

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2017**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Administration Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**BECKY HOOD, COMMISSIONER
CHAD STEWARD, COMMISSIONER
NORRIS SEXTON, COMMISSIONER
KEVIN CUNNINGHAM, COMMISSIONER
M. L. BUD OWENS, COMMISSIONER**

OTHERS PRESENT

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

Chairman Hood called the meeting to order.

The Board discussed each item on the agenda for the Regular Meeting and made no changes; one item was added to the Regular Meeting agenda later in the meeting.

County Attorney Ledbetter advised the Board that the agenda item for Request for Approval of Posting a \$100 bond for the appeal regarding Redbud Grocery & Tobacco's beer license application that was denied by the Board, is a technicality that we cannot waive. Redbud Grocery is appealing to Superior Court the denial of a malt beverage license for their store across the highway from Redbud School. The appeal bond is in the estimated amount of \$100 to cover court costs the County might have, such as the court reporter.

County Administrator King advised the Board that the item for Change of Equipment Purchase under SPLOST Funds for Public Works was looked at by our Director of Public Works and he has evaluated equipment and saw a need to replace a 27-year old roller. Public Work Director, Blake Nicholson, came before the Board and advised that his department has a base roller that needed repairs, parts are no longer available for it and have to be made. The estimate to repair was \$20,000 and he did not want to put that money in equipment that is that old. He is asking to use the funds for a roller and truck instead of a mower tractor which the funds were originally budgeted for.

County Administrator King explained the item for requests from the Historic Preservation Commission for approval to allow Southern Paranormal Investigators to conduct a paranormal investigation at the Resaca Battlefield Historic Site and also a request to allow the Rotary Club to hold their April 6th noon meeting at the Resaca Battlefield Historic Site. Mr. Kenny Padgett spoke to the Board and advised that the Historic Preservation Commission has voted on both these requests and their vote was 5-0 in favor of approving the requests.

Commissioner Steward stated that he would like to add an item to the Regular Meeting Agenda for the Board's consideration. Chairman Hood asked if the Board should go ahead and discuss the item that Commissioner Steward is requesting to place on the agenda. County Attorney advised that the Board can go ahead and discuss the item now. Attorney Ledbetter commented that a couple of weeks ago the Board enacted a moratorium concerning acceptance of applications for new or expansion of commercial poultry operations and expected to have a public hearing on that tonight, but we received a call from the Georgia Poultry Association saying there is an instance of bird flu up in Tennessee and their protocol is that they don't want poultry growers getting around each other where the bird flu might get inadvertently spread. So the Board wants everyone to be available at the public hearing. We don't know when the bird flu issue will be solved so we have determined from the phone calls of the public calling in, that there are some growers, small chicken operations, who have been negatively impacted. These would be growers who are building more traditional-styled chicken houses, no more than two houses with a maximum size of 50 ft. x 500 ft., these houses do not fall into what we intend to control, which is the mega houses of 60 ft. x 600 ft. with 52,000-birds operations and where they have six, eight, or twelve of these. Commissioner Steward will be making that motion to change the moratorium as it would apply to those small

added to the agenda for the Regular Meeting.

Chairman Hood advised that the next item on the Work Session Agenda is a Proclamation for "March is Red Cross Month", and since Commissioner Owens was Chairman of the local Red Cross, she asked him to read and present the Proclamation. Commissioner Owens advised that it is an honor to have some great people here at the meeting representing the Red Cross. He had the privilege of being involved with the American Red Cross since 1983, as a volunteer and on three different occasions serving as Board Chairman. Commissioner Owens asked Jeffrey Putnam, Executive Director, to introduce everyone here with the Red Cross. Commissioner Owens read the Proclamation and presented it to the Director and Board members.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to adjourn the Work Session. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and all voted aye.

There being no further business, the Work Session adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Becky Hood, Chairman

Annette Berry, County Clerk

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2017**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 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
M. L. BUD OWENS, COMMISSIONER**

OTHERS PRESENT

**JOHN KING, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JIM LEDBETTER, COUNTY ATTORNEY
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
15 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.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION - Employees with Anniversary Hire Dates in March

Commissioner Steward read the list of Employees with Anniversary Hire Dates in March and Commissioner Owens drew the name of Shea Hicks with the Voter Registrar Office as Employee of the Month for March.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Hood asked if there are any additions, omissions, or deletions to the Minutes for the Work Session February 21, 2017, and the Regular Meeting February 21, 2017. Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Sexton, Owens and Steward voted aye. Motion approved.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator King read the report (copy attached).

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Owens reported that he attended and was guest speaker at the Star Student/Teacher Banquet, and Chamber of Commerce Breakfast. Commissioner Steward reported that he attended the Chamber Breakfast, Finance Committee meeting, the College & Career Academy meeting, and the Georgia Academy for Economic Development. Chairman Hood attended the Leadership Georgia.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR POSTING A \$100 BOND FOR THE APPEAL TO SUPERIOR COURT OF REDBUD GROCERY & TOBACCO CONCERNING THEIR MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE APPLICATION DENIED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

County Attorney Ledbetter advised that this is required for the County to post a bond for this hearing to cover the cost and this amount seems sufficient.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve posting the \$100 Bond for the appeal before Superior Court. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Cunningham, Owens and Sexton voted aye. Motion passed.

CHANGE OF EQUIPMENT PURCHASE UNDER SPLOST FUNDS FOR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

County Administrator King advised that this change will allow the Public Works Department to purchase a roller and a pickup truck in lieu of a tractor mower.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the purchase of a roller. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and Commissioners Owens, Sexton, Cunningham, and Steward voted aye. Motion passed.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR LIST OF FIREARMS AND AMMO TO BE TRADED TO GT DISTRIBUTORS TO FACILITATE THE ACQUISITION OF REPLACEMENT FIREARMS

Chairman Hood advised that this is a request from the Sheriff's Department for a declaration of surplus property for a list of firearms and ammo to be traded to GT Distributors to facilitate the acquisition of replacement firearms for that department.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the declaration of surplus property for the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Steward, Owens, and Sexton voted aye. Motion passed.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR MISCELLANEOUS LIST OF ITEMS TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE AT UPCOMING AUCTION

Chairman Hood advised that this is a request for declaration of surplus property for a miscellaneous list of items to be offered for sale at the upcoming auction.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the declaration of surplus property for miscellaneous items. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion and Commissioner Sexton, Owens, Steward, and Cunningham voted aye. Motion passed.

APPOINTMENT TO THE CALHOUN-GORDON COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD FOR ALVIN LONG TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING JANUARY 1, 2018

Chairman Hood advised that this is an appointment to the Calhoun-Gordon County Library for Alvin Long to fill an unexpired term ending January 1, 2018.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the appointment of Alvin Long to the Calhoun-Gordon County Library Board. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and Commissioners Owens, Sexton, Steward, and Cunningham voted aye. Motion passed.

REQUEST FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL TO ALLOW SOUTHERN PARANORMAL INVESTIGATORS TO CONDUCT A PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION AT THE RESACA BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC SITE

Chairman Hood advised that this is a request from the Historic Preservation Commission for approval to allow Southern Paranormal Investigators to conduct a paranormal investigation at the Resaca Battlefield.

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

REQUEST FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL TO ALLOW THE ROTARY CLUB TO HOLD THEIR APRIL 6TH NOON MEETING AT THE RESACA BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC SITE

Chairman Hood advised that this is a request from the Historic Preservation Commission for approval to allow the Rotary Club to hold their April 6th meeting at the Resaca Battlefield.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the request from the Rotary Club. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Owens, Cunningham, Steward, and Sexton voted aye. Motion passed.

MALT BEVERAGE & WINE LICENSE RENEWAL FOR OWENS GROCERY

Chairman Hood advised that this is a renewal license application for a malt Beverage and Wine License for Owens Grocery.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve the license renewal for Owens Grocery. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Owens, and Hood voted aye. Commissioners Sexton and Cunningham opposed the motion. Motion passed.

MODIFICATION TO THE TEMPORARY 60-DAY MORATORIUM ON NEW OR EXPANSION OF COMMERCIAL POULTRY OPERATIONS

Commissioner Steward commented that due to the Georgia Poultry Growers Association asking the Board of Commissioners to postpone the public hearing regarding the moratorium on new or expansion of commercial chicken houses, he would like to make a motion to modify the moratorium and that modification is as follows:

Number 1. The moratorium will not apply to permits for two or less chicken houses on a tract of land as long as those houses do not exceed 50 feet by 500 feet and are not designed to hold more than 35,000 birds. During the Moratorium, multiple permits will not be issued for tracts located in the vicinity of another. In other words, there will be no division of tracts to skirt the rule by getting multiple permits.

Number 2. The applicant qualifying under paragraph one must demonstrate substantial efforts were being made toward a permit application prior to the moratorium. Examples of substantial

efforts would include land purchase, grading, demolition, site work, and engineering. The determination of substantial effort will be in the discretion of the building inspector's office subject to review by the Board of Commissioners.

Number 3. All other terms of the Moratorium, ULDC and other laws and Ordinances of Gordon County that are not addressed in this motion are to remain in full force and effect.

Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Cunningham, Sexton, and Owens voted aye. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and all voted aye. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman