

Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

January 9, 2020

9:00am

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

Prayer

Pledge

Call to Order

Approval of Past Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Burten 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 \$262,669.76
 - Road Department \$42,558.60
 - Sheriff Dept. & Jail \$36,000.97
 - Courthouse \$40,123.87
 - EMA \$1,270.34
 - E-911 \$18,453.68
 - Landfill \$61,729.81

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

Road Department Update

- Mr. Waller stated that the Road Department is working on scraping and placing gravel on dirt roads in doing their best to stay ahead of upcoming rainy days. He also stated that this past holiday season's garbage was not as wide-spread of an issue as years before. Commissioner Burten inquired about the tires that were illegally dumped at the Ridge Road convenience center, to which Mr. Waller stated that he would have to check the cameras placed there to see if any information could be gathered on the individual that dumped the tires. He also stated that one of the cameras had been stolen from the site. Commissioner Hitchcock stated that the fines for illegal dumping should be increased. Commissioner Watkins stated that this issue had been discussed several months ago without any action. The County Administrator stated that the amount of a fine charged is up to the Magistrate Judge, as he has the authority to set the fee for a fine to an amount up to \$1,000. The County Attorney stated that the Board of Commissioners would not have to vote on the matter since the ordinance allow the Magistrate Judge to charge a fine up to the \$1,000 mark.

Appointments - None

Old Business – None

New Business

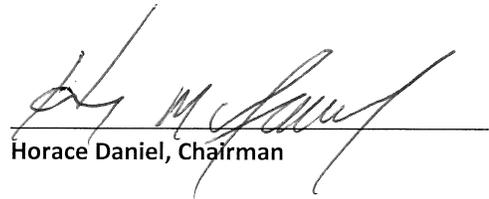
- Intergovernmental Agreement – Investigative Services
 - The County Administrator explained that this agreement would allow for the Sheriff's Office to handle investigations of crimes committed in the City of Tennille. The City would pay an amount of \$26,500 per year in quarterly installments, with a 60-day notification period to end the agreement for any reason.
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Watkins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Burten. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Purchase of Fire Truck
 - The County Administrator explained that the County was obligated to purchase a fire truck as consistent with the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Sandersville in order to provide adequate resources for their fire department to respond to calls in the unincorporated areas. EMA Director, and Sandersville Fire Chief, Russell Riner explained that the specifications were developed to meet the needs of the department to fight fires in the rural areas and advertised to received bids. Two bids were received: Fireline Inc. in the amount of \$328,797.00; and Fouts Brothers in the amount of \$258,615.00. Mr. Riner stated that Fouts Brothers was the recommended bidder, not only due to a lower price, but also for the fact that their factory is in Milledgeville, Georgia and will be much closer to receive service should any issues arise with the new fire truck. Mr. Riner stated that the County should expect at least 25 years of use with the new truck.
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the purchase of a new fire truck from Fouts Brothers. The motion was made by Commissioner Burten, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock.
- Intergovernmental Agreement – Law Enforcement Services
 - The County Administrator explained that this agreement would allow for the Sheriff's Office to handle patrolling services for the City of Oconee. The City will pay \$10,000 per year in quarterly installments for the service, with a 60 day notification period to terminate the agreement for any reason.
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the agreement. The motion was made by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Resolution to Call for Election – Sunday Sales of Beer & Wine
 - The County Administrator explained that the Board of Commissioner have received several requests from citizens and businesses to allow for the Sunday sale of beer and wine. He stated that surrounding counties allow for those sales on Sunday. He stated that this resolution would call for the election to be placed on the ballot in the upcoming election in May of this year. The County attorney stated that this referendum would be non-binding on the Board of Commissioners, but would allow for the amendment to the alcohol ordinance if the commissioners believed it to be the best option.
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the resolution to call for an election to allow the people to decide on the sales of beer and wine on Sundays. The motion was made by Commissioner Hitchcock, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.

- Reappointment to Board of Tax Assessors
 - The County Administrator explained that the term for Ms. Diana Murray would be ending on January 12th. The Board of Tax Assessors and Chief Appraiser recommended her reappointment to that board due to her quality service. He went on to state that Ms. Murray was easy to work with, fair, and consistent.
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to reappoint Ms. Murray to the Board of Tax Assessors. The motion was made by Commissioner Burten, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Public Comment Session



Horace Daniel, Chairman

Attest:



Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk

**STATE OF GEORGIA
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**A RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR A REFERENDUM FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOL
ON SUNDAYS**

Whereas, the Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes the public's recent request for the sale of alcohol on Sundays within the County; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners further recognizes and appreciates the need for local convenience store owners to be competitive with surrounding counties; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners does recognize that state law does allow for the sale of alcohol on Sundays to be authorized and regulated by the County as per O.C.G.A. §3-3-7; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners desire for the issue of the sale of alcohol on Sundays to be decided by the citizens of Washington County via a nonbinding referendum;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby request the Washington County Election Superintendent to place upon the ballot, of the next County-wide election as allowed and authorized by law, a non-binding referendum regarding the sale of alcohol on Sundays within Washington County.

Passed and approved this the 9th day of January 2020.



Horace Daniel, Chairman

Attest:



Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk