

**MINUTES**

**DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020**

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, Chairman Stephens gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**APPOINT CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2020**

Commissioner Brock made a motion to reappoint Commissioner Pete Stephens as Chairman and reappoint Commissioner Dennis Brinson as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**APPOINT COUNTY CLERK & COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR THE YEAR 2020**

Vice-Chairman Brinson made a motion to reappoint Beverly King as County Clerk and reappoint Bruce Kirbo as County Attorney. Commissioner Brock seconded the motions. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

There were no Special Presentations.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no Public Participation.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' Meeting held December 10, 2019 as presented. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to be Discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Alcohol Sales in the County – Nicole Wells.** Chairman Stephens recognized Ms. Nicole Wells. Ms. Wells, owner of Nic's Quick Stop on Shotwell Street and Vada Road, addressed the Board with concerns about losing sales in convenience stores located in the County. Ms. Wells stated that customers will bypass the County stores and go into the City where they can buy everything in one stop which includes gas and food if they are looking to purchase alcoholic beverages. Ms. Wells stated that the City of Bainbridge was approved to sale alcoholic beverages on Sunday by a referendum that was voted on by the people of Decatur County. Ms. Wells requested that the Board of Commissioners consider doing the same thing. Commissioner Anderson stated that the City of Bainbridge and the City of Climax can sell alcohol on Sundays and agreed that this will help the businesses in the County. Commissioner Murray said that businesses in the Faceville area often lose sales to Florida. Commissioner Davis stated that he would like to see the County businesses

be just as prosperous as businesses in the City. Ms. Wells stated that she has started a petition and has received over 300 signatures just in her area. The Board of Commissioners agreed to consider this matter and discuss it with the County Attorney.

**Consider Bid Award for Bethel Heights Project.** Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that bids were received and opened for the 2018 CDBG Project for Bethel Heights on December 19, 2019 and provided the Board with a tabulation of those bids. County Administrator Thomas stated that Peavy & Son Construction with a base bid of \$670,192.00 was the low bidder. County Administrator Thomas presented a letter to the Board from Stacy Watkins, the engineer on this project, stating that his recommendation is to award the project to HTS Construction in the amount of \$769,569.00, which is \$99,377.00 higher than Peavy & Son. County Administrator Thomas explained the reason Mr. Watkins recommended this award to HTS Construction was because Peavy & Son constructed the 2014 CDBG Project and informed him that they intentionally did not add hydrated lime to the asphalt mix, reasoning being Peavy & Son felt it did not need to add hydrated lime to the mix for it did not impact the quality and performance of the asphalt. Georgia is one of four states that require hydrated lime be added to an asphalt mix design. County Administrator Thomas stated that he has met with a representative of Peavy & Son Construction Company, Mr. Lee Lasseter, who stated that his plant is inspected and approved by personnel from Georgia Department of Transportation. County Administrator Thomas stated that Mr. Lasseter assured him that they will produce the mix required by the Georgia Department of Transportation specifications for this project. County Administrator Thomas stated that if this project is awarded to Peavy & Son, they will make sure that the asphalt mix meets all Georgia Department of Transportation standards. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board award the contract to Peavy & Son Construction. Commissioner Brock made a motion to award this contract to Peavy & Son Construction. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Approval of Alcohol and Restaurant Licenses for Tisha Barnard.** Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that Mrs. Barnard has applied for an alcohol license for Super B Retailing, LLC located at 1572 Newton Highway and has met all the requirements necessary. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this request. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve an alcohol license for Mrs. Barnard. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. County Administrator Thomas stated that Mrs. Barnard is not ready to move forward with her restaurant license at this time and it will be deferred to a later meeting.

**Consider Approval of Restaurant License for M.A. BABA, LLC – The Pond House.** Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that Ms. Baba has applied for a restaurant license for The Pond House located at 249 Bethany Church Road and has met all the requirements necessary. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this request. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this restaurant license for Ms. Baba. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Board Appointment – Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Board.** Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to reappoint Commissioner Brock as the Council Member; reappoint Ms. Revonn Miller as the Additional Member and Mr. Billy Poppell as the Non-Public Council Member to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Board. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Decatur County Fire and Rescue Annual Firefighters Banquet.** Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas announced that the Decatur County Fire and Rescue will hold its annual Firefighters Banquet on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and encouraged everyone that is able to attend.

Commissioner Murray made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Real Estate. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

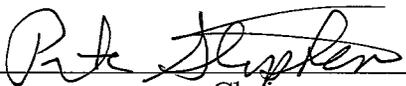
After the executive session the Commissioners assembled back in the board room. Commissioner Murray made a motion to go into regular session. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

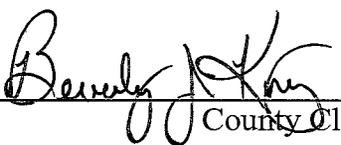
Chairman Stephens stated that during executive session the Board discussed a Real Estate matter due to some drainage problems on Lakeshore Drive. Commissioner Murray made a motion to authorize County Administrator Thomas to enter into negotiations for the purchase of some land to help improve the drainage problem on Lakeshore Drive. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

All the Commissioners thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Chairman Stephens thanked the Board for trusting in him to appoint him Chairman for another year.

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

Approved:   
Chairman

Attest:   
County Clerk