

Baldwin County Commissioners
Work Session
August 5, 2014
5:15 p.m.

A Work Session of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, August 5, 2014 at 5:15 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

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

Also Present: David McRee
Ralph McMullen
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Sammy Hall called the Work Session to order at 5:15 p.m.

Curbside Collection Waste Carts

Chair Sammy Hall reported that at a previous meeting Environmental Compliance Officer Marion Nelson requested direction from Commissioners in addressing situations when waste carts are not removed from the roadside after garbage pickup. He stated many of the carts are left out on the side of our roads for extended periods of time. This is very unsightly and can be dangerous if carts are left too close to the road. Commissioners requested Advanced Disposal drivers leave carts as far from edge of road as possible rather than so close to road.

Commissioners addressed Advanced Disposal representatives Mike Cavan and Steve Edmonds about how other communities handle these type issues. Mr. Edmonds responded that most counties tag carts with an informational sticker describing the required procedures and penalties for not following regulations. Advanced Disposal will assist the County in purchasing and placing stickers on carts. They will also inform drivers to put carts back from edge of road.

Officer Nelson stated before any future penalty can be enforced, the Board must deal with the original policy which outlines the change to door-to-door collection. County Attorney McRee stated the Resolution passed in May 2009 establishing this method of solid waste collection is not an ordinance; and there is no enforceable penalty provision. County Attorney McRee stated that once the proposed Ordinance is prepared a public hearing must be held prior to adoption.

Commissioners and Advanced Disposal representatives discussed other issues such as following regular schedules for trash collection. Commissioners stressed the importance of regular collection schedules so citizens will know when their trash will be picked up and carts are to be placed and removed from the roadside. Commissioners stated conditions are unsatisfactory at all convenience centers. They stated Advanced must clean up all areas in and around the centers.

Commissioners requested that Advanced Disposal publish a press release showing schedules of collection dates as well as convenience center hours. Commissioners also requested that Advanced publish educational articles related to bagging trash, covering trucks and other ways to prevent litter along the roadways.

County Manager McMullen stated a meeting with Advanced Disposal was held earlier to discuss these problems, and he was assured the situations would be corrected.

Commissioners recapped matters to be addressed as follows: the County Manager, Enforcement Officer and Advanced Disposal representatives will work together to develop an informational sticker for carts, a press release and educational articles, publication of schedules for pickup and convenience center hours of operation as well as steps to correct the unacceptable conditions at all convenience centers.

Safe Property Standards

Chair Sammy Hall stated a public hearing was held July 1, 2014 to solicit public comments and input on a proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinances Article V – Safe Property Standards. He reported a Task Force has met two times to review the proposed ordinance and revisions have been made according to input from citizens, Commissioners and Task Force members. The proposed ordinance addresses swimming pools, vacant or dilapidated structures and burned structures.

County Attorney McRee discussed revisions made to the proposed ordinance.

Section 18-105 - Definitions – Removal of definitions for garbage and rubbish. Commissioners recommended also removing the definition for weeds.

Section 18-106 – Penalties - A provision for the continuing offense penalty has been removed. Enforcement Officer recommended putting the penalty for “continuing offense” back in this section.

Section 18-228 – Vacant Buildings – The word “dilapidated” was added to first sentence. Subsection 8 dealing with weeds and uncultivated vegetation has been deleted. Subsection 7 - Provision (a) has been added to exempt property used primarily for agricultural purposes.

Section 18-229 – Burned Structures – Partially burned structures - 120 days after completion of investigation by fire department or insurer of property all debris, refuse shall be removed from property; structures rendered incapable of being repaired, - 180 days after investigation, remove from premises all remaining portion of structure; buildings to be repaired – work shall begin within 180 days and completed within 180 days after completion of investigation.

Section 18-261 – Enforcement - Added Subsection (c) and (d) – Enforcement process outlined stating timeframes for remedy of violation, filing an appeal, panel review, and issuing a citation.

After discussion, Commissioner Henry Craig requested that a public hearing on the proposed ordinance be held, and the matter placed on next agenda. Commissioners requested that County Attorney McRee prepare a final ordinance with recommended revisions for a public hearing.

New Business

County Manager McMullen introduced the County’s new GIS Specialist, Mr. Ernie Smith.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 5:55 p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk