

Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

October 8, 2020

9:00am

Commissioners Present: Horace Daniel, Doug Watkins, Edward Burten, James Hitchcock, Frank Simmons

Prayer

Pledge

Call to Order

Approval of Past Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to approve the minutes from the previous regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion to approve those minutes passed with a show of hands.

Bills

- A motion was required to approve the bills for the past month as follows:
 - Administrative & Other \$322,653.68
 - Road Department \$63,253.22
 - Sheriff Dept. & Jail \$48,791.65
 - Courthouse \$39,857.51
 - EMA \$0.00
 - E-911 \$12,271.29
 - Landfill \$53,588.16

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins to approve the bill for the past month, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed by a show of hands.

Road Department Update

- Mr. Waller gave an update on the roads that were now opened after being closed from the torrential rains received during the previous month. He announced a list of roads that were still closed due to damage, and those that are currently being worked on to become passable.
- Chairman Daniel thanked the Road Department and Law Enforcement for its hard work following the aftermath of Hurricane Sally.
- The County Administrator gave an estimate on the road damage that was calculated by the Georgia Department of Transportation to be approximately \$1.7 million. He stated that he had spoken with Representative Mack Jackson to relay the estimate and the scope of the damages to the Governor for support in received aid from the State. He stated that the County was asked to prepare its own assessment of the damage, which will be performed by Atlas Technical Consultants.

Appointments

- Animal Control – Phillip Stenfors
 - Mr. Stenfors explained an incident that occurred on August 18, 2020, in which his wife called Animal Control for assistance with a stray dog. He stated that his wife was told

that the center does not pick up dogs. He also stated that his wife went to Sandersville to the center to complete the paperwork required for the center to trap the dog, to which she was told that the home is not in Washington County and no one came to assist with the dog after that. He then stated that his wife was able to trap the stray dog in a well house, to which she was told that there would be a \$25 fee to apprehend the dog. He then stated that his wife was there alone and that these issues with Animal Control needed to be addressed immediately.

- Chairman Daniel thanked Mr. Stenfors for bringing his issues with Animal Control to the Commissioners, then stated that the Animal Control center is operated by the City of Sandersville and is under their policies and procedures. He then asked Mr. Greg Haynes, an Animal Control officer, and Chief Victor Cuyler, who is over the operations of Animal Control center, to speak on the issue.
- Mr. Haynes stated that the secretary in the center spoke with Mrs. Stenfors regarding a trap request. He stated that all of the traps that they had were deployed elsewhere, which was the reasoning behind no traps begin used. He then stated that the center had no pen space at that time to accommodate anymore animals. After the paperwork was completed, he stated that he contacted the 911 center to verify the location, which showed that the home was indeed in Washington County. He then stated that he called Mrs. Stenfors to tell her that the Animal Control center will come to apprehend the stray dog once there was pen space available. He stated that once he was finally able to contact Mrs. Stenfors, after several attempts, he was told by Mrs. Stenfors that the dog was taken care of. Mr. Haynes stated that it is against state law for an Animal Control center to have any animal euthanized in order to make space for other animals. Chief Cuyler stated that the euthanizing process is controlled by the local veterinarians, then apologized to Mr. Stenfors for the issues that he experienced.
- Chairman Daniel thanked Mr. Haynes and Chief Cuyler for attending the meeting and addressing the issues. He then told Mr. Stenfors that if he wanted to take the matter further, he would have to consult with the City of Sandersville city council.
- Archway Update – Conni Fennell-Burley
 - Ms. Fennell-Burley gave an update on the activities of the Archway Partnership and presented a short slide show of the rebranding initiative that was conducted that resulted in a new logo for the County and the cities to use that will give continuity and unification amongst the logos in Washington County. The main slogan for the new branding was “It All Happens Here.” Citing the numerous resources and culture of Washington County. She also gave a short presentation on a design plan for the Linton Park area. The design entailed a walking trail with outdoor workout stations, a wildflower meadow, a dog park for small and large dogs, a playground with a train theme to tie in with the splash pad, and an amphitheater to allow for cultural performances. The design also left a large area between the trees for large scale events as well. Both projects were completed by programs operated through the University of Georgia.

Old Business – None

New Business

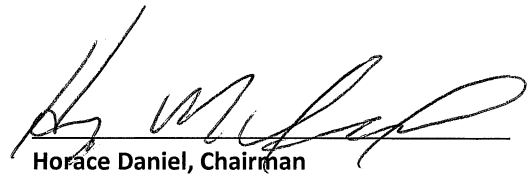
- Hospital Authority Appointment – Dexter Wansley

- The County Administrator explained that Mr. Wansley was approached to serve on the Hospital Authority. He stated that Mr. Wansley has been in contact with Mr. Jim Croome, chairman of the authority, and attended at least one meeting to confirm his interest or disinterest in serving on the authority. Mr. Wansley agreed to serve on the authority if the Commissioners were amenable.
- Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Wansley to the Hospital Authority. Commissioner Simmons made a motion for the appointment, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Road Department – Dumpster Trailer
 - Mr. Waller stated that the truck used for hauling dumpsters and trash was completely worn out. He stated that this trailer could be attached to any of the trucks that the Road Department has and will allow for dumpsters to be taken to any location with relative ease. He stated that he was only able to find one company that builds these trailers, which is called Pro-Tainer out of Minnesota. He stated that the quoted price for the trailer was \$7,749.
 - Commissioner Hitchcock asked Mr. Waller if the trailer could fit any standard widths, to which Mr. Waller stated that it could.
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the purchase. Commissioner Simmons made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Executive Session – Real Estate
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session. Commissioner Simmons made a motion to enter into the session, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
 - The County Administrator explained that several projects were discussed by the President of the Development Authority to the Commissioners, with the information regarding those projects as confidential. He stated that no votes were being taken at this time on those items.

Chairman Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Public Comment Session



Horace Daniel, Chairman

Attest:



Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk