

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2021 AT 5:15 P.M.
GEM THEATER**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

**JIM LEDBETTER, COUNTY ADMINIST
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
MEDIA
APPROXIMATELY 60 GUESTS**

The Board of Commissioners met for the Work Session in the GEM Theater at 5:15 p.m.

Chairman Hood called the meeting to order.

County Administrator Ledbetter explained each of the items on the Agenda for the Regular Meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

County Administrator Ledbetter explained the rules to be followed for citizens to make their comments before the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Al Stone Jr. spoke to the Board regarding Historic Preservation in Gordon County representing EDOG which he says has over 700 private citizens plus other entities, local farmers and producers. These people do not want chickens grown near an Indian historic site. The Cherokee Nation is part of our group. We ask the Board of Commissioners to turn this potential environmental disaster into a blessing to protect our most sacred area and its water.

Mr. Jacob Williams spoke to the Board regarding lifting the Moratorium on Poultry Houses in Gordon County. Poultry is important to Gordon County and land owners who want the opportunity to make a living farming on their land in the future. A family desiring to farm fulltime needs a large income producing agricultural entity to provide a steady income. A poultry farm is perfect for this need. We do not need to drive our farmers out of business. Please be fair to all when deciding the direction to go after the moratorium is lifted. Consider lifting the moratorium and acknowledge that the ordinances previously put in place are more than sufficient.

Mr. David MacKnight spoke to the Board regarding the County's Comprehensive Plan. These are the 2018 to 2028 plans. There are three rivers in Gordon County, all of which are designated as protected river corridors by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. They have deemed these rivers to be of vital importance to the State of Georgia and they help preserve qualities that make a river suitable for habitat and wildlife, a site for recreation and a source for clean drinking water. So out of the 180 pages of this Plan, there are only two sentences that refer to the poultry industry. I ask that this document that was put together by you, you have a hard look at when you make decisions when approving applicants for agriculture use.

Ms. Meg Reidy spoke to the Board and read comments on behalf of Stuart Mason who was scheduled to speak to the Board but was unable to attend. Mr. Mason's comments were concerning the industrial chicken operations that are in his neighborhood and causing rancid smells and

causing him and his neighbors to have to run their air conditioners until cold weather then forces them to turn on their heating thus making a huge financial burden for them. All the neighbors have concerns with long term health risks, environmental risks, and risks to ground water, also property values will fall 20% to 50%.

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

There being no further business, the Work Session adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

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Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2021**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on October 5, 2021 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Gem Theater.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

**JIM LEDBETTER, ADMINISTRATOR
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
MEDIA
APPROXIMATELY 60 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.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Employees with Anniversary Hire Dates in October

Commissioner Steward read the list of employees with anniversary hire dates in October. Commissioner Owens drew the name of Donna Holcomb as Employee of the Month for October.

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 September 21, 2021. Commissioner Owens 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 commented that he attended the Gordon County Development Authority meeting, also spoke to two citizens a new family recently moved to Gordon County. Commissioner Potts advised that he attended the Gordon County Farm Bureau meeting, went with Ron Dobbs on a helicopter flight over Gordon County, met with Republic Services about the landfill, he also gave a report on each of his committee departments.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

EXTEND THE MORATORIUM ON APPLICATIONS FOR NEW COMMERCIAL POULTRY OPERATIONS OR EXPANSION OF EXISTING COMMERCIAL POULTRY OPERATIONS

Commissioner Potts made a motion to add an item to the agenda to extend the moratorium to November 16, 2021, on applications for new commercial poultry operation or expansion of existing commercial poultry operations. Also made this the motion. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion to add this item to the agenda and to also approve the motion.

Commissioners Potts, Steward, Cunningham, and Owens voted aye. Motion passed.

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

PURCHASE OF TWO X-RAY MACHINES FROM AUTO CLEAR FOR COURTS SYSTEM IN NEW JUDICIAL BUILDING

Administrator Ledbetter advised that this item is the purchase of two x-ray machines from Auto Clear for the courts system in the new Judicial Building. These are on State contract and are being purchased directly from Auto Clear. The County can use these currently in the existing courtrooms since those are breaking. They are mobile and can be taken to the new Judicial Building when needed.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to approve the purchase for two x-ray machines from Auto Clear. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Cunningham, Potts and Owens voted aye. Motion passed.

PURCHASE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FF&E FOR OFFICES AND COURTROOMS IN NEW JUDICIAL BUILDING

Administrator Ledbetter advised that this is for Board approval for the purchase of Information Technology FF&E for the offices and courtrooms in the new Judicial Building. Total cost for IT equipment for the new Judicial Building will be \$38,604.48. These are on State contract.

Commissioner Potts made a motion to approve the purchase of the IT equipment for the Judicial Building in the amount of \$38,604.48. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion and Commissioners Owens, Steward, Cunningham, and Potts voted aye. Motion passed.

PURCHASE OF DESKS AND FURNITURE FROM ERNIE MORRIS FOR NEW JUDICIAL BUILDING

County Administrator Ledbetter advised this is for Board approval for the purchase of desks and furniture from Ernie Morris for the new Judicial Building. This is through State contract in the amount of \$164,177.45.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve the purchase of desks and furniture from Ernie Morris for the new Judicial Building. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Potts, Owens, Cunningham, and Steward voted aye. Motion passed.

GORDON COUNTY'S 2021 VOTING DELEGATE AND POLICY PROCESS FOR ACCG POLICY COUNCIL

County Administrator Ledbetter advised that this is for the Board to appoint their Voting Delegate for the ACCG Policy Council. Commissioner Owens and Potts will be attending the ACCG Conference in November where the Policy Council will be meeting.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to appoint Commissioner Owens to be the Voting Delegate for the ACCG Policy Council. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Potts, Cunningham, and Owens voted aye. Motion passed.

AJOURNMENT

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman