

Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
April 16, 2019
6:00 p.m.

A Public Hearing on the Animal Control Ordinance and the Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners were held Tuesday, April 16, 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 16, 2019 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Amendment to Agenda

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to amend the Agenda for a presentation to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing

County Manager Carlos Tobar reported the County has updated the Animal Control Ordinance to address areas of concern with the current animal control policies. 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 discussed the proposed changes to include the definition of vicious dog and dangerous dog; public nuisance and excessive barking; disposition of impounded animals; adoption procedures; interference with an officer; chaining and tethering; and cruelty prohibited as specified by Georgia Code. The floor was opened for public comment regarding the proposed amendments.

Ms. Pam Peacock addressed the Board requesting the adoption of the updated Animal Control Ordinance as presented. She stated she felt the update was not all inclusive; however, it is a start to educating citizens about animals and related issues. She asked the Board to consider a very low cost fee for registration with the funds to be used for animal programs. She stated she hopes everyone can work together for the betterment of animals in the County by encouraging spay and neuter procedures.

Ms. Judy Veal reported citizens have been patient in waiting for improvements to animal control facilities as other projects proceed. She asked Commissioners and County Manager Tobar to continue on the path of needed improvements.

There were no further comments from the public. Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Call to Order of Regular Meeting

Chair John Westmoreland called the April 16, 2019 Regular Meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2019 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting; April 9, 2019 Called Meeting and April 9, 2019 Work Session as presented. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation

Commissioner Emily C. Davis presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the SCLC for their recognition and honor of the late John McCown for his leadership of civil rights efforts.

Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week

Vice Chair Henry Craig presented a Proclamation to 911 Director Mandy Ptak in observance of National Telecommunications Week. Commissioners expressed their appreciation to 911 operators and dispatchers for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the community.

911 Director Mandy Ptak presented statistical data stating the department has almost doubled the call volume from the same period of last year. A total of \$11,604 calls have been answered from January 1 – April 1 of this year.

Amendment to Animal Control Ordinance

County Manager Carlos Tobar stated a Public Hearing was held prior to the Regular Meeting regarding proposed amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance, and public comments were received.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adopt the Animal Control Ordinance as presented. Vice Chair Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Ordinance is on file in the Commissioners' Office.

Appointment to Board of Health

Chair John Westmoreland stated there is a vacancy on the Board of Health due to the death of Mr. Fielding Whipple. Vice Chair Henry Craig stated he had submitted the name of someone to serve on the Board of Health, and the vetting process has taken place. He reported he understands there is another possible candidate for the position.

Chair John Westmoreland recommended the action be tabled until the May 7th meeting.

Appointment to the DBHDD Region 2 Advisory Council

Chair John Westmoreland stated an email has been received from Jill Gambill, Vice Chair and Representative on the GA DBHDD Region 2 Advisory Council requesting an appointment to fill Baldwin County's vacancy on the Advisory Council. He appointed Vice Chair Henry Craig to serve as Baldwin County's representative on the DBHDD Region 2 Advisory Council.

Vice Chair Craig accepted the appointment.

Bids for Replacement of HVAC at Baldwin County Law Enforcement Facility

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson reported bids were opened March 14, 2019 for the HVAC System replacement at the Sheriff Office / Detention Center. She stated two bids were received. Air Conditioning Specialist, Inc. submitted a bid in the amount of \$425,000. Green and Associates submitted the low bid of \$409,000. She stated bids have been reviewed and evaluated. The recommendation is to award to bid to low bidder Green and Associates for \$409,000.

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to award the bid to Green and Associates for \$409,000 for the HVAC at the Law Enforcement Facility. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Amendments to Employee Handbook

County Manager Carlos Tobar stated he felt the Employee Handbook could be strengthened to promote a positive work environment by making two changes. The first recommendation is to replace Section 902(j) from "Use of profane or abusive language or discourteous treatment of the public or other employees" to "inappropriate ways that employees treat others at work, including co-workers, superiors, customers and visitors. Examples"

The second recommendation is to add a subsection (ee) to state "giving preference to people for unfair reasons such as employing friends or relatives; claiming expenses for items such as mileage, business lunches, airfare or hotel accommodations if they were really personal expenses."

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to table this matter until all employees have an opportunity to review the recommended changes. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution to Approve Declaratory Judgment Action

County Attorney David McRee presented a Resolution to petition the Superior Court for declaratory relief that the City may not provide water services in the unincorporated area of the County without a contract with the County authorizing the City's provision of water services to the unincorporated area. He stated since the City and County have reached an impasse on the issue of water service delivery in the unincorporated area, the County is asking for a judicial interpretation on the legality of the City providing water service in the unincorporated area without County approval.

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to adopt the Resolution to petition the Superior Court for declaratory relief as presented. Commissioner Sammy Hall 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 Sammy Hall stated the second edition of the County Newsletter will be out soon. He encouraged everyone to sign up for the Newsletter to keep abreast of things going on in the County.

New Business

There was no New Business to come before the Board.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented an update on activities to include: sent letters to Sheriff Masee and the Department of Public Safety requesting enforcement of no trucks on County roads; executed DOT Contract for West Apron project; prepared request for qualifications for Airport Multipurpose Path; advertised in legal organ; received letter from EPD congratulating Baldwin County on improving water quality.

Adjournment

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Westmoreland
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk