

Baldwin County Commissioners  
Work Session  
June 6, 2017  
5:15 p.m.

A Work Session of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, June 6, 2017, 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

Members Absent: Emily C. Davis  
John Westmoreland

Also Present: Ralph McMullen  
David McRee  
Cindy Cunningham  
Dawn Hudson

Call to Order

Chair Sammy Hall called the Work Session to order at 5:15 p.m.

Noise Ordinance

Chair Hall stated he and other Commissioners have recently received calls from some citizens about loud noise at various event venues. He stated the County's current Noise Ordinance has been reviewed by Commissioners and County staff. County Attorney David McRee has made some proposed revisions to the Ordinance based on comments he received after review.

The County Attorney discussed a proposed revision to Chapter 10 specifying the permissible amount of noise. He presented proposed revisions to Section 10-51 which states it shall be unlawful for any person to create loud noises which are detrimental or annoying to the public. The proposed amendment would change the distance from 150 feet to 200 feet to be in violation of the Ordinance, and the revision would eliminate the specification of hours for violations.

Commissioners discussed other types of loud noise that may need to be addressed as well as amplified music. Elimination of specific hours for violation of the Ordinance also needs further discussion.

Commissioner Henry Craig questioned how new businesses may be permitted while protecting residential areas.

County Manager Ralph McMullen stated the County does not have zoning; however, the County could revisit the County Land Use Code to address such issues.

Public Comments

Mr. Kervin Smith addressed the Board regarding the current noise ordinance not being restrictive enough to protect neighborhoods. He stated loud music from the event venue in his neighborhood has been very disturbing to residents; the music is so loud that residents cannot enjoy their own homes without disturbances.

Mr. Sean Swearingen, owner of the venue, stated he built his establishment based on current County requirements and doesn't feel it is right to change regulations on existing businesses. He explained he has invested a tremendous amount of money in the business.

Mr. Fred Savage, owner of an event venue located on Forte Avenue, stated he has also made a large investment in his business and feels he has made every effort to comply with current County regulations during the entire permitting and construction.

Vice Chair Tommy French stated he feels this Ordinance and any proposed amendments/revisions will require much review before a decision is made. After discussion, Chair Hall recommended sending this matter back to the Committee for further review. He asked anyone who had comments to please submit them in writing to Commissioners.

### Waste Disposal Service

County Manager Ralph McMullen reported the County is in the process of reviewing the County's solid waste collection and disposal contract which is up for renewal. He stated the contract has been reviewed by Commissioners, County staff members, County Attorney and representatives from Advanced Disposal. He stated the main issue is the cost of providing these services.

Finance Director Dawn Hudson reported on the cost / charge for services. She stated the fee is currently \$13.50 per property and has remained the same for the past 7 years. She reported that for all years after the first two, all contract charges increased by the percentage amount by which the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased for the previous full calendar year. In FY 12, management requested an increase in the fee of approximately 1.6% or \$.25 to \$13.75 or cut convenience center hours by approximately 40 hours per week to cover the rate increase. In July 2012, the hours were cut back at convenience centers. She reported the contract rates increased 3% in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. There was an increase of 12% on the cost; however, the County has not raised the fee charged to customers. She stated in order to keep the fund self-sustaining, the fee should have been increased each year to cover CIP increases in the contract, and fees would currently be \$15.50.

Ms. Hudson reported currently there is a deficit in the fund that has to be covered by fees. She stated the breakeven cost at the current rate charged by Advanced Waste is \$14.80. This is the absolute minimum fee to cover the current rates and make up the deficit. Commissioner Craig reiterated this is an enterprise fund and cannot be paid by the County General Fund.

County Manager McMullen stated County management suggests the following options:

- (1) Increase the fee to \$15.00 now and by the contract CIP rate increase each year or
- (2) increase the fee to \$16.50 now to cover 3 years, assuming a 3% increase each year.

Other recommendations are to: eliminate the second residence waiver; therefore, all properties that have active water accounts will be billed unless the structure is uninhabitable; provide no exemption for trash fee for landlords if water is on; discontinue picking up trash in mobile home parks and apartment complexes. This would be responsibility of complex / park owner. New cards will be issued for convenience center use, and the County will request the cards be checked by Advanced prior to dumping in the centers.

Mr. McMullen reported the County is looking at a 5 year contract with the billing amount based on County numbers. The County also wants to include non-performance penalties in the contract.

He stated a final contract will be brought before the Board for approval at a later date.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall  
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk