

Baldwin County Commissioners
Work Session
April 9, 2019

A Work Session of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 3:30 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair John Westmoreland presiding.

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

Also Present: David McRee
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham
Steve Somers
Phil Adams
Jason Kidd

Call to Order

Chair John Westmoreland called the Work Session to order at 3:30 p.m.

Water Issues

Chair John Westmoreland stated the session is being held to discuss water issues in the County. A recent fire in Waters Edge subdivision brought discussion among Commissioners regarding the need for more fire hydrants in Waters Edge. Vice Chair Henry Craig reported there are three fire hydrants in Waters Edge, and it has been determined that ten hydrants are needed to provide adequate fire protection.

Vice Chair Craig stated there are other areas in the County that potentially have the same problems; specifically areas in the northern section of the County such as the area around PA Johns Road, Bass Road and Dam Road.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis stated it is the City of Milledgeville's responsibility to provide fire hydrants in Waters Edge. Commissioner Hall stated the City of Milledgeville provides water to much of the northern part of the County.

Commissioner Hall stated the County water system should be assessed and information provided by water department and fire department staff to include the number of fire hydrants in areas of the County, distance between hydrants and that all have adequate water pressure. Commissioners felt a thorough examination of the County's water system should be done.

Discussion was also held regarding future developments in the County. Commissioners stated all developments must include a plan to provide the proper number of hydrants with adequate pressure.

County Manager Carlos Tobar reported he had sent a letter to the City of Milledgeville requesting more fire hydrants in Waters Edge.

Commissioner Hall recommended that the Committee of appropriate staff members, to include but not be limited to, Code Enforcement, Engineering/Public Works, GIS, Fire, and Water/Sewer provide a comprehensive report back to the Board on water issues.

Commissioner Tommy French stated the County must look at the big picture and develop a plan of things to accomplish. Commissioner Hall responded the plan should prioritize issues to be addressed. Vice Chair Craig stated priorities must address fire safety first. Chair Westmoreland responded hydrant location is crucial when responding to a fire.

Fire Chief Steve Somers and Assistant Chief Phil Adams discussed an effective method for identification of hydrants by the placement of a reflective band on hydrants. They stated they would get prices for band installation and report back to the Board. Chief Somers discussed the County ISO 3 rating and stated there are areas of the County that do not have fire hydrants because there are only 2" waterlines in those areas.

County Manager Tobar stated there are old hydrants in the County that need to be replaced due to natural aging of fixtures.

Vice Chair Craig asked if Department Heads had further comments. Chief Somers stated his department will expedite the process of reviewing the County's fire protection in order to report back to the Board as quickly as possible.

Adjournment

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 4:10 p.m. Vice Chair Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Westmoreland
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk