

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2021 AT 5:45 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

**BECKY HOOD, CHAIRMAN
CHAD STEWARD, COMMISSIONER
KEVIN CUNNINGHAM, COMMISSIONER
M. L. BUD OWENS, COMMISSIONER
BRUCE POTTS, COMMISSIONER**

OTHERS PRESENT

**JIM LEDBETTER, COUNTY ADMINIST
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
MEDIA
APPROXIMATELY 8 GUESTS**

The Board of Commissioners met for the Work Session in the Conference Room of the Administration Building at 5: 45 p.m.

Chairman Hood called the meeting to order.

County Administrator explained the rezoning and each item on the Regular Meeting agenda to the Board members.

Administrator Ledbetter informed the Board that there is an old resolution and order of DOT that he has been discussing with the City where DOT has deemed that the City and the County shall take the old portion of Highway 53 now as City and County roads, however, there is a condition in the contract from 2009 that says that DOT will repave those roads before we are required to take them. We have an order of abandonment from DOT, but they are still suppose to repave. We met with the City and we will send a joint letter to DOT saying they haven't repaved yet and we don't want DOT to forget about that.

Courtney Taylor, Director of EMA, spoke regarding the Highway 53 road name changes. He said they were requesting approval to change two road names. The South Calhoun Bypass will be called that and everything will be addressed to that, except the portion that was addressed Union Grove Road. The other road that was a former portion of Union Grove Road was made obsolete by the new bypass, which is now a cul-de-sac; this section that connects to Highway 41 will be known as Old Union Grove Road.

Administrator Ledbetter announced a request for an item to be added to the agenda for filling a vacancy on the Department of Family and Children Services Board (DFCS), due to the resignation of Bruce Potts. The DFCS Board is requesting that Steve Bayzid fill the vacant position and also requests that Bruce Potts serve as a liaison/non-voting member to their agency. There was a consensus of the Board to add this item to the Agenda for the Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to close the Work Session. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and all voted aye.

There being no further business, the Work Session adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2021**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on March 16, 2021 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Administration Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**BECKY HOOD, CHAIRMAN
CHAD STEWARD, VICE CHAIRMAN
M. L. BUD OWENS, COMMISSIONER
KEVIN CUNNINGHAM, COMMISSIONER
BRICE POTTS, COMMISSIONER**

OTHERS PRESENT

**JIM LEDBETTER, ADMINISTRATOR
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
MEDIA
APPROXIMATELY 12 GUESTS**

Chairman Hood called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation was led by Commissioner Potts. Chairman Hood led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Hood asked if there are any additions, omissions, or deletions to the Minutes for the Work Session and Regular Meeting of March 2, 2021. Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Owens, Potts, Steward, and Cunningham voted aye. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Ledbetter read the report. (copy attached).

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Owens reported that he attended two Association of County Commissioners Legislative updates, represented the County at the Calhoun School System accreditation meeting and has taken one citizen's concern. Commissioner Potts reported that he has a video and a few photos of the paving crew on Maple, he added that the County works with the City and currently have nine projects this year on roads throughout the City; he visited with the road crew cleaning out ditches on Dews Pond, the crew spend half the day cleaning and repairing a big tile, the Chamber of Commerce sent a notice about a webinar for DOT so he spent about two hours on the webinar on how local businesses can get State contracts, also attended the Airport Authority Meeting.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Zoning. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and voted aye.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ZONING

Application #Z21-03 Richard Barry Gilbert's Request to Rezone from A-1 to R-1

Administrator Ledbetter read application #Z21-03 Richard Barry Gilbert's request to rezone from A-1 to R-1. This comes to the Board of Commissioners from the Planning Commission with their recommendations for approval. Mr. Gilbert wants to rezone 1.05 acres to bring the property into compliance in order to rebuild a house. No one signed to speak for or against the rezoning application.

Commissioner Potts made a motion to approve application #Z21-03. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion and Commissioners Potts, Owens, Steward, and Cunningham voted aye. Motion passed.

Application #Z21-04 Pinnacle RE Holdings, LLC's Request to Rezone from A-1 to R-6

Administrator Ledbetter read application #Z21-04 Pinnacle RE Holdings, LLC's request to rezone from A-1 to R-6. This comes to the Board of Commissioners from the Planning Commission with their recommendations for approval. Pinnacle wishes to subdivide the property into 4 lots and place 28x56 mobile homes on permanent foundations for resale. No one signed up to speak for or against the rezoning application. A representative from Pinnacle answered some questions from Commissioner Potts and said these are double wide and will be put on a permanent foundation, will be USDA and FHA approved. They are more like modular homes.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve application #Z21-04. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Owens, Potts, and Steward voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to close the Public Hearing for Zoning. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and all voted aye.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

PIPE PRICING INCREASE

Administrator Ledbetter advised that construction materials are going up and on our price also. This reflects a price increase per foot right now. The County does not make any money off pipes; it's a service that we provided to the public.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve the pipe pricing increase. Commissioner Potts seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Cunningham, Potts and Owens voted aye. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF RENAMING PORTION OF STATE ROUTE 53

Administrator Ledbetter advised that this is approval of renaming portions of State Route 53. The South Calhoun Bypass will be called South Calhoun Bypass, except a portion that was Union Grove Road will be left as Union Grove Road, the other road where Union Grove did come off Hwy 41 is now a cul-de-sac will change to Old Union Grove Road.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the renaming of portions of State Route 53. Commissioner Potts seconded the motion and Commissioners Owens, Steward, Cunningham, and Potts voted aye. Motion passed.

APPOINTMENT OF CAWOOD CORNELIUS TO THE GORDON COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2024

County Administrator Ledbetter advised this is a recommendation from the Library Board for an appointment to the Gordon County Library Board for Cawood Cornelius for a term expiring June 30, 2024.

Commissioner Potts made a motion to approve the appointment of Cawood Cornelius to the Library Board. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Potts, Owens, Cunningham, and Steward voted aye. Motion passed.

BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT FOR BODY CAMERAS AND WATCHGUARD STORAGE

County Administrator Ledbetter advised that this is a budget amendment for the Sheriff's Department for body cameras and the Watchguard storage. Our cameras and body cameras are over three years old and out of spare parts. They are not waterproof, they are due for replacement and this is a better grade of cameras. The budget amendment is just under \$60,000. This includes a pro-rated amount of storage that will be more reliable and easily retrievable and more functional and it also includes work stations so the officers will be able to down load.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Potts seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Potts, Cunningham, and Owens voted aye. Motion passed.

APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES FOR STEVE BAYZID TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING 2/28/2022

County Administrator Ledbetter advised that Commissioner Potts has been on the Board of Family and Children Services and has had to resign due to being elected Commissioner. We have a letter of recommendation from the Family and Children Services Board recommending that Steve Bayzid fill the unexpired term ending 2/28/2022, and Commissioner Potts would like to serve as a liaison/non-voting Board member to that Board. Chairman Hood asked if there is a motion to approve the appointment to the DEFAC Board and to keep Commissioner Potts as a liaison non-voting member.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the appointment of Steve Bayzid to the Board of Family and Children Services and to approve Commissioner Potts as a liaison non-voting member. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Steward, and Owens voted aye. Commissioner Potts abstained from the vote. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Potts made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and all voted aye.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
MARCH 27, 2021**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners met in a Strategic Planning Session at 8:15 a.m. in the meeting room at Lanier Legacy Lodge in Buford, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

**BECKY HOOD, CHAIRMAN
CHAD STEWARD, VICE CHAIRMAN
BRUCE POTTS, COMMISSIONER
M. L. BUD OWENS
KEVIN CUNNINGHAM, COMMISSIONER**

OTHERS PRESENT

**JIM LEDBETTER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
KEITH KING, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
JASON BROWN, FINANCE DIRECTOR**

Chairman Hood called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to open the Strategic Planning Session. Commissioner Steward made a motion to open the Strategic Planning Session. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Owens, Potts and Steward voted aye.

Administrator Ledbetter advised that the purpose of this meeting is for discussion of Strategic Planning for the Board of Commissioners. Administrator Ledbetter explained all topics for consideration by the Board at the Planning Session and discussed his list of items for the Board to consider. He gave the Board members a financial update and discussed the recommended budget for 2021/2022. Each Department's budget requests were discussed in detail. The Administrator pointed out new personnel requests.

The Community Work Plan was discussed and Administrator Ledbetter advised that the County is on target for the Work Plan.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to go into Executive Session for Legal Matters. Commissioner Potts seconded the motion and Commissioners Owens, Potts, Cunningham, and Steward voted aye. The Executive Session began at 11:21 a.m.

Commissioner Potts made a motion to close the Executive Session and go back into the Strategic Planning Session. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and all voted aye. Executive Session adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

The Board discussed the proposed multi-purpose facility; the Board had toured the Agricultural Facility in Jackson County the day before. Discussion by the Board members concerning the location followed and it was decided to be near the Fairgrounds on property recently purchased at Liberty Road and Rome Road. Uses for the facility included meeting spaces and livestock shows. There was a consensus of the Board to move forward on this project and enlist local companies to get behind it. Also to add to the Fair Association's lease, the property near the old store, in order to allow the Fair Association to mow and paint the building and to have RV hookups.

The Courthouse renovation project was discussed and the problem of funding was an issue; this is a SPLOST project and with the price of material going up additional funding may be needed. Possible solutions, such as borrow from General Fund, SPLOST savings on other projects, and possible use of some covid money, were all suggested for more available funding for this project. Also the problem of where to house Juvenile Court and the Elections space was discussed. Possible solutions included to move Juvenile Justice to the Adjust building on New Town Road and to move Elections to the first floor of the courthouse.

Administrator Ledbetter asked the Board to consider naming a Construction Manager at Risk for the remaining SPLOST projects, and advised the Board that the County can benefit dramatically by having a CM at Risk. There was a consensus of the Board to go out with an RFP for a Construction Manager at Risk for Gordon County on the remaining SPLOST projects.

Another SPLOST project discussed was the Fire Station at Sugar Valley and the Sugar Valley Community Center.

Chairman Hood asked Commissioner Potts to work on gathering ideas for a football field for the County.

The Board members also discussed having more frequent planning sessions.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to close the Strategic Planning Session. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion and all voted aye.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman