

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2015 AT 6:30 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Philip C. Jay III	Chairman
OD Netter	Vice-Chairman
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
John Mooney	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Pastor Bennie Calloway gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments To The Rules Of Order

No action was taken

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

No action was taken.

Public Comments: NONE

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes held on October 05, 2015. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting Minutes held on October 14, 2015. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on October 14, 2015. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

Allen Conger, from the Volunteer Fire Department, addressed his budget concerns for the Ben Hill Volunteer Fire Department. He issued a revised budget that included a \$10,000 increase. The budget provided included a line by line explanation.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Ben Hill County purchasing tags for the (6) International fire trucks owned by Ben Hill County; but used by the Ben Hill Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion authorizing Chairman Philip Jay to send a letter to the Tax Commissioner's Office authorizing the purchase of the tags for the (6) International fire trucks. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein gave an update on the paving projects. He stated the weather has delayed the work.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

Budget Review

Mr. Feild gave a brief update on the revenues and expenditures as of September 30, 2015. He also gave an update on the revenue and expenditures for the 2011 SPLOST.

2016 Budget

Donna Prather and I met with the Department Heads and Constitutional Officers to develop the First Draft of the Proposed 2016 County Budget. It reflects what they believe they need to do their jobs, and we are currently consolidating it. The draft will be posted on your CVO's for review. It does not include the Sheriff's 4 budgets; which are being developed separately. These 4 budgets should be compiled by November 18th.

If you have questions, please contact either me or Donna. We recommend the Commission plan to schedule a Work Session sometime after November 20th to discuss the Proposed Budget in more detail.

Annexation and Rezoning

We have been notified that an application to annex and rezone has been received by the City. A Planning Commission Meeting has been called for November 16th to consider it.

The applicant is Lyon Investment, LLC of Douglas, GA; the property is located at the northeast corner of Ocilla Highway and Harper Drive (formerly Johnny's); and the request is to be annexed into the City, with rezoning from G-B County to G-B City.

USDA Home Buyers Workshop

The Development Authority of Ben Hill County and the City of Fitzgerald are partnering with the Tifton Office of USDA Rural Development to present a Home Buyer's Workshop on Thursday, November 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Fitzgerald Utilities Community Room.

The workshop is free to the public and will cover USDA Direct Home Loans, Guaranteed Home Loans, Loan & Grant Housing Repair, and Building Favorable Credit. It is designed for low to moderate income families.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Old Business:

Hospital Update

Dorminy Medical Center Chief of Operations Mel Pine and Paige Wynn gave an update on the progress of Dorminy Medical Center and presented a list of their future financial needs.

Perry House Road Bridge Update

The Perry House Road Bridge over the Willacoochee Creek is in the State Transportation Improvement Plan as a \$900,000 state-funded project. We are working with GDOT on the final details to get it into their spring bidding. There are a few key points we need to be very clear about:

- There is no bypass construction planned as part of this project.

The road will be closed at a date yet to be determined after the award of the construction contract, and it may remain closed for up to 150 days.

- Ben Hill County will be responsible for any utility relocation costs or additional ROW acquisition that might be required.
- Ben Hill County will defer to GDOT on the bridge construction design, contract and construction details.
- Ben Hill County Staff will assist as requested by GDOT. We have offered them 5,000 cubic yards of fill dirt that our Road Department pre-positioned at the Millenium Technology Pointe Park to widen the shoulders on the approaches to the bridge. We are keeping Wiregrass Technical College informed, and are jointly exploring options on how our Transit System might be able to help with the temporary mobility problems. The Herald-Leader also has a keen interest in this project and will help us keep the general public informed.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve proceeding with this project, to include: No bypass; closing the road for up to 150 days during construction; County responsibility for any utility relocation or additional ROW costs; deferring to GDOT for design, contract and construction details; and providing additional assistance as requested by GDOT. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

City/County Consolidation Study

County Manager Frank Field stated he communicated with both the City Staff and Harry Hayes at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government about City-County Consolidation.

City Staff members say they recall committees meeting once or twice in 1998, but the effort was abandoned before any of them formally reported. The City subsequently withdrew from further discussions.

We searched the County minute books, and found a County Resolution from 1998 that requested our legislative delegation introduce enabling legislation in the 1999 Georgia General Assembly for the creation of a charter commission to prepare, present and sponsor a proposal for the consolidation of the City of Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County.

Harry Hayes responded by E-mail; saying that Ted Baggett has replaced him as the lead on City-County consolidations. He provided a hyperlink to a CVIOG website video on the subject; which I forwarded to the Commissioners. His search of the CVIOG archives concluded they did not do a consolidation study for the City and County. He did participate in several discussions, but said they didn't produce a scope of work that would allow the Institute to be of assistance.

Mr. Hayes said their normal policy on consolidation studies is to have both the city and the county involved, because these studies require obtaining information and cooperation from both governments.

Commissioner John Mooney stated someone has to take the lead and it might as well be Ben Hill County.

Chairman Philip Jay said he would contact Mayor Mark Masee.

Excess Property Resolution

County Attorney Toni Sawyer stated she have not received the information she needs to complete the resolution. The Commissioners decided to wait until the grant is awarded before proceeding with this agenda item.

Utility Easement Resolution

County Attorney Toni Sawyer stated she emailed Tim Berrigan, Vice President of Southern Vener, asking him for the exact route, but she has not received the information. She stated she is waiting to hear back from him.

Courthouse Windows and Leak

County Manager Frank Field stated he has issued a Request for Qualifications for companies that wanted to be added to our bidders list for historic restoration projects. There were three (3) responses. The Historic Preservation Commission has determined they are all qualified bidders and recommended we proceed with getting bids for the first stage of the window project.

County Manager Frank Field also reported the Courthouse roof has been repaired.

Meeting Ordinance

County Manager Frank Field reminded the Commissioners about the some confusion concerning the rules for conducting County meetings at the October 14th Special Called Meeting. Mr. Field stated he can confirm that the County Staff follows the Code of Ordinances of Ben Hill County that was updated by MUNICODE in 2013 and 2014. The Code Book was reviewed by all departments, constitutional offices, and the County Attorney; and then published in 2014 by Order of the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners. I can also confirm that no Ordinance amendments have been made concerning meetings since this Code Book was published.

The question still remains if the Commission wants the Meetings Ordinance changed; and if so, what should be changed.

Carisle McDonald

County Manager Frank Field stated Mr. McDonald was formerly the Ben Hill County Attorney. After his passing, there was discussion about the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library being named in memoriam. No action was taken, and this subject is being raised again.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter stated he had spoken with Gudrun Mills and she mentioned that she would like to see a road or the Law Library in the Courthouse named after Mr. McDonald.

Chairman Philip Jay stated he would talk to Judge Chasteen concerning the matter and report back to Vice-Chairman Netter so he could relay the results of the request to Mrs. Mills.

New Business:

De-Annexation Request/Dr. Herbet ConGram

Dr. ConGram addressed the Commissioners about his request to de-annex his 10 acre property on 219 Hail Booker Road. Dr. Congram stated he wants to de-annex his property because of the zoning restrictions he currently have by being in the City.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan and Vice-Chairman OD Netter stressed they were opposed to the request because of concerns of spot and island annexing and the future request of others that might want the same changes.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter suggest Dr. ComGram ask the City for special exception to build what he is wanting to build because if the Commissioners voted and the vote didn't pass, there was nothing else he could do concerning this matter.

Dr. ConGram thanks Vice-Chairman Netters for the advice and stated he would go that route.

Employee Recognition

County Manager Frank Feild honored Senior Citizen Director Cathy Posey and Road Department Heavy Equipment Operator John Walters for their 20 years of service. They were given a \$200 check for their years of dedication and service.

SCDTF Officer Certifications

County Manager Frank Feild reported all of the officers working with the South Central Drug Task Force are certified and their certificates are posted on the CVO. This was added to the agenda to make it a matter of public record.

Service Delivery Strategy

County Manager Frank Feild stated the City-County Service Delivery Strategy is a written document required by Georgia Law and administered by the Department of Community Affairs. It addresses the different categories of public services provided by the City and County; who is responsible for each of them; and how they are paid for. This document must be updated every 5-years; and expires on by February 28th, 2016. We need to submit it to DCA for review not later than January 28, 2016.

This document was originally prepared in 1989, and was re-approved by the City Council and County Commission in 2011 without changes.

The City and County Staffs have met and prepared a new DRAFT of the 2016 Service Delivery Strategy for review and approval by the City Council and County Commission. After approval, the document will be forwarded thru the Regional Commission to DCA. This document was posted on the Commissioner's CVO and the Ben Hill County website on October 28th.

We will schedule a public hearing in conjunction with the Regular Meeting on December 8th to receive public comments; approve the City-County Service Delivery Strategy; authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary documents, and forward them to the City for their approval.

Comprehensive Plan 5-Year Work Plan Economic Development Strategic Plan

County Manager Frank Feild stated the draft of the Updated Comprehensive Plan 5-Year Work Plan was posted on the County website on October 28th. The draft of the Economic Development Strategic Plan was posted on the County website. Public comments on these documents can be forwarded to the Regional Development Commission, or the City or the County.

A Joint City-County Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, November 12th at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall; followed by approval to transmit the final drafts to DCA for review and comment.

2017 Transit Program Application

County Manager Frank Feild stated the Ben Hill Transit System took delivery of 2 new vans on September 17th and the 3rd van on October 19th. This gives us 3 new and 3 high mileage vans in our system. DOT will allow us to keep all 6 vans in service, and to replace the old vans with new ones in the 2017 fiscal year. RMS is hiring additional drivers and will be taking on more service contracts.

DOT plans to consolidate the 5311 program's operating and capital contracts into one contract; and this may happen during FY 2017.

At the request of the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget, DOT has pushed up the window for the 2017 fiscal year applications. We have been working with RMS and the

Regional DOT Office to prepare our application; and pre-cleared the budget on October 15th. The full application must be submitted to the Regional DOT Office by November 15th for review, and to GDOT in Atlanta by November 30th, 2015. The full application and budget is attached for your review and approval.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the 2017 fiscal year application for operating and capital contracts for the Ben Hill Transit System; and authorize the Chairman to sign the documents, and the County Attorney to execute an Affirmation Letter. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

2017 SPLOST

Vice-Chairman OD Netter stated it is time to start having Workshop Meeting to discuss the 2017 SPLOST. They also need to meet with Constitutional Officer and Department Heads to focus on what the County need before talking with others that desires to be included in the SPLOST.

Thanksgiving Gift Certificates

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

2016 Vice-Chairman

Vice-Chairman OD Netter reminded the Commissioners that they need to start thinking about a new Vice-Chairman for 2016 because he might be resigning in March 2016 to run for Tax Commissioner.

Health Board Nominee

Vice-Chairman OD Netter reminded the Commissioners that they need to start thinking about replacing him on the Health Board because he might be resigning in March 2016 to run for Tax Commissioner

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report: NONE

Commissioner's Remarks: NONE

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk