

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2016**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Administration Building

MEMBERS PRESENT

**BECKY HOOD, CHAIRMAN
CHAD STEWARD, VICE CHAIRMAN
NORRIS SEXTON, COMMISSIONER
KEVIN CUNNINGHAM, COMMISSIONER
JEFF GAZAWAY, COMMISSIONER**

OTHERS PRESENT

**JOHN KING, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JIM LEDBETTER, COUNTY ATTORNEY
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
25 GUESTS
MEDIA**

Chairman Hood called the meeting to order.

The Board discussed each item on the agenda for the Regular Meeting and made two changes. County Attorney Ledbetter advised that he had heard from the lawyer of the adjoining property owners of the undeveloped roadway that is on the Agenda for consideration to quitclaim to the adjoining property owners. The lawyer advised Ledbetter that they were not ready to accept this property at this time; therefore, Attorney Ledbetter requested that it be removed from the Agenda.

County Attorney Ledbetter requested to add an item to the agenda for a local disabled veteran who had contacted him regarding getting a retro-active homestead exemption approved by the Board of Commissioners. There was a consensus of the Board to add this item to the agenda for the Regular Meeting.

County Attorney Ledbetter gave a short history of the Resaca Battlefield and stated that the State has now fulfilled all of it's obligations. He advised that now this is on the agenda for the Board's acceptance for the responsibility of the Battlefield.

Chairman Hood recognized past Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Alvin Long, who was in the audience. Chairman Hood announced that Alvin was very instrumental in obtaining the Resaca Civil War land and having it turned into an official Civil War Historic Site and the State completing work there making it a Civil War Park. Past Chairman Long was in attendance with others from the Friends of Resaca Battlefield, Inc. who had come to witness the Board of Commissioners' acceptance of Right of Occupancy of the Park from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Past Chairman Long thanked everyone and the Board of Commissioners for their continued support of the Civil War Park.

Mr. Joe Yeager, Region 1 Manager for the Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites, came before the Board and offered his support and advise in matters for running the Resaca Park.

County Administrator asked Chairman of the Friends of Resaca Battlefield President, Kenny Padgett, to introduce everyone in attendance that are members of the Friends and the Historic Commission and others from the State Department of Natural Resources and Georgia State Park and Historic Sites.

Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to close the Work Session. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and all voted aye.

There being no further business the Work Session adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2016**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Administration Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**BECKY HOOD, CHAIRMAN
CHAD STEWARD, VICE CHAIRMAN
KEVIN CUNNINGHAM, COMMISSIONER
NORRIS SEXTON, COMMISSIONER
JEFF GAZAWAY, COMMISSIONER**

OTHERS PRESENT

**JOHN KING, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JIM LEDBETTER, COUNTY ATTORNEY
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
APPROXIMATELY 25 GUESTS
MEDIA**

Chairman Hood called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation was led by Rev. John Allen. The pledge of allegiance was led by Chairman Hood.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Employees with Anniversary Hire Dates in February

Commissioner Gazaway read the list of employees with anniversary hire dates in February. Commissioner Sexton drew the name of Mike Garigan with the Sheriff's Department as Employee of the Month for February.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Hood asked if there are any additions, omissions, or deletions to the Minutes for the Work Session January 19, 2016, and the Regular Meeting January 19, 2016. Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Sexton, Gazaway and Steward voted aye. Motion approved.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator King read the report into the record (copy attached). Administrator King also spoke about the trend of declining SPLOST collections and gave a project update for the George Chambers Resource Center. The construction for that project is moving forward at a faster pace than anticipated.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Gazaway reported that he attended the Chamber banquet, the NW Georgia Regional Commission meeting, the Sheriff's luncheon and toured the Resaca Battlefield Park. Commissioner Sexton reported that he attended a drug symposium, and toured the Resaca Battlefield Park.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR A LOCAL DISABLED VETERAN**

County Attorney Ledbetter advised that this is a request from Mr. Phillip Reynolds, a local disabled veteran requesting a homestead exemption pursuant to Georgia Law O.C.G.A. 48-5-48. Mr. Reynolds was rendered 100% disabled in 2009 and has provided his paperwork to establish his eligibility for the homestead exemption. Attorney Ledbetter recommended that the Board approve the Homestead Exemption retroactive for 2012 through 2015. Ledbetter asked that the Board resolve to grant the Homestead Exemption.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve the Homestead Exemption retroactive to 2012. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Steward, Sexton, and Gazaway voted aye. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY AND USE OF THE RESACA BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC SITE

County Attorney Ledbetter advised that Gordon County has an agreement with Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Under that agreement the State of Georgia was required to complete certain site improvements. We have received a letter of certification from the Department of Natural Resources stating that they have completed their part. This is a resolution for the Board to consider to accept right of occupancy and use of the Resaca Battlefield. Attorney Ledbetter read the resolution in its entirety (copy attached)

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Sexton, Steward, and Gazaway voted aye. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and all voted aye. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman