

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
October 21, 2014
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, October 21, 2014, at 6:00 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 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Auditor Danyelle George of Butler Williams & Wyche Certified Public Accountants presented a summary of audit results for the year ending December 31, 2013. Ms. George presented the firm's profile and discussed the audit objective, procedures and approach. She commended the County on a having such a knowledgeable financial and management staff, and she expressed her appreciation for their cooperation in working with her staff during the audit process. Ms. George stated there were no material findings in the audit. She reported the County has a clean, unqualified audit. She discussed communication with those charged with governance. Ms. Georgia outlined financial statements which are presented both at a government wide level and at a fund level and how the statements for one level tie back to the other.

Commissioner Henry Craig asked Ms. George to give guidance on how to improve the credit rating and if she had an opinion on whether it is best to have a fiscal year ending June 30. Ms. George responded debt is a part of doing business to help in providing improvements to the County infrastructure and facilities. However, the best way to improve your credit rating is to reduce debt. She stated she feels that financially it doesn't matter what the fiscal year is because it is your financial picture captured in a year's time. Finance Director Hudson commented if the County had a fiscal year ending June 30th, the budget would be done around the same time the millage rate is set which would be beneficial to developing and planning for the coming budget year.

Amendment to the Public Participation Ordinance

County Attorney McRee reported the Board requested he revise the Public Participation Ordinance to increase the time allowed for citizens to speak to the Board on agenda and non-agenda items from two (2) minutes to three (3) minutes and to increase the number of people allowed to speak. Mr. McRee presented a revised

ordinance allowing the first ten (10) citizens signing up to speak on an agenda and/or non-agenda item to address the Board with comments of any one person not exceeding three (3) minutes.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the amendment to the Public Participation Ordinance as presented. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Public Participation Ordinance is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority Update and Budget Request

Executive Director Mike Couch presented an update on Authority activities to include information on prospective new projects; GSP barracks moving to the campus and the location of other state agencies on the property; Communiversity Update, Youth Challenge Academy, Bostick Building demolition; Correct Health project; job creation; Splash in the Ville, a waterpark patterned after the one in Statesboro; Chard Ray Food Bank relocating to campus; and the request for 100% State funding to lessen the dependence on local funding.

Mr. Couch stated he submitted a letter to the County requesting \$75,000 from the County's 2015 budget for annual funding. He stated \$25,000 would be used to fund a logistics clerk position and the remaining \$50,000 would be used as seed money to create a micro-loan program for young entrepreneurs trying to open new businesses on the campus. He said if the County commits funding to the Authority; and if the State approves a funding line of \$650,000, County funds would be returned to the County.

Mr. Couch expressed his appreciation to the County for previous funding of \$22,500 to pay half of the Counselors of Real Estate fees for the property study and strategic analysis report.

After discussion regarding the use of public funds for a micro-loan program, Chair Hall stated the Board will discuss this matter further and take the request under consideration.

Commissioner Craig requested the Board consider funding in the amount of \$40,000 to be paid in \$10,000 increments at the beginning of each quarter. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis stated she felt this should not be considered in the proposed budget.

Vice Chair Davis made a motion to table this matter. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion. The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: French, Davis Nay: Craig, Westmoreland, Hall

Old Business

Commissioner Henry Craig stated the Safe Property Standards Ordinance outlines membership on the Code Enforcement Panel with two (2) members being appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Chair Hall asked that each Commissioner be prepared at the next meeting to submit recommendations for these two appointments.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:55 p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk