



BALDWIN COUNTY REGULAR MEETING

March 15, 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
Cindy Cunningham

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Craig called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Dr. Gloria Wicker gave the invocation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Kendrick Butts led the Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENTATION

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Craig presented Dr. Gloria Wicker with a Proclamation recognizing her upon her retirement as Pastor of Wesley Chapel A.M.E. Church.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2022 Work Session, March 1, 2022 Regular Meeting and March 1, 2022 Executive Session. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Memorandum of Understanding for Victims' Programs

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson stated there are three (3) victims' programs in the County. O.C.G.A. 15-21-132 dictates procedures for the collection, distribution and reporting of five percent (5%) add-on fines collected for these programs. Ms. Hudson reported according to O.C.G.A. a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be approved and executed for each program. Memorandums of Understanding for the Solicitor's Office and Georgia's PORCH were presented for the Board's consideration. Ms. Hudson also presented a Memorandum of Understanding for ratification for the District Attorney's office victims' program.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to approve the three (3) Memorandums of Understanding as presented and to authorize execution by the Chairman. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Report on Revaluations

Chief Appraiser Wade Williams presented an update on revaluations of County property. He stated Baldwin County is mandated by law to follow the market of the County in all classes of property - residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial. He discussed fair market value as being what a property would bring at a cash sale when sold in the manner in which such property is usually sold between a knowledgeable buyer and a willing seller. He continued by explaining the fair market value is the basis for taxation, depending to a great extent on sales. He stated this defines why a revaluation must be done. Mr. Williams stated the value of tangible property, as referred to in the tax laws of the state, shall be forty percent (40%) of the fair market value of such property. He discussed how sales data is obtained, three (3) approaches to determining value and sales assessment ratios.

Mr. Williams reported the compliance range is .36 - .44; however, Baldwin County does not fall within this range. In 2020, Baldwin County was only slightly below the range at .3576. In order to stay in compliance, a uniform margin of increase of all property must be determined.

Mr. Williams stated May 15th is the target date to send assessment notices; but, they will be sent out no later than June 15th.

Update on Animal Control

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented an update on Animal Control. He discussed the updated policies and procedures and the Request for Proposals for provision of adoption services. Mr. Tobar stated he felt he had addressed all concerns that were brought before the Board regarding animal services.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Davis stated she continues to get a lot of calls about trash services. She stated the waste management company must provide better services to the County and its citizens.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chairman Westmoreland stated he has gotten phone calls about truck traffic going through the roundabout. He felt the Department of Public Safety could assist with the problem by issuing citations which would hopefully stop trucks from going through. County Manager Tobar reported a request has been made to DOT to put additional signage on State routes.

Commissioner Butts stated the County must retain valuable employees and recommended County salaries be reviewed in light of increasing gas prices and inflation.

Chairman Craig reported discussions with the County Manager and Assistant County Manager have been initiated to review salaries as well as other options.

Vice Chairman Westmoreland thanked public works employees for the excellent job on the roundabout as well as Georgia Power in keeping the road open.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Tobar discussed the following projects: structure demolitions, meeting with faith-based organizations, request for proposals for the Animal Control Department, the community development block grant application, remodeling of the 4-H facility; roads on list from last year's resurfacing list, LMI, Land Use Code for manufactured homes, burn ordinance, and zoning.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The following citizens addressed the Board:

Cindy Humphrey - timeline for work orders on drainage issues on Simpson Proctor Lane.

Norman Bostic - complaint about renting the gym, dealings with Recreation Department staff and policies regarding gym rental.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk