

## MINUTES

### DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

#### COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, VICE CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON, COMMISSIONERS RUSTY DAVIS, GEORGE ANDERSON, GREG MURRAY AND STEVE BROCK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ALAN THOMAS, COUNTY CLERK BEVERLY KING AND NEWS REPORTER POWELL COBB.

#### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Pete Stephens called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. After the call to order, Vice Chairman Dennis Brinson gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Stephens asked the Board to approve the following amendment: Add #6; Consider Approval of Error & Releases Report from Tax Commissioner. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve the agenda with this amendment. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

#### SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no Special Presentations.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Stephens recognized Kelvin Bouie. Mr. Bouie stated that he would like to speak when the Board discussed the combining of the Decatur County Planning Commission with the City of Bainbridge. Chairman Stephens stated that he would allow anyone present on the Planning Commission to speak at that time.

#### APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' Meeting held September 24, 2019 as presented. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to be Discussed.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Discuss Solar Energy Ordinance.** Chairman Stephens recognized Bainbridge-Decatur County Planning Coordinator Steve O'Neil. Mr. O'Neil presented the Board with a draft of a Solar Energy Ordinance. Mr. O'Neil stated that this is a start and that adjustments can be made. Mr. O'Neil stated that the Placement portion of this draft could be eliminated. There was discussion of discarding of the solar panels once they aren't used anymore. Commissioner Murray stated that part needs to be between the landowner and the Solar Company.

**Consider Combining the Decatur County Planning Commission with the City of Bainbridge.** Chairman Stephens recognized Bainbridge-Decatur County Planning Coordinator Steve O'Neil. Mr. O'Neil proposed an idea to create a joint planning commission to be comprised of three City of Bainbridge appointed members and three Decatur County appointed members, and a chairman approved by both jurisdictions. Mr. O'Neil stated that the Chairman will initially serve a two-year term, thereafter, the Chairman will be appointed by the members of the Planning Commission. The Chairman will vote only in case of a tie vote. Mr. O'Neil said he believed it would benefit both with a unified planning commission. Mr. O'Neil stated as it currently stands, the Decatur County Planning Commission doesn't meet very often, only if an

application has been scheduled for review. Mr. O'Neil proposed to have meetings that would serve as training sessions, where the planning commission members would learn the differences in the ordinances between the City of Bainbridge and Decatur County, comprehensive planning and subdivision land development would be just a few topics for training.

Chairman Stephens recognized Kelvin Bouie, one of the current members of the Decatur County Planning Commission. Mr. Bouie opposed the idea, stating there was nothing a joint planning commission could do that the current commission couldn't. Mr. Bouie suggested that the Decatur County Planning Commission meet regularly and get more familiar with the ordinances rather than forming a joint commission. Commissioner Anderson stated that if it's not broken, why mess with it.

County Administrator Thomas asked the Board to give him some direction to go with these two items on the agenda.

Chairman Pete Stephens, Commissioner Greg Murray and Commissioner Steve Brock agreed to meet with Mr. O'Neil to further discuss the potential of a joint planning commission and bring it back before the Board of Commissioners next month.

Chairman Pete Stephens, Commissioner Rusty Davis and Commissioner Greg Murray agreed to meet with Mr. O'Neil on the Solar Ordinance and bring it back before the Board of Commissioners for a vote.

**Consider Request from Sheriff's Department – Donating Equipment to Colquitt Police Dept.** Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a letter from the sheriff's department with a list of equipment that is barely serviceable that consists of (4) gun holsters; (4) magazine holsters; (4) handcuff holsters and (16) belt keepers that they would like to donate to the Colquitt Police Department. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Approval of VOCA Supplemental Competitive Funding – District Attorney's Office.** Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that this is an agreement for funding of prosecution based VOCA (Victims of Crime Act Assistance) Program. County Administrator Thomas stated that this supplemental competitive funding is for the District Attorney's office and the total amount of this grant is for \$27,000; in which the District Attorney's office plans to purchase a vehicle with these funds. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve this agreement. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Approval of Error and Releases Report from Tax Commissioner.** Chairman Stephens recognized Tax Commissioner Mark Harrell. Mr. Harrell presented the Board with an Error and Releases report for their consideration of approval. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this report. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

#### COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

All of the Commissioners thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. County Administrator Thomas recognized Chief Deputy Wendell Cofer for recently achieving his Certified County Official status.

Chairman Stephens wished Vice Chairman Brinson a Happy Birthday and reminded everyone of the Open House for the Board of Elections on October 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse Annex.

There being no further business, the meeting, on motion by Vice Chairman Brinson, was duly adjourned. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Approved:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Attest:  \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk