

Baldwin County Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
May 21, 2019  
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, May 21, 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  
Henry Craig  
Emily C. Davis  
Tommy French  
Sammy Hall

Also Present: David McRee  
Carlos Tobar  
Dawn Hudson  
Cindy Cunningham

#### Call to Order

Chair John Westmoreland called the May 21, 2019 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2019 Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Hall stated the minutes of May 7, 2019 meeting reflect that Commissioner Emily C. Davis was in attendance; however, she was absent at that meeting. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion for approval of the minutes with the noted correction and it passed unanimously.

#### Presentations

Commissioner Emily C. Davis presented a proclamation to Jonathan Mangrum, a senior political science major, who is the first student from Georgia College & State University to receive the prestigious David L. Boren Scholarship.

She also presented a proclamation recognizing Kevin Morris, a graduate of Georgia College & State University with a dual degree in economics and history who is the first Georgia College & State University alumnus to receive the prestigious Marshall Scholarship and the only public university recipient from the State of Georgia in 2019 for this highly competitive award. Mr. Johnny Grant, Director of Economic Development and External Relations at Georgia College and State University, accepted the proclamation on behalf of Mr. Morris.

#### Proclamation Recognizing Volunteer Firefighters

Vice Chair Henry Craig read a Proclamation honoring Baldwin County Volunteer Firefighters. On behalf of the Board, he presented the Proclamation to Volunteers for their unwavering service and to recognize and celebrate the spirit that drives our Volunteer Firefighters. The Proclamation called upon all citizens to pay special tribute to the Baldwin County Volunteer Firefighters who contribute to the safety and well-being of Baldwin County.

### Proclamation for Memorial Poppy Day

Vice Chair Craig presented a Proclamation to Commander John W. Griffin and Auxiliary Assistant Carol Griffin proclaiming May 24th as Memorial Poppy Day in Baldwin County and encouraging all citizens of Baldwin County to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom by wearing the American Legion Poppy on this Memorial Day Weekend 2019.

### Gordon Highway Proposal

Engineer Brian Wood presented information on a Gordon Highway intersection where the County has been requested to lower the speed limit. He stated speed limits are set by GDOT; therefore, the County cannot change the speed limit. Mr. Wood stated he recommended making the intersection of Coopers Highway and Black Creek Road near Coopers Park a four-way stop which will cost approximately \$14,000.

Commissioner Tommy French stated this is a dangerous intersection, and many complaints are being made about it. County Manager Tobar reported an intern has mapped accidents at intersections throughout the County. Commissioner Sammy Hall recommended asking GDOT to lower the speed limit rather than spending that much money to make a four-way stop. He also requested that the County Manager provide Commissioners with accident data on all intersections to inform them of other dangerous intersections that may need to be addressed rather than moving forward with this particular intersection.

Vice Chair Craig stated it is within the authority of the County Manager to approve the project since it is under \$20,000. County Manager Tobar stated since this is a major change in the community he wanted to bring it before the board to make sure there were no objections.

### Appointment to Board of Assessors for District 1

Chair John Westmoreland reported there is a vacancy on the Board of Assessors for District 1, Commissioner Davis' district.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis appointed Tee Amoje to serve as the District 1 Representative on the Board of Assessors.

### Appointment to Central Georgia Joint Development Authority

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to table the appointment to the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority. Vice Chair Henry Craig seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Hall, Craig, Westmoreland

Nay: Davis, French

### Tax Reimbursement

County Attorney David McRee reported it has been determined that an error was made concerning the common area in the Legacy of Lake Sinclair the LLC c/o Legacy Home Owners Association. The common area is described as all area outside the footprint of the individual condominium, is part of the home owners association, and because it is not individually owned cannot be sold or developed. Due to this fact, the common area should be assessed with a nominal value due to the lack of marketability. The land owner requested a refund on all years that taxes were paid based on the description of common area that is valued at a nominal or no value because off its lack of marketability.

County Attorney McRee stated he and the Chief Appraiser have researched this matter for each taxable year in question, and they make the recommendation to reimburse \$8,793.04 to Legacy of Lake Sinclair, The LLC for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to approve a tax reimbursement in the amount of \$8,793.04 to Legacy of Lake Sinclair as presented. Vice Chair Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### Old Business

Commissioner Davis requested a status report on the pool. She requested that the pool project be moved to priority one on the Level Two SPLOST project list.

Vice Chair Craig stated that all five Commissioners had voted for a moratorium on spending of SPLOST funds unless it was an emergency situation.

Chair Westmoreland stated a preliminary design must be done in order to move forward. Commissioner Hall stated a location for the pool should be decided, and there has been discussion about building the pool on school property. He recommended the Commissioners make decisions as to where the pool will be located and what the design will be.

Commissioner French recommended that all Commissioners meet with the County Manager to review a possible design and discuss a cooperative effort with the Board of Education.

Chair Westmoreland requested an update on the Recreation Schedule. County Manager Tobar reported that no one had signed up for swim lessons. He stated that Free Play at the gym has been scheduled for a period every day of the week, and he has not received the final calendar from the Board of Education as to when they will use the gym.

After discussion regarding the schedule for events at the gym, Chair Westmoreland requested the Recreation Committee meet with County Manager Tobar to discuss this further.

Vice Chair Craig requested that Chair Westmoreland contact the Chair of the Board of Education to discuss this joint venture.

### New Business

Vice Chair Craig expressed his appreciation to the employees of the Water Department who came out after hours to ensure that the County had water and also to provide water to the City when their system went out.

### County Manager's Report

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented an update on County activities to include: Reviewing Statement of Qualifications for multipurpose path; interview of Jason Kidd by Water Digest about improved water quality; MGRC planners, along with Chair, County Manager and Code Enforcement Officer, to tour County for land use code update; ribbon cutting ceremony for Courthouse exterior, new lobby, improved security and DRIVES system to be held Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m., ribbon cutting for Senior Citizens Center renovations to be held July 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., request for Commissioners to consider a blight tax and other tools to encourage compliance with Unsafe Building Abatement Code.

Chair Westmoreland asked County Attorney McRee to explain what subject matters are allowed to be discussed in a closed session. Mr. McRee discussed the Open Meetings Law and what permissible subjects are allowed in an Executive Session.

#### Public Comment Period

The following citizens addressed the Board: Erin Weston expressed her concern that the Swim Lesson program was not free and there was no transportation to take children to the lessons. She also stated there needs to be a plan regarding the pool project. Ms. DeDe Childree, Mr. Brylan Howell, Ms. Ella Madison Childree and Mr. Dwayne Childree addressed the Board about the condition of the van used currently and the need for a new van for the 4-H program. Ms. Cyndie Edwards, President of the local chapter of NAACP, addressed the Board regarding Chair Westmoreland's presentation of County activities at the NAACP meeting the previous evening.

#### Executive Session

County Attorney David McRee stated there was no need for an Executive Session.

#### Adjournment

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Westmoreland  
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk