat Malone, CEO of MDI Creative who has assisted the Museum Society Trustees, supporters and partners in developing the vision for the new center.

Mr. Malone distributed a publication titled "The Depot". He discussed the mission of Georgia's Old Capital Museum, their plans to relocate to the depot / warehouse on Central State Hospital campus, and the vision of a cultural center of history, theater and the arts. He discussed aspects of the facility to include a gift shop, meeting space, education programs, a venue for weddings and similar functions, a food service and a theater for entertainment.

Mr. Malone discussed the capital campaign and the proposed operating revenues and expenses. He reported applications are being submitted for any available grant funds to assist with the project.

He stated the Museum Board is requesting the County's partnership in providing a new location for the Museum by securing the Depot and cottage at Central State Hospital campus.

Discussion was held regarding the timeline for the relocation project. The Museum must be out of their current location at GMC by March 1st. Also, it is important that the decision be made as quickly as possible in order for the Governor to sign off on the proposed property conveyance in December for consideration by the legislature in January.

Museum Executive Director, Dr. Amy Wright, requested approval from the County for an agreement, along with the City of Milledgeville, to request a public benefit property conveyance from the State which would in turn be leased to the Museum.

Further discussion was held on a proposed agreement. Commissioners expressed their support for the Museum; however, they voiced concern with obligating the County for using taxpayers' money for the project. Commissioners would like for a clause to be included in the agreement to protect the County by outlining specifics to put the property back on the market if things do not come to completion.

County Attorney McRee stated the concept could be approved with details to be negotiated with the County, City and Museum.

Major General Peter Boylan expressed his support of the Museum.

Ms. Janet Cavin with Family Connection stated how important she felt the educational programs would be to children by providing an opportunity and a way out of poverty.

Adjournment

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 5:55 p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk