

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2021

The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. Wesley Corbitt, Mr. Forrest Floyd, Mr. Roger Burdette, Mr. Reginald Loper and Mr. Phil Kieffer were present for the regular Commission meeting at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Effingham County Administrative Complex. Mr. Jamie Deloach was not present for this meeting.

STAFF ATTENDING THE MEETING

Mr. Tim Callanan – County Administrator, Mr. Edward Newberry – County Attorney, Ms. Stephanie Johnson – County Clerk, Mr. Clint Hodges – Fire Chief & EMA Director, Mr. Mark Barnes - Finance, Mrs. Teresa Concannon – County Planner, Mrs. Vicki Dunn – Human Resources Director, Mrs. Alison Bruton – Purchasing Agent, Mr. Jason Bragg – Clerk of Superior Court

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Mr. Andy Cripps and Mr. Tommy Allen

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE

N/A

I - CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Corbitt called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

II – INVOCATION

Chairman Corbitt gave the invocation.

III – PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The Pledge was sounded in unison.

IV – ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Corbitt opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Kieffer nominated Commissioner Burdette. The members of the Board casted their ballots. The votes were individually sounded by County Clerk Johnson. All members present (Commissioner Deloach was absent) unanimously voted to elect Commissioner Burdette as Vice Chair for the 2021 year.

V – APPEARANCE

Mr. Tommy Allen, Chair of the Board of Elections appeared before the Commission to discuss compensation for the Election Superintendent and future growth plans for the Office of Elections.

VI - AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the agenda as read. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V – MINUTES

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the December 15, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting minutes as read. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI – PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Corbitt stated public comment should be limited to agenda items only.

VII – CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Corbitt explained all correspondence and documents from the meeting are located in the Clerk's office and on the Board of Commissioners' website.

VIII - CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda items: **(1)** Consideration to approve an update to the ACCG Retirement Services Secure Web Access **(2)** Consideration to approve to ratify and affirm a submittal of a Grant Application to the ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP). The motion carried unanimously.

IX - NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO COMPLETE THE AGENT AGREEMENT FOR PAYMENT OF JUROR FEES BY AND BETWEEN RAPID INVESTMENTS, INC. D/B/A RAPID FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS (01):

Deputy Director Barnes explained the Effingham County Clerk of Superior Court wishes to enter into an agreement with Rapid Financial Solutions to provide debit card payment to jurors. In order to complete the agreement, the Finance

Director must complete the banking information for Rapid Financial Solutions to debit/credit the bank account for processing of those payments. Disbursements are currently being made by check payment. The issuance cost is \$0.49 per debit card.

Vice Chair Burdette made a motion to approve for the Finance Director to complete the Agent Agreement. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO APPROVE AN AMENDED BUDGET FOR LODGING EXCISE TAX DISTRIBUTION WITH THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (02):

Purchasing Agent Bruton explained the Chamber of Commerce has submitted a request for an amended budget. Doing so will allow for the Chamber to enter into a contract with River Horse Digital Marketing to develop strategies to improve Effingham County's online image and repurposing funds for the fabrication of the sign at the I-95 Welcome Center which is no longer an option.

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment for lodging excise tax distribution with the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A FINAL PLAT, WARRANTY DEED AND STORMWATER MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT TO CONVEY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PARK WEST, PHASE 5B LOCATED OFF OF HIGHWAY 30 (03):

Zoning and Planning Manager Concannon explained there are 67 lots within this phase of the development. Documents required for approval have been submitted. Staff does stipulate that a FEMA flood study be conducted and approved.

There was a prolonged conversation among the Board and Staff regarding the installation of sidewalks and who is responsible for maintaining them. County Attorney Newberry advised that the Board postpone the item until further research could be conducted.

Vice Chair Burdette made a motion to postpone this item to the January 19, 2021 Commission meeting. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING TO AMEND APPENDIX C – ARTICLE III GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 3.3 (ACCESSORY BUILDINGS) OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES (04):

Zoning and Planning Manager Concannon explained Staff has received a number of requests to allow for an accessory structure within the front yard of properties zoned AR-1 and AR-2. Currently to do so requires approved by the Board of Commissioners as a variance use. The amended ordinance will allow for this use on larger parcels of property (not less than 5 acres).

The Board offered comments related to the proposed ordinance. Commissioner Loper expressed opposition to allowing accessory structures within a front yard.

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve the First Reading to amend Part II, Appendix C, Article III – General Provisions, Section 3.3. Vice Chair Burdette seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

X- EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:03 pm Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel, property and pending litigation. Commissioner Burdette seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At 6:30 pm, Commissioner Loper made a motion to reconvene into regular session. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

XI- REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF & COMMISSIONERS

County Manager Callanan discussed the following:

1. Board Retreat

The retreat has been relocated to the Admin Complex and will take place on Friday, Jan. 15th and Saturday, Jan. 16th. The Board changed the date to Friday, Jan. 22nd and Saturday, Jan. 23rd.

Commissioner Burdette discussed the following:

1. *Disabled Veteran Tax Deduction*

Is gathering information about establishing a tax break for disabled vets.

2. *Herbert Kessler Road*

Would like to form a plan for improving the road.

XII – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 6:39 pm, Commissioner Burdette made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



Wesley M. Corbitt, Chairman



Stephanie D. Johnson, County Clerk