

Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

August 10, 2023

9:00am

Commissioners Present: Horace Daniel, Doug Watkins, Bobby Jackson, James Hitchcock Jr., Frank Simmons Jr.

Prayer & Pledge

Motion to Begin

- Commissioner Watkins made a motion to begin the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.

July Minutes

- Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the July 2023 Board Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.

Bills

- The bills to be ratified were as follows:
 - Administrative & Other - \$1,294,845.17
 - Road Department - \$28,635.96
 - Sheriff office & Jail - \$35,170.05
 - Courthouse - \$39,166.93
 - EMA - \$574.00
 - E911 - \$982.67
 - Landfill - \$101,999.88
- Commissioner Simmons made a motion to approve the expenditures, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.

Road Department Update

- Road Department Director Robert Holmes Jr. gave an update on where the crews are for the week and the progress they have made.

Appointments

- Latonya Goodwin – East Central Georgia Consortium
 - Mrs. Goodwin presented a presentation on East Central Georgia Consortium and the ways, in which, they help Washington County. East Central Georgia Consortium works very closely with OFTC and helps people in our community get back in the workforce.
- Kim David – OFTC and East Central Georgia Consortium
 - Mrs. David stated that Mrs. Goodwin touched base on how OFTC and East Central Georgia Consortium work together. She reiterated points of how OFTC handles the program.
- Lyle Lansdell – Harmful facilities

- Mrs. Lansdell asked if she could get an update on the progress for future regulations to prevent harmful facilities from moving in or near homes. County Attorney Michael Howard stated that a proposed ordinance is being drafted between himself and the Attorney General's Office.
- Mrs. Lansdell went on to state that a more broad ordinance would protect more and possibly a permit may be needed. County Attorney Howard stated that once the draft is complete it would be presented to Commissioners for review.

New Business

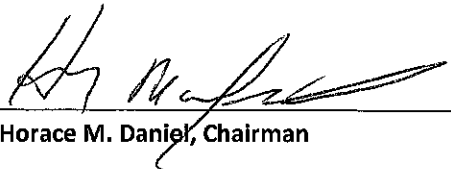
- Name Keri Lewis County Clerk
 - Interim Administrator Chris Hutchings explained that he would like to separate the Administrator from the Clerk position. Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve Keri Lewis as County Clerk, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.
- 2023 Millage Rate
 - Interim Administrator read aloud the proposed rates: Washington County Board of Education at 15.986, Washington County at 9.654, Washington County Development Authority at 0.500, and the Hospital at 3.000.
 - Commissioner Hitchcock made the motion to approve the millage rates for 2023. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Bank Account Signatures
 - Interim Administrator informed the commissioner that the signatures on the bank accounts needed to be updated. Edward Burten Jr. and Dustin Peebles needed to be removed from the bank accounts. Bobby Jackson and Chris Hutchings need to be added.
 - Commissioner Hitchcock made the motion to approve the signature change, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Bank Accounts : Open GA Fund 1 accounts and Close two saving accounts
 - Mr. Hutchings asked that the commissioner consider opening a GA Fund 1 account for SPLOST #8 and Hospital to gain the interest that the County can while the rate is good.
 - The motion was made by Commissioner Watkins to approve the GA Fund 1 accounts, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.
 - Interim Administrator suggested to close to two small savings accounts the county has at Citizens Bank due to not much interest is earned. The Landfill Savings account is to be transferred into the Landfill Checking account and the General Savings account will be transferred to the General Fund Checking account.
 - Commissioner Daniel made the motion to approve the closing of those two savings accounts. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Building Fees/Permits
 - Mr. Hutchings suggested that the county needs to consider increasing Building Fees and Permits to align with inflation. The new proposed amounts are as follows:
 - E911 - \$40
 - Non-Habitable over 400 sq. ft - \$40
 - Residential Development - \$75

- Commercial Development - \$250
 - Residential or Commercial Subdivision, Mobile Home, RV Park - \$250
 - Driveway Permit - \$40
- Commissioner Jackson made the motion to approve increase for fees/permits. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Contract Ratification
 - Interim Administrator stated that Allred Restoration will be painting and repairing the doors at the Splash Pad. Commissioner Watkins made the motion to ratify the contract, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Executive Session
 - Real Estate, Hospital Strategy, Legal
 - The motion was made by Commissioner Hitchcock to enter into executive session. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
 - Interim Administrator stated that the Real Estate was to deed the Development Authority 2.02 acres across from Sandersville School Authority (old S.E.S. building).
 - A vote was required to deed the property to the Development Authority. Commissioner Hitchcock made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned

Comments from Chairman

Public Comment Session



Horace M. Daniel, Chairman

Attest:



Keri Lewis, County Clerk