

**Baldwin County Commissioners**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 2, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m.**

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, February 2, 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 February 2, 2016, Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2016, Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Update on Development Authority Activities

Executive Director Matt Poyner presented a quarterly update on Development Authority activities. He reported the new website has been launched, and he feels it will be a great asset in reaching prospective businesses and industries to “sell” Milledgeville and Baldwin County. Mr. Poyner discussed the business retention expansion program (BRE) surveys and measurable outcomes and program objectives. He discussed mega-site work involving environmental and wetland compliance.

He stated sealed bids are being solicited for site improvements at the Industrial Park including construction of Highway 22 entranceway, entrance landscaping, erosion control, installation of storm system, and other improvements as outlined in bid documents. Mr. Poyner stated restricted funds from the sale of timber and OneGeorgia grant funds will also be used for improvements such as new signage.

He reported the Fall Line Regional Development Authority will be meeting to approve the engineering firm to assist the FLRDA in becoming GRAD certified. Bids are also being obtained for insurance coverage for FLRDA Board members.

Mr. Poyner reported the Spec Building at the Industrial Park has been sold. The company will manufacture industrial strapping and should be in operation around April of this year. He stated there are currently three new projects in the works. He reported the Authority has received a clean audit report from auditing firm Mauldin & Jenkins, and Mr. Poyner concluded by thanking Commissioners for their budget support for another year.

Mr. David Sinclair addressed the Board regarding the Authority’s purchase of the mega-site for future development. He stated he felt the purchase of this large tract of land was not necessary since the Authority already has land available to attract new industries. He stated he feels the Authority should concentrate on benefits / interests for “blue collar” workers who would be located here with new

industries. He said employees want something for entertainment like a pool, and he would be willing to discuss it as a possible joint venture.

#### Appointment to Board of Tax Assessors

Commissioner Henry Craig stated the term for District 4 Representative on the Board of Tax Assessors expires February 7, 2016. The County has received a letter from Chief Appraiser Lee and the members of the Board of Assessors that current member, Richard Torrance, has agreed to serve another term on this Board. Mr. Torrance has met all of his mandated training and will continue to be an asset to this Board.

Commissioner Henry Craig reappointed Mr. Richard Torrance to serve as the District 4 Representative on the Board of Tax Assessors for another term of six (6) years.

#### CJCC Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Grant

Finance Director Dawn Hudson presented the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) continuation grant award in the amount of \$151,896 for the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force for the period January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016. She reported thirteen (13) jurisdictions participate in the drug task force, and the matching requirements are met by these jurisdictions. Baldwin County's portion of the match is through the County's providing building space for the task force, a deputy assigned to the task force and through other in-kind services.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to accept the grant award as presented and to authorize the Chair to execute grant documents. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### Resolution to Accept Petitions for Members of the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority

Chair Sammy Hall reported the County is a member of the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority. In accordance with the provisions of the Act and By-Laws of the Authority, the Sole Commissioner of Pulaski County and the Boards of Commissioners of Putnam and Wilkinson Counties have petitioned to join the CGJDA as participating local governments.

Chair Hall presented a Resolution to accept the petitions of the Pulaski County Sole Commissioner, Putnam County Commissioners and Wilkinson County Commissioners to join the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority.

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

#### Old Business

Commissioner Henry Craig stated the Board of Commissioners previously voted for the Chair to send letters to the Development Authority requesting that the public be allowed to fish in the pond at the Industrial Park. The Development Authority Board denied the requests to allow fishing in the pond because of various liability issues. Commissioner Craig asked that the County consider taking over the liability associated with public access to the pond. Chair Hall asked County Attorney McRee to investigate liability issues further and report back to the Board.

#### New Business

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis thanked Mr. Sinclair for advocating for a pool in the County.

Vice Chair Davis stated certain County employees are not being treated fairly. She stated they are being made to work in inclement weather washing County vehicles, and they are afraid of losing their

jobs if they file a complaint. Commissioner Tommy French said this matter had also been brought to his attention.

County Manager Ralph McMullen responded that no complaint or grievance has been received from any County employee, and there is an approved grievance policy in place to address such issues. He further commented that no employees are being asked to work in extreme conditions. He referenced Public Works employees who performed maintenance and cleanup on County vehicles under a covered shed on a rainy day when they could not be out on the roads. He again reiterated the fact that there is a process in place for filing grievances and which protects employees against any retaliation from filing such grievances. He stated Commissioners should not be contacted directly by employees for personnel issues; and if a Commissioner chooses to become involved in personnel matters, that Commissioner would not be allowed to participate in grievance process if it is brought before the Board. County Manager McMullen assured the Board personnel matters are being handled properly.

Commissioners Craig and Westmoreland expressed their concerns about possible water contamination at the lake due to Georgia Power's Plant Branch closure. They recommended the County become an active participant in the process to ensure a safe water supply.

Chair Hall stated Joey Witcher of the Sinclair Water Authority will address the Board at the next meeting regarding the safety of the County's withdrawal and treatment process. He also asked County Attorney David McRee to draft a letter to Georgia Power explaining the County's position.

Chair Hall stated time is approaching for the County to revisit the Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Contract. He asked Commissioners French and Westmoreland to work with County staff regarding this issue.

Commissioner Westmoreland asked everyone to report anything unusual actions going on in their neighborhood or community. With everyone's help, he feels many acts of violence and vandalism can be stopped.

Commissioner Henry Craig asked for an update on the Veteran's Sidewalk Project. Mr. McMullen responded the specifications and bid package have been completed, and the Purchasing Agent will be advertising for bids in the legal organ.

#### Public Comment Period for Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Gregory Barnes expressed his concern about the method of getting on the Commission Agenda. He stated he felt citizens should be able to make a request and be placed on an upcoming agenda in a timely manner.

#### Adjournment

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:50 p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall  
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk

