

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 24, 2014**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday June 10, 2014 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  
MEDIA  
20 GUESTS**

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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Hood asked if there were any additions, omissions, or deletions to the Minutes for the Work Session June 10, 2014 and the Regular Meeting June 10, 2014. Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and all voted aye. Minutes approved.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

County Administrator King read the report into the record (copy attached).

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

Commissioner Gazaway reported that he attended the Community & Government Affairs meeting, also the NW Georgia teachers. Commissioner Sexton attended the Home Builders luncheon meeting. Commissioner Steward attended the Chamber Power luncheon, Development Authority Board meeting. Commissioner Cunningham attended the Home Builders luncheon meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR ZONING**

Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to open the public hearing for zoning. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Gazaway, Cunningham, Steward, and Sexton voted aye. Motion passed.

**APPLICATION Z14-04 KITTY LEUNG**

Attorney Ledbetter read application Z14-04, Kitty Leung's request to rezone from A-1 to C-G. This comes to the Board of Commissioners from the Planning Commission with their recommendations for approval, with the stipulation that Ms. Leung bring in the proof of notifying the adjoining property owners. Ms Leung has now furnished that proof. No one signed to speak for or against the rezoning request.

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

**APPLICATION Z14-05 TAMMY ARLENE BURCHETT**

Attorney Ledbetter read application Z14-05, Tammy Arlene Burchett's request to rezone from A-1 to C-G. This comes to the Board of Commissioners from the Planning Commission with their recommendations for approval, with the stipulation that all state and local regulations shall be complied with, including but not limited to Gordon County appearance standards for structures in commercial zoning districts, landscaping, buffer and sign requirements; and the amendment of .50 acres more or less, if needed to install the proper septic system. Attorney Ledbetter advised that Tammy Burchett and Jerry Stroup are signed up to speak. Ms. Burchett advised they didn't wish to speak but would answer if the Board had any questions. No questions from Board members were forthcoming.

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

**APPLICATION Z14-06 STEPHEN P. WILLIAMS**

Attorney Ledbetter read application Z14-06, Stephen P. Williams' request to rezone from A-1 to C-H. This comes to the Board of Commissioners from the Planning commission with their recommendations for approval with the stipulation that if the current business ceases to be a non-conforming business, then the zoning converts back to A-1. Mr. Harry Young, Mr. John Arthur, Mr. Marcus Dyer, and Ms. Beth McGee signed up to speak. Mr. Young, Mr. Dyer and Ms. McGee all area property owners, spoke in support of approving the rezoning and allowing Mr. Arthur to continue his business. Mr. Arthur spoke and advised that he runs the machinery repair business but advised that he does not work on the machinery here, he goes to other sites where the machinery needs repair, whether it's a chicken farm, sod farm, or a farm with tractors and other machinery. He is physically in this location only a couple of hours a day. Once he gets the rezoning he will proceed to get the permit for a septic tank.

Chairman Hood asked is there a motion for application Z14-06 Stephen P. Williams' request to rezone from A-1 to C-H with the stipulation that if current business ceases to be a non-conforming business, then the zoning converts back to A-1 as well as the addition of the septic system and construction of the entrance.

Commissioner Steward answered "so moved". Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Gazaway, and Sexton voted aye. Commissioner Cunningham opposed the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to close the public hearing for zoning. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioners Sexton, Gazaway, Steward, and Cunningham voted aye. Motion passed.

**CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS****ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015 ANNUAL BUDGET**

Chairman Hood advised that this item is for Board adoption of the fiscal year 2014/2015 annual budget. Chairman Hood called for a motion for Board approval.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Annual Budget. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioners Gazaway, Sexton, Cunningham, and Steward voted aye. Motion passed.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR A 2011 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT**

Chairman Hood advised that this item is for a budget amendment for a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$20,000 for fire department equipment.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the budget amendment to accept the \$20,000 from the Homeland Security Grant. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and Commissioners Gazaway, Sexton, Steward, and Cunningham voted aye. Motion passed.

**RE-APPOINTMENTS TO THE GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES FOR TONY PYLE, MITCH TALLEY AND DIANNE KIRBY FOR 5-YEAR TERMS**

Chairman Hood advised that this is re-appointments to the Gordon County Board of Family and Children Services for Tony Pyle for a term ending 2/18/19, Mitch Talley for a term ending 6/30/19, and Dianne Kirby for a term ending 5/30/19.

Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to approve the re-appointments to the Board of Family and Children Services. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Steward, Sexton, and Gazaway voted aye. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF CONTRACTING WITH JIM LEDBETTER TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICE FOR GORDON COUNTY**

Chairman Hood advised that this is for Board approval to contract with Jim Ledbetter to provide legal services for Gordon County.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve contracting with Jim Ledbetter to provide legal service for Gordon County. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Cunningham, Sexton, and Gazaway voted aye. Motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and all voted aye. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Annette Berry, County Clerk

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Becky Hood, Chairman

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 26 and 27, 2014**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting Friday, June 26, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 27, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in a Conference Room at the Unicoi State Park Lodge in Helen, Georgia for the purpose of strategic planning.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**JOHN KING, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK  
AL LEONARD, FINANCE DIRECTOR  
LANGFORD HOLBROOK - UGA**

Mr. Langford Holbrook, facilitator with the Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, began the meeting by asking each commissioner, the County Administrator and the Finance Director their thoughts on what must happen for this planning session to be successful. Answers ranged from, come up with a mission statement, a vision for the county, determine Boards' expectation of role of staff, and all members wanted to learn how to grow the economy.

During discussion of what needs improvement in the county, comments were concerning fire coverage, relationship with cities, attract industry, Freeport, more things for kids to do in the county, and more and better restaurants.

On future trends and needs of the county, mentioned items were, college/career, energy tax, concerns with health care costs, reserves being used, and the I-75 corridor.

The Board adjourned at 6:30 p.m. until the next morning where they convened at 8:30 a.m.

The Board reviewed missions and goals for the county and then went on to discuss trends such as health care costs, Hispanic population, aging population, energy tax, and reserves being used.

Mr. Holbrook updated the Board on SPLOST guidelines and the ballot for the 2012 SPLOST was reviewed for the actual wording of how the funds could be spent. Current SPLOST projects were discussed and a proposed solution to space needs and where personnel could be moved to while courthouse renovation was going on was discussed.

Finance Director, Al Leonard, spoke to the Board concerning SPLOST and LOST funds increases in the last two months, and the revenues down. His question to the Board was how you grow to get this revenue back. Other items Mr. Leonard brought up was that number of employees have not increased over the last 10 years except in the public safety areas of Sheriff Department and Fire Department, a new jail was built and a new fire station, these were the two reasons for the increase there. The other areas in the county have only increased by very few employees.

Health Insurance was a much discussed subject by the Board. Also discussed was consideration of a compensation study and changes to the personnel policy.

When asked by Mr. Holbrook what the commissioners' personal preferences for change were, balancing the budget, fire protection countywide, economic development, completion of the parking deck, fire station, and new animal shelter facility, create opportunities, and business parks were suggested.

During discussion of economic development, the Board agreed that there was a disconnect between the Board and the Development Authority when it came to growth. Possible solutions suggested by Board members were that each Board member pick a business to go to and to thank them for being in Gordon County and finding out what the Board could do to make things better for them and getting more involved in enticing companies to come to Gordon County and to keep companies already here to stay here.

Other specific actionable items to strive for were: develop a staffing plan, service area for fire coverage, greater fire protection in all areas of Gordon County, study courthouse swing space downtown to determine feasibility, get an appraisal on a small building that was suggested was no longer needed by the county, support new County Administrator to enable him to succeed, go to a committee plan. During discussion of this last item, Al Leonard named four committees needed which were – Finance/Budget; General Services; Public Safety, and Public Works. There was a consensus of the Board to move forward immediately with forming these committees to be made up of persons coming under those headings plus one commissioner. Commissioners would serve on a committee for one year and then rotate to another committee, so that after serving four-year terms each commissioner would have served on all four committees. To begin, Commissioner Steward will serve on the Finance/Budget; Commissioner Gazaway will serve on the General Services, Commissioner Cunningham will serve on the Public Safety, and Commissioner Sexton will serve on the Public Works.

There was also discussion of having one or two Department Heads report to the Board at each Work Session on their departments and what was happening in their departments.

There was an issue clarified by the Board about who the Election and Voter Registration should report to directly. The Board reached a consensus to have the Election and Voter Registration department report to the County Administrator.

The Board's discussion of economic development was a very much discussed point and members felt very strongly that more should be done to advance the county through better economic development. The actionable item at the top of the list was that the Board needs to develop a strategy for better economic development.

The Board adjourned at 2:00 p.m., and further activity was a dinner that evening and a team building session.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman

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**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
JULY 1, 2014**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session Tuesday, July 1, 2014 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  
MEDIA  
10 GUESTS**

Chairman Hood called the meeting to order.

The Board discussed each item on the Regular Meeting agenda and made no changes or additions. One item was deleted from the agenda for the work session - discussion of the 2014/2015 proposed road paving list.

Mr. Allen Calhoun with Lusk & Company, the general contracting firm responsible for the design and build of the Agricultural Service Center, came before the Board and presented to the Board of Commissioners an award for the design of the Agricultural Center that Lusk had won. The award was a 2014 first place award from Build Georgia by the Associated General Contractors of Georgia and will be displayed at the Agricultural Center.

Administrator King discussed with the Board tentative plans to conduct the Tire Reclamation Day, dates suggested were either November 2014 or April 2015. County Attorney Ledbetter advised the Board that according to our contract with Santek, one tire amnesty day per year was agreed upon. There was a consensus of the Board to hold a free tire disposal day in November 2014 and also one in April 2015.

Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to go into Executive Session for real estate and potential litigation. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Gazaway, Sexton, and Steward voted aye. Motion passed. Executive Session began at 5:40 p.m.

Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and go back into the Work Session. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Sexton, Cunningham, Steward, and Gazaway voted aye. Executive Session adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to close the work session. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and all voted aye. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

**Annette Berry, County Clerk**

**Becky Hood, Chairman**

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**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 1, 2014**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday July 1, 2014 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  
MEDIA  
6 GUESTS**

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.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Chairman Hood was presented a sign from Emergency Management Director, Richard Cooper and Deputy Director, Tim Reeve recognizing Gordon County as a StormReady Community from the Georgia StormReady Advisory Board for expanded weather safety and preparedness throughout Gordon County. This recognition period will be valid through January 30, 2017. Gordon County has been certified as a StormReady community since 2005.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Employees with Anniversary Hire Dates in July**

Commissioner Steward read the list of employees with anniversary hire dates in July. Commissioner Gazaway drew the name of Kevin Rickett with the Sheriff's Department for Employee of the Month.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Hood asked if there were any additions, omissions, or deletions to the Minutes for the Work Session June 24, 2014 and the Regular Meeting June 24, 2014. Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and all voted aye. Minutes approved.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

County Administrator King read the report into the record (copy attached).

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

Commissioner Gazaway reported that he attended a reception at the Plainville post office for an employee who was retiring. Commissioner Sexton commented that he attended the recent retreat with the Board and felt it was a very productive and worthwhile meeting.

**CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

**MALT BEVERAGE, WINE, LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TOWN & COUNTRY SUPERMARKET**

Attorney Ledbetter advised that this application is from a business that had a previous license and this is merely a change of managers.

Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to approve the application for a malt beverage, wine, liquor license for Town & Country Supermarket. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Gazaway, and Steward voted aye. Commissioners Sexton and Cunningham opposed the motion. Chair votes with the motion. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and all voted aye. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Annette Berry, County Clerk

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Becky Hood, Chairman