

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2012**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference room of the Administration Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**JUDY BAILEY, CHAIRMAN
BECKY HOOD, VICE CHAIRMAN
CHAD STEWARD, COMMISSIONER
ALVIN LONG, COMMISSIONER**

OTHERS PRESENT

**RANDALL DOWLING, ADMINISTRATOR
SUZANNE SMITH, COUNTY ATTORNEY
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
MEDIA
20 GUESTS**

Chairman Bailey called the meeting to order.

The Board discussed each item on the Agenda and made no changes or deletions; two items were added to the agenda later in the meeting.

The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding providing office space for federal and local agricultural agencies, with several visitors coming forward and speaking to the Board. County Administrator Dowling advised that the USDA had solicited for offers for property owners to provide square footage for office space. This is a once in a 15 or 20 year opportunity to do this, and the goal is to have every agency in one facility. Gordon County responded to the solicitation and was awarded the opportunity to supply the office space. Now we have the lease agreement with USDA to sign. Administrator Dowling also added that the building currently housing the Extension Service will be available for Gordon County's use and could be used to house courthouse personnel when the renovation of the courthouse takes place. Mr. Greg Bowman the local Extension Coordinator, Greg Price the UGA Extension District Director, Glen Forester with the local USDA, Doug Cade with Limestone Valley, John Lofridge with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission in Rome, Sam Payne a local agricultural producer, and Ricky Smith a local agricultural producer and part of Limestone Valley, all spoke to the Board in support of the agricultural facility being located in Gordon County. Mr. Don Chandler from Forum MDS helped prepare the county's response to the solicitation from the USDA, spoke to the Board and presented a rendering of how the facility would look and the floor plan of the facility. Commissioner Steward asked if any of the offices in the new facility could possibly be used by courthouse personnel when the renovation of the courthouse begins. It was pointed out that only a couple of offices might be available, but that the old Extension Office facility would have about 12 to 15 offices available for the County's use. Commissioner Steward commented that this would save the County money that would have to be spent for office space for courthouse personnel.

There was a consensus of the Board to add an item to the agenda to approve the lease agreement with the USDA for the office space.

Mr. Eric Walkover with the KOA came before the Board requesting a waiver of the license fee and application fee for an Off Premises Alcoholic Beverage Catering license for Sharkeys. Sharkeys will be the catering business that will serve the beer at the KOA's planned barbeque fund raiser the end of November. The Board agreed to consider forgiving the fees, due to the application being filed for a late November date, also the license will expire in just a few weeks at the end of December, and because this is for a fund raiser for United Way and other charities. Sharkeys would have to apply in January for a new license for the 2013 calendar year and would pay the full fees for the license.

There was a consensus of the Board to consider and approve this request at the Regular Meeting as they consider approval of the actual application for the Catering license.

Commissioner Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hood seconded the motion and all voted aye.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Judy W. Bailey, Chairman

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2012**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Administration Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**JUDY BAILEY, CHAIRMAN
BECKY HOOD, VICE CHAIRMAN
CHAD STEWARD, COMMISSIONER
ALVIN LONG, COMMISSIONER**

OTHERS PRESENT

**RANDALL DOWLING, ADMINISTRATOR
SUZANNE SMITH, COUNTY ATTORNEY
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
MEDIA
25 GUESTS**

Chairman Bailey 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 Bailey.

WELCOME

Chairman Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Employees with Anniversary Hire Dates in November

Chairman Bailey read the list of names and Commissioner Steward drew the name of Shelby Ables as the Employee of the Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Bailey asked if there were any additions, omissions, or deletions to the Minutes for the Work Session October 16, 2012, and the Regular Meeting October 16, 2012. Commissioner Long made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Hood seconded the motion and all voted aye. Minutes approved.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Dowling read the report.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – GERMANE TO THE AGENDA

None

CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

ENERGY EXCISE TAX ORDINANCE – 2ND Reading

County Attorney Smith advised that this is the second reading of the Energy Excise Tax Ordinance. The ordinance is on the agenda for the Boards consideration for approval. No comments or questions have been received for amendments or clarification since the first reading of the ordinance at the last meeting.

Commissioner Long made a motion to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Hood seconded the motion and Commissioners Long, Steward, and Hood voted aye. Motion passed.

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

APPLICATION FOR OFF PREMISES ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CATERING LICENSE FOR SHARKEYS

County Attorney Smith advised the Board that this is for Board consideration of the application from Sharkeys for an Off Premises Alcoholic Beverage Catering License under the new Special Event provision of the new Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.

Commissioner Long made a motion to approve the application for Sharkeys. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Hood, Steward, and Long voted aye. Motion passed.

WAIVER OF FEES FOR OFF PREMISES ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CATERING LICENSE FOR SHARKEYS

County Attorney Smith advised that this is a request of a one time waiver of the fees for an Off Premises Alcoholic Beverage Catering license for Sharkeys as requested in the Work Session by Mr. Eric Walkover.

Commissioner Long made a motion to waive the fees for Sharkeys, only for the 2012 calendar year, for an Off Premises Alcoholic Beverage Catering license. Commissioner Hood seconded the motion and Commissioners Long, Hood, and Steward voted aye. Motion passed.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN GORDON COUNTY AND GEORGIA DOT FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY MOWING

County Attorney Smith advised that this is an agreement between the Georgia Department of Transportation and Gordon County for right-of-way mowing on the I-75 interchange exit #312. This is pursuant to the plan for upgrading, improving and cleaning up that exit.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve the agreement with the Georgia DOT. Commissioner Hood seconded the motion and Commissioner Hood, Steward, and Long voted aye. Motion passed.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR TWO VEHICLES

County Administrator Dowling advised that this is a declaration of surplus property for the Sheriff's Department for two vehicles. These are confiscated vehicles, staff recommends that the Board declare them surplus so that the Sheriff's Office and dispose of the property.

Commissioner Long made a motion to approve the declaration of surplus property for the Sheriff's Department for two vehicles. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Hood, Steward, and Long voted aye. Motion passed.

LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE USDA FOR PROVIDING OFFICE SPACE

County Administrator Dowling advised that this is for Board consideration of a lease agreement with the US Government for providing office space for the USDA and other local agricultural agencies; and to utilize in-house financing for the facility construction.

Commissioner Long made a motion to approve the lease agreement. Commissioner Hood seconded the motion. Commissioner Steward asked if the Board approves using in-house financing for the facility for the USDA facility, will the Board still be able to give employees some sort of raise next year. County Administrator Dowling advised that yes, the funding would be available for a raise for the employees from the Solid Waste Fund. Commissioner Steward commented that he wants to be able to take care of employees, if the Board is going to be taking out a million or so dollars we still need to be able to take care of our people. County Administrator advised that some numbers have already been run on approving raises; the Board can afford this USDA project and at the same time afford at least a 4% cost of living raise for employees. Commissioner Steward commented that the enterprise fund is a fall-back fund in case of hard times, and he just wants to make sure we have enough to give to employees and that the County is financially sound enough to do both. Commissioner Steward further commented that the space at the current Extension Office facility will also help save money during the courthouse renovation; this is money that we won't have to spend in the future to house courthouse employees. Chairman Bailey called for a vote and Commissioners Long, Steward, and Hood voted aye. Motion passed.

County Attorney Smith asked the Board for their attention to one more matter of concern. County Attorney Smith advised the Board that Ordinance Officer Daniel and the Sheriff's Department made several cases at the Raceway/SNR Store on Highway 53 and 41 Intersection. The store has an alcoholic beverage license for package beer with the County. The request coming from Ordinance Officer Daniel is to call for a hearing in front of the Board of Commissioners to consider the revocation of the alcoholic beverage license based upon the pending criminal charges that were made. The intent is that we have to serve the owner with notice of that hearing. Our goal is, pending service to the owner is, we will schedule that hearing for the next commission meeting. There is a provision in the ordinance that allows the Board to temporarily suspend the license for no more than 17 days pending one of these hearing. Would the Board wish to consider suspending the license of this business pending the hearing of the Board meeting on November 20. The recommendation from Officer Daniel, County Clerk Berry, and myself as County Attorney for the Board, is to suspend the license until the date certain which will be the next meeting to allow us to put up evidence for the Board to consider revocation of the license.

Commissioner Long made a motion to temporarily suspend the alcoholic beverage license of SNR (Raceway) pending the hearing at the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion. Commissioner Long asked that we get an ok from the elected Sheriff stating that he is behind his Ordinance Officer's recommendation. Commissioner Long, Steward and Hood voted aye. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hood seconded the motion and all voted aye. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Judy Bailey, Chairman