

**Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
September 16, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

A Public Hearing on the Proposed Amendment to the Baldwin County Code of Ordinances Article V – Safe Property Standards and the Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners were held Tuesday, September 16, 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
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order of Public Hearing

Chair Sammy Hall called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. He stated the purpose of the hearing is to solicit public comments and input on the proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinances: Article V – Safe Property Standards. Chair Hall outlined the procedures the hearing would follow. He asked those making comments to limit their remarks to two minutes.

Chair Hall opened the floor for public comments:

Bill Williams, 187 Admiralty Way – Felt the citizens should be able to vote on a proposed ordinance. Enforce current ordinance, tear down dilapidated houses and bill property owners.

Daryl Harrison, 152 CC Camp Road – Stated she is in favor of cleaning up community. County should move forward with ordinance to be able to enforce cleanup so further property deterioration does not happen.

Chair Hall and Commissioners expressed their appreciation to all citizens for taking the time to come to the hearing and for the open dialogue on the proposed ordinance.

Adjournment

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 6:10 p.m. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Call to Order of Regular Meeting

Chair Sammy Hall called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of the following meetings as submitted: August 19, 2014, Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Increased and Regular Meeting; August 21, 2014, Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Increase; August 26, 2014, Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Increase; August 26, 2014, Called Meeting for Adoption of Millage Rate; and August 28, 2014, Called Meeting for Resolution on BOE 2014 Tax Levy. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Safe Property Standards Ordinance

Chair Hall reported numerous committee meetings and public hearings have been held on a Safe Property Standards Ordinance. The Ordinance has been revised in accordance with comments from the public and committee members. He presented the Safe Property Standards Ordinance for the Board's consideration.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adopt the Safe Property Standards Ordinance as presented. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Resolution for Sinclair Water Authority GEFA Loan

Chair Sammy Hall reported that at the November 5, 2013, meeting SWA Engineer and Plant Manager addressed the Board regarding a Filter Tank Improvement / Membrane Replacement project. He stated SWA has been awarded loan funding from GEFA which will be repaid by the SWA; however, GEFA requires a full faith credit pledge by Baldwin and Putnam Counties. Chair Hall stated the Board approved the County's credit pledge for Sinclair Water Authority's GEFA Loan contingent upon Putnam County's approval. Putnam County Commissioners also approved the credit pledge.

Chair Hall stated GEFA documents require the adoption of a formal Resolution by each governing body approving and authorizing the terms of the GEFA contract and execution of related documents.

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented contingent on Putnam County adopting same Resolution. Commissioner Henry Craig 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 _____.

Recognition of Softball World Champions

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis requested the erection of signs at the entrances into Baldwin County recognizing Baldwin County as home of the 10 U Dixie Youth Softball World Champions for 2014.

Vice Chair David made a motion to authorize the signs at the entrances into the County. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board

New Business

Commissioner John Westmoreland recommended the County develop and adopt an Ethics Policy. County Attorney McRee was requested to begin the development of an Ethics Policy. Mr. McRee stated he had begun looking at various copies of related ordinances. He asked Commissioners to contact him regarding particulars they would recommend to be in the policy. The draft policy will be presented at a later date for the Board's consideration.

Public Comment Period for Non-Agenda Items

Mr. James Andrews addressed the Board regarding poverty rates and corporate tax rates. He stated these issues need to be addressed in order to attract more industry.

Mr. Jim Haskins stated a group of citizens cleaned up the area along Vinson Highway from the Veterans Home to McDade's Grocery. He addressed the Board regarding a sidewalk that is desperately needed so veterans will not have to travel in the road. Mr. Haskins also requested County assistance in cleaning up neighborhoods and areas coming into the County in order to make a better first impression for people coming into our community.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Davis made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:25 p.m.
Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk