

Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
April 2, 2019
6:00 p.m.

A Public Hearing on the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and the Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners were held Tuesday, April 2, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair John Westmoreland presiding.

Members Present: John Westmoreland
Emily C. Davis
Sammy Hall
Henry Craig
Tommy French

Also Present: David McRee
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair John Westmoreland called the April 2, 2019 Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Hearing

County Manager Carlos Tobar reported legal requirements for advertising the Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance have been met. He stated copies of the proposed amendments were made available to the public on the County's website and in the Commissioners' office.

Mr. Tobar stated the County's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance is being updated to comply with language and definitions required by the State Environmental Protection Division.

The floor was opened for public comment regarding the proposed amendment. There were no comments.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Vice Chair Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Call to Order of Regular Meeting

Chair John Westmoreland called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2019 Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentations

Mr. Harry Keim, Chair of the Board of Assessors, was asked by Chair Westmoreland to make presentations on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to two members that have resigned their posts on the Board of Assessors.

Mr. Keim presented Certificates of Appreciation to Rev. Omer Reid, District 1 Representative, and Ms. Brenda Briley, District 3 Representative, in recognition of their years of dedicated service to the Board of Assessors.

Recognition of Boys 8 & Under GRPA Basketball State Champions

Chair John Westmoreland presented a Proclamation to the Boys 8 & Under GRPA Basketball State Champions who defeated Rincon County by the score of 45 to 37 to become the 2019 Class B GRPA State Champions on March 2, 2019 in Effingham County. Commissioners congratulated the team for their outstanding achievement.

Amendment to Baldwin County Code of Ordinances – Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

County Manager Carlos Tobar stated a Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance was held prior to the Regular Meeting to solicit public comments on updating the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to comply with EPD language requirements. No public comments were received.

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to approve updates to amend the Flood Ordinance as presented. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

National Donate Life Month Proclamation

Chair John Westmoreland presented a Proclamation of Baldwin County's support of the life-saving mission of LifeLink and honoring those who have made the decision to give the gift of life by organ, eye and tissue donation and to encourage all residents to take action and sign up on Georgia's Donor Registry.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant Award

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented the WIOA Dislocated Worker grant award in the amount of \$200,000 for the period February 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019. He also presented the Ocmulgee Drug Task Force Grant Award in the amount of \$151,896 for the period January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to accept the WIOA Dislocated Worker grant award and the Ocmulgee Drug Task Force grant award as presented. Vice Chair Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Report from Recreation Committee on Swim Baldwin Proposal

Vice Chair Henry Craig reported the Recreation Committee met with a group of citizens consisting of Harry and Judith Kiem, Crawford Finley, Wilimena Wade and Pam Howard, regarding a proposal to offer swimming lessons to youth ages 8 – 14 at Georgia College & State University. The Learn to Swim Baldwin (LTSB) program will consist of four two-week sessions at a cost of \$30 per session (6 lessons). Mr. Craig stated participants must pay for the program; however, donations will be accepted for participants' fees. Mr. Craig expressed his appreciation to the group that worked to create such an opportunity and to GCSU for their participation.

Vice Chair Craig reported there will also be an opportunity for those who want to use the GCSU pool for recreational purposes this summer for a fee.

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to move forward with the concept of the program and to allow County Manager Carlos Tobar to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Georgia College to offer swimming lessons to youth at no cost to the County. Vice Chair Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis asked that the minutes reflect this is not a permanent fix for a pool; this is temporary for this summer.

Old Business

There was not old business to come before the Board.

New Business

Vice Chair Henry Craig stated there was a terrible fire in Waters Edge subdivision recently which brought up the topic of water issues in that area of the County. Vice Chair Craig recommended the Commissioners hold a work session to discuss water concerns and fire hydrant issues. County Manager Carlos Tobar reported he had requested ten additional fire hydrants in a letter that he recently sent city officials since the City provides water service in Waters Edge.

Vice Chair Craig stated there are other areas of the County that have water pressure problems, and he felt the County Water / Sewer Superintendent and Fire Chief should attend the work session to discuss an assessment of the County's water system including fire protection.

County Manager Tobar responded that a work session would be scheduled.

Chair John Westmoreland stated there are vacancies on the Board of Assessors for Districts 1 and 3; one vacancy on the Board of Health and one vacancy on the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority. He asked Commissioners to present names at the next meeting to begin the process of filling these vacancies.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented an update on County activities to include: updates on training classes for County employees; submission of the EPD Annual Report for the Miller Pit; letter of support to GMC for the performing arts center; public hearing on Animal Control Ordinance to be held April 16th; approval of federal funds in the amount of \$375,000 for design of the multipurpose path at the airport; submission of CDBG application; and volunteer firefighters in training.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis asked for an update on the Senior Citizens Center repairs. County Manager Tobar stated the rust is being removed from the exterior of the building before painting can begin.

Public Comment Period

The following citizens addressed the Board: Ken Morgan – employee training and workplace safety; Sandra Mallory and Susie Marshall – fair and respectful treatment for employees, safety and training as outlined in complaint filed with County; Cynthia Ward-Edwards, Clarence

Hall and Tommy Curry – safety of public works employees and the concerns regarding a response from Chair Westmoreland to a formal complaint filed regarding public works department; NAACP members – request to form a committee to investigate the situation of concern; Diane Lucette – diversity training.

Executive Session

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. for discussion on potential litigation. Vice Chair Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Regular Meeting

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to reopen the Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Vice Chair Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Westmoreland
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk