

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
September 22, 2015
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, September 22, 2015, at 5:15 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
Cindy Cunningham
Dawn Hudson

Call to Order

Chair Hall called the September 22, 2015, Regular Meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Update on Oconee Regional Medical Center

Chair Hall presented a statement regarding the financial situation of Oconee Regional Medical Center. He stated the Commissioners, along with staff and outside professionals, continue to monitor the status of the hospital and remain ready to work with stakeholders to find solutions to the issues.

Executive Session

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss property acquisition. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Regular Meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 5:20 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 6:20 p.m. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2015 Work Session and Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Splash Pad

Major General Peter Boylan addressed the Board regarding a proposed splash pad to be constructed at Central City Park. He stated estimated costs would be \$312,000 with contributions being solicited from various community stakeholders. He stated the Rotary Club will give \$25,000 toward the project, and Oconee River Greenway Authority has discussed using a portion of their SPLOST funds; however, no official action has

been taken. MG Boylan requested the County's participation to work with others to bring this project to fruition. He requested \$50,000 from the County and stated the City will also be asked for participation at this funding level.

Habitat for Humanity Planning Grant

Habitat Executive Director Murali Thirmul discussed a proposed development in the Harrisburg area to provide housing opportunities, social services, public safety and community enhancements. He stated Habitat has received a planning grant for surveying the neighborhood to determine what the area needs, and Habitat will continue to secure additional grant funding for the development. Mr. Thirmul brought this update to Commissioners to make them aware of these plans and encourage the County's partnership in enhancing this area.

Commissioners' stated they felt this would be a beneficial partnership and would support Habitat in their efforts. Chair Hall asked Commissioner Tommy French to serve as County liaison with Habitat.

Update on County Extension Activities

County Extension Coordinator Robbie Jones presented an activity report on 4-H participation, events, the road trip, camps, and awards programs. Mr. Jones discussed the Master Gardeners program and their assistance in the Extension Office. Mr. Jones also presented statistics on Extension Service activities for agriculture samples and FACS Support.

GEMA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Fire Chief Troy Reynolds presented a GEMA Memorandum of Understanding for emergency evacuation shelter equipment and discussed other items to support all-hazards emergency management.

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to approve the GEMA Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Update on Budget Process

Finance Director Dawn Hudson discussed the upcoming budget calendar. She stated budget meetings will be held with Elected Officials and Department Heads on September 29th. She stated the initial draft of the budget will be made available to Commissioners around the middle of October; a public hearing will be held November 3rd and budget adoption scheduled for November 17th.

Ms. Hudson encouraged Commissioners to meet with her and County Manager McMullen regarding their recommendations on the budget.

County Manager's Report

County Manager McMullen discussed a public works situation on Valley Circle caused by a deteriorating drain pipe and sink holes. He reported this must be addressed as soon as possible and stated the total cost is \$48,951 with work being done by County crews.

Mr. McMullen stated a letter has been received from the Department of Transportation awarding funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the Veterans Sidewalk. He reported

there is a thirty percent (30%) required match for the project, and he has asked the City of Milledgeville to pay one-half of the matching costs.

Mr. McMullen reported letters have been sent to property owners for construction easements, and the project will be put out for bid once easements are obtained.

Mr. McMullen stated the notice of proposed abandonment of Emerald Way North has been published in the newspaper, and a public hearing will be held October 20, 2015 on this matter.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Public Comment Period for Non-Agenda Items

No Public Comments.

Adjournment

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:05 p.m. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk