



BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

March 02, 2021
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
6:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Amendments to Agenda

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to amend the Agenda to include the appointment of District 1 Representative to the Board of Assessors. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to amend the Agenda to include an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Appointment of District 1 Representative to Board of Assessors

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to appoint Ms. Annie Mosley to serve as District 1 Representative on the Board of Assessors to fill the unexpired term of Ms. T. Butts Amoje. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2021 Commissioners' Retreat and the February 16, 2021 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentations

Commissioner Emily Davis made the following presentations in honor of Women's History Month:

Major Etta Renee Gray – First Female Chief of Detectives, Milledgeville Police Department;
Lieutenant Gail Hollis – First African American Female E911 Dispatcher and First Female Lieutenant School Resource Officer, Baldwin County Sheriff's Office;
Captain Sheri Kneip – First Female Captain, Baldwin County Fire / Rescue;
Major Lynnette LaRocque – First Female Major, Baldwin County Sheriff's Office;
Ms. Amanda Ptak – First Female E911 Director, Baldwin County E911 Center.

Resolution Authorizing Development Authority Issuance of Bonds

Development Authority Attorney Kevin Brown presented information on a proposed revenue bond refinancing by the Development Authority of Milledgeville and Baldwin County for the benefit of USG Real Estate Foundation XII, LLC. This action would assist the Company in re-issuing its Series 2007 tax-exempt revenue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$100,000,000. These bonds were applied to finance, refinance or reimburse student housing and related facilities located on properties of Georgia College and State University. Mr. Brown requested the Board's approval of a Resolution approving the issuance of said bonds.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Development Authority Issuance of Bonds as presented. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Employee Wellness Program

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson gave a presentation on an Employee Wellness Program. She discussed the following aspects of the program: driving forces such as rising health care costs, employee absenteeism and the desire to have a healthier workforce and community; encouraging employee participation; establishing a Wellness Committee; determining the kind of program that best suits the employees; encouraging employee participation; establishing a budget for the program and developing a written wellness policy.

Presentation on Aquatics Facility

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented information on the Aquatic Facility. He stated the new facility will be funded through Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and will be built on the old state prison property near Walter B. Williams Park. Mr. Tobar reported that shortly after the SPLOST was approved an Aquatic Committee was established. Commissioners, staff and members of the committee visited several facilities in surrounding counties and conducted citizens surveys. A consultant was hired to develop a concept plan; however, the estimated cost was \$3.6 million dollars which was not possible with the current SPLOST dollars. Mr. Tobar stated it was determined the facility will be built in phases with the first phase intended for ages 13 and younger. This phase will include a splash pad containing water features including slides, a concession area, restrooms and a pump house. Mr. Tobar reported the proposed budget for this phase is \$1.2 million. The County intends to get this built as soon as possible; however, should bids come in above the \$1.2 million budget it could delay completion until 2022. He stated he will work to get as many firms as possible to bid on the facility to get a better price.

Mr. Tobar stated that in addition to the facility near the Recreation Department, a smaller splash pad will be built at the Collins P. Lee Center in Harrisburg. He stated that particular project will also be going out for bid soon. That project estimate is \$100,000.

County Manager Tobar reported the County has a contract with Georgia College and State University for use of their pool during summer months for the community to take swimming lessons and for water recreation. Of course, the utilization of the GCSU pool will depend on the situation with COVID.

Ms. Hattie Williams addressed the Board regarding the timeline of getting a pool so that children could learn to swim rather than using the pool at Georgia College.

Resolution to Establish Additional Facilities for Holding Superior Court

County Manager Tobar presented a Resolution to establish additional facilities for holding Superior Court. The Resolution established the E911 Center training room as additional space for holding jury trials during the COVID pandemic as determined by the Judge presiding at that session of court.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Tobar reported on the following: County boundaries confirmed by GIS to US Census Bureau; Citizen Problem Reporter and My Elected Representative apps up and running; Nelson Road culvert complete and weather permitting, road ready for pavement by end of week; CDBG sewer project pipe construction began; DPH covered drive-thru complete; continuing to get bids for survey of Walter B. Williams and Golf Course property for lease extension; free public wi-fi available at all fire stations; working on signage for wi-fi sites; work continuing on relocation of gas line at Government Building so second entrance/exit can be completed; request for bids solicited for Miller Pit hunting lease; and anticipate reopening of Senior Center in April.

Public Comment for Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

Executive Session

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Regular Meeting

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Vice Chair John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk