Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
January 7, 2020
6:00 p.m.

A Public Hearing on the proposed Solar Energy Development Ordinance and the Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 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 January 7, 2020 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Hearing on Solar Energy Development Ordinance

Chair Westmoreland opened the Public Hearing and asked County Manager Tobar to present information on the proposed Solar Energy Development Ordinance.

County Manager Tobar stated the purpose of the Solar Energy Development Ordinance is to protect public health and safety by establishing standards for the construction, installation, operation and decommissioning of commercial solar energy systems in the County. Mr. Tobar referenced Pages 1 and 2 Section 17-23(a)1,2,3 dealing with minimum setback distances to be required. After discussion, it was recommended by Commissioners that the setback distances be increased to 300 feet. Section 17-23(d) was revised to require vegetative screening to help obscure systems from dwellings located within 300 feet and at maturity screenings to be no less than 15 feet tall regardless of line of sight. Section 17-25 – Decommissioning requirements were discussed to include adequate bonding from commercial developer to cover decommissioning costs.

Chair Westmoreland opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Cindy Humphrey asked what the benefit of such development would be to the community.

County Manager Tobar recommended to the Board that the proposed Ordinance be reviewed with ACCG to determine best practices in other communities.

There being no further discussion, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Chair Westmoreland called the January 7, 2020 Regular Meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2019 Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Solar Energy Development Ordinance

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to table the proposed Solar Energy Development Ordinance until further review. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

County Attorney's Agreement

Chair Westmoreland presented an Agreement for the Board's consideration to retain J. David Mcree as the County Attorney.

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to approve County Attorney's Agreement as presented. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Qualifying Fees

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson reported that each year in which there is an election, the governing authority is required by Georgia Code 21-2-131 to set and publish a qualifying fee no later than February 1st for each county office to be filled. Georgia code also provides certain statutory requirements for calculating the qualifying fees based on 3% of the base salary set by law.

Ms. Hudson presented a Resolution setting qualifying fees for the following offices that will be elected in 2020: Sheriff; Solicitor General; Probate Judge; Magistrate Judge; Tax Commissioner; Clerk of Superior Court; Commission Districts 1,2,3,4,5; Board of Education Districts 2,3,4; Coroner and Surveyor.

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to approve the Resolution 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

Chair Westmoreland discussed the policy for rating County roads to be resurfaced under the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) program. He stated he has been contacted by citizens whose road was on the LMIG list probably to be paved during the upcoming season; however, when the roads were scored there were other roads that scored worse and consequently the road in discussion was "bumped" further down the list.

Chair Westmoreland requested an update on the Administrative Building. Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson reported the roof has been completed, 85% of the siding has been installed, and sheetrock is now being installed. She stated anticipated complete date is May 2020.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Tobar presented an update on County projects and reported he is completing end of year reports. He stated the TSPLOST would assist the County in addressing issues with County roads by providing much needed revenue that the County currently doesn't have to do this.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair Westmoreland opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Sammy Hall stated that based on previous actions by the Board he is nominating Vice Chair Henry Craig to serve as Chair. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Henry Craig nominated Commissioner Tommy French for Vice Chair. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Craig expressed his appreciation to outgoing Chair John Westmoreland for his service during the previous year.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Quentin Howell expressed complements on the County Public Works crew. He also invited Commissioners to attend the WWI Veterans Monument ceremony on January 8th at 10:00 a.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church.

Executive Session

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss litigation, property acquisition and personnel. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Regular Meeting

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to reopen the Regular Meeting at 7:20 p.m. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:20p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Westmoreland
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BALDWIN

RESOLUTION SETTING QUALIFYING FEES

Whereas, O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131 provides that the governing authority of any county shall fix and publish a qualifying fee for each county office to be filled in an upcoming election on or before February 1 of any year in which a general primary, nonpartisan election, or general election is to be held; and

Whereas, O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131 further provides certain statutory requirements for calculating said qualifying fees;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, by the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners that qualifying fees for county offices to be elected in calendar year 2020 are hereby set as follows:

Sheriff	$2,107
Solicitor General	$3,307
Probate Judge	$1,691
Magistrate Judge	$ 975
Tax Commissioner	$1,691
Clerk of Superior Court	$1,691
County Commission Districts 1,2,3,4,5	$ 180
Board of Education Districts 2,3,4	$ 108
Coroner	$ 557
Surveyor	$ 25

Adopted **this** **7** day of **January, 2020**

John H. Westmoreland, Chair

Attest:

Cynthia K. Cunningham, County Clerk