

**Minutes of the Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, October 9, 2017**

5:00 P.M.

A Public Hearing was held to hear the following rezoning request:

- a. A Case# 030 020 – A request from the Elbert County Board of Commissioners to amend the designation of 36.61 acres on the comprehensive land use plan from A- Agriculture to I- Industrial. Property is located at 1488 Bowman Hwy.
- b. Case# 030-021- A request from the Elbert County Board of Commissioners to amend the designation of 8.3 acres on the comprehensive land use plan from A-Agriculture to I- Industrial. Property is located at 1488 Bowman Hwy.
- c. Case# 031-014- A request from Middleton Rose, LLC to amend the designation of 79.56 acres on the comprehensive land use plan from A-Agriculture to I-Industrial. The property is located on the Athens Hwy.
- d. Case# 031-012- A request from Middleton Rose, LLC to amend the designation of 274.87 acres on the comprehensive land use plan from A-Agriculture to I-Industrial. The property is located on the Athens Hwy.

Items a and b were rezoning requests by the Board of Commissioners to amend the designation from Agriculture to Industrial for the purpose of using the property for an Industrial Park.

Items c and d were rezoning requests by Middleton Rose, LLC to amend the designation from Agriculture to Industrial for the purpose of using the property for mineral extraction.

There being no public comments on these rezoning requests, Chairman Lyon declared the meeting closed at 5:20 P.M.

**Minutes
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, October 9, 2017 5:30 P.M.**

Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Lyon, Vice Chairman Horace Harper, Commissioner Lee Vaughn, Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Administrator Bob Thomas, County Clerk Tamara Butler, CFO Phil Pitts.

After the pledge to the United States flag the invocation was given by Commissioner Jones.

Adoption of Agenda. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2017 and the Called Meeting of September 20, 2017. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Request from Mrs. Mary Clark of the Martin Luther King Jr. committee to provide information on the upcoming community activities for 2018. Mrs. Clark asked the Board for their continued support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. activities set for January 2018. She stated the activities for that weekend requires a lot of money and support.

Discussion and approval of the following rezoning requests. The Planning Commission recommended approval of these rezoning requests.

- a) Case# 030 020 – A request from the Elbert County Board of Commissioners to amend the designation of 36.61 acres on the comprehensive land use plan from A- Agriculture to I-Industrial. Property is located at 1488 Bowman Hwy.
- b) Case# 030-021- A request from the Elbert County Board of Commissioners to amend the designation of 8.3 acres on the comprehensive land use plan from A-Agriculture to I-Industrial. Property is located at 1488 Bowman Hwy.

Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the rezoning requests. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

- c) Case# 031-014- A request from Middleton Rose, LLC to amend the designation of 79.56 acres on the comprehensive land use plan from A-Agriculture to I-Industrial. The property is located on the Athens Hwy.

Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve this rezoning request. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

- d) Case# 031-012- A request from Middleton Rose, LLC to amend the designation of 274.87 acres on the comprehensive land use plan from A-Agriculture to I-Industrial. The property is located on the Athens Hwy.

Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve this rezoning request. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a Resolution to declare an official Elbert County website.

Mr. Daughtry stated Georgia law requires the publishing of certain public notices on an official County website and local policy is to keep the community informed of official County business. The official website established for this purpose is www.elbertga.us. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve this resolution. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Harper left for the remainder of the meeting.

Discussion and approval of a lease agreement with the American Legion Post 14 for the use of the former Elbert County 4-H center on Cloverleaf Drive. The agreement is for the leasing of the old meeting room and kitchen for \$250.00 per month. The 4-H center still uses a portion of the building for their activities. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the lease agreement. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Commissioner Jones abstained; therefore, the motion carried 3-0.

Discussion and approval of a voter referendum in 2018 on the Tax Assessment for the benefit of the Hospital Authority. Mr. Daughtry said based on his research the only doable way to accomplish this is to request local legislation from Representative Tom McCall; he then would sponsor local legislation to allow us to have an advisory election (straw poll). We cannot legally have a binding referendum. Mr. Daughtry said if there is a motion; it would be for Representative McCall to request local legislation to allow this. It was then stated that it is the policy of Representative McCall to have a unanimous vote from the Board. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to take the request to Representative McCall. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 3-1, with Commissioner Vaughn opposing.

Discussion regarding proposed change to the Civic Center as it relates to additional space for the Chamber of Commerce. Crystal Bebe with the Chamber of Commerce spoke at the work session of the problems they are having when there are events held at the Civic Center. Mainly, people disturbing things placed in the lobby area. It was discussed that possibly renters use the side door for entrance instead of the lobby and the area used by the Chamber of Commerce could be locked and people could not access that part of the building.

Discussion and approval of bids for the new fire stations at Centerville and Deep Creek. Sealed bids were received and opened on October 5, 2017. Mullenix Construction, Bargstedt Construction and Savannah River Construction turned in bids for the septic systems. Mullenix Construction was the low bid of \$1,800.00 for each septic system. Herring Well Drilling and Southern Well Drilling turned in bids for the water wells. Herring Well Drilling was the low bid at \$2.00 per foot less than Southern Well Drilling. Randall Brown Construction and Danny Craft Construction turned in bids for the fire station buildings. Danny Craft Construction was the low bid of \$179,644.00 for new stations at Deep Creek and Centerville and an addition to Bowman. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the low bids as presented. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Update on Petersburg Days scheduled for November 17,18 and 19 at Bobby Brown Park. This event promises to be an educational as well as entertaining event for all with vendors, primitive craftsmen and period demonstrators. There will be many events held over the entire weekend.

Financial Report. Mr. Pitts stated that thru September, the General Fund is 1.8 percent over budget with 19 departments being over budget; that being largely due to an additional pay period and Workers Compensation insurance being paid upfront this year. Revenues are ahead of where we were the last couple of years.

Public Comments. Mrs. Mary Clark wanted clarification on the issue of the Civic Center. Chairman Lyon stated that only a portion of the Civic Center will be locked so as not to have access to the portion that the Chamber of Commerce occupies.

There were no other public comments.

Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of land acquisition and personnel. Commissioner Ashworth made the motion. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

When returning; Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Ashworth made the motion. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Lyon stated that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.