



BALDWIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING

**January 18, 2022
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Henry Craig
John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Emily Davis
Sammy Hall

ALSO PRESENT

David McRee
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Jill Adams

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Henry Craig called the January 18, 2022 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Craig asked County Manager Carlos Tobar to present information on the proposed Animal Control Ordinance.

County Manager Tobar stated the current ordinance was adopted in 2018 and revisions are needed to adequately address animal control in the County for protection of citizens as well as animals. Mr. Tobar introduced Solicitor General Skye Gess who has worked with the County to provide updates to the Animal Control Ordinance.

Solicitor Gess stated the ordinance needed revisions to clarify definitions, violations and punishment. She reported any violations of the ordinance are prosecuted through Magistrate Court.

Chairman Craig opened the floor for comments / questions from Commissioners regarding the proposed Animal Control Ordinance. Commissioner Hall stated he had concerns with two parts of the ordinance (1) prohibiting plastic drums for use as shelter and (2) prohibiting unrestrained animals in the open area of vehicles. Commissioner Butts expressed his concern with the Public Nuisance section. He stated he felt the ordinance should specify the number of times a complaint is addressed prior to citations being issued. Solicitor Gess responded these items could be reviewed further with direction of the Board. Vice Chairman Westmoreland asked if there is any requirement included in the Ordinance for registration of animal. Solicitor Gess stated the registration requirement is not included in the ordinance.

Chairman Craig expressed his appreciation for the work Solicitor Gess has done on the Animal Control Ordinance by working with the County for the benefit of the community.

County Manager Carlos Tobar stated concerns and comments from tonight's hearing will be addressed and incorporated into a further revised Ordinance. He stated once the changes have been made, the Ordinance will be brought back to the Board for their consideration.

Commissioner Hall asked if another public hearing would be required. County Attorney McRee responded a second public hearing would not be required.

Ms. Pam Peacock addressed the Board expressing concern that all pets must wear tags showing rabies vaccination is current. She stated the tags will not stay on collars very well and this will be hard to enforce.

Vice Chairman John Westmoreland made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:20 p.m. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021 Regular Meeting and December 21, 2021 Executive Session as submitted. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Animal Control Ordinance

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to table the Animal Control Ordinance. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution for Redistricting Plan

County Manager Tobar stated a redistricting plan is required after each census to ensure that each district meets federal and state guidelines. He stated each district must have no more than one percent (1%) deviation in population. He reported the in-house GIS Department worked with all Commissioners in the development of the map which was submitted to the Reapportionment Office for review and certification.

County Manager Tobar presented, for the Board's consideration, a Resolution approving the redistricting plan and requesting that the local legislative delegation introduce local legislation for the redistricting plan for passage by the General Assembly and signing by the Governor.

Vice Chairman Westmoreland made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed by the following vote:

Aye: Westmoreland, Hall, Davis, Craig Nay: Butts

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

Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Grant Award

Finance Director Jill Adams presented a grant award in the amount of \$151,896 for the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force for the period January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022. She reported no match is required.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the grant award in the amount of \$151,896 for the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force as presented. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Craig reported letters were sent to high schools inviting students to participate in Commission meetings by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Baldwin High and Georgia Military have responded that they are interested in participating. Once a reply is received

from John Milledge a schedule will be developed. Commissioner Davis asked that EBLA also be included.

Vice Chairman Westmoreland asked for an update on revenue from short-term vacation rentals. County Manager Tobar stated reports are not due yet on collections. Mr. Westmoreland asked for update on revenue from the golf course and airport. Mr. Tobar responded both have shown a profit, and he would get those amounts together for the Board's information.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Craig reported he asked Vice Chairman Westmoreland and Commissioner Butts to work with County staff to review Engineer Wood's list of roads for the T-SPLOST. He also stated he asked County staff to prepare a timeline for T-SPLOST to be on the ballot next November. Commissioner Butts inquired if he, Mr. Westmoreland and staff could also look at other projects for the T-SPLOST. County Manager Tobar agreed all potential projects including roads, sidewalks, drainage, etc. should be reviewed.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Tobar reported on the progress at the round-about and discussed effects of a possible winter storm this weekend on County roads.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

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There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss litigation. Vice Chairman John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

REOPEN REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Hall made a motion to reopen the Regular Meeting at 7:05 p.m. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Vice Chairman John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chairman

Carlos Tobar
County Manager