

Minutes of Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, February 12, 2018

5:00 P.M.

A Public Hearing was held to hear a request from New Dove's Creek Church to rezone 27.31 acres on the Athens Highway from Agricultural to General Business. Patrick Hopp stated the Planning Commission had recommended the approval of this request. As there were no public comments the public hearing was closed.

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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 Administrator Bob Thomas, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Tamara Butler, CFO Phil Pitts.

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

Adoption of the Agenda. Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to amend the agenda to delete items (13)- Discussion and approval of bids for a self-dumping trash trailer for the Road Department and (15)- Discussion and approval of bids for a vehicle for EMS. These items will be advertised for bids and added to the agenda at a later date. Commissioner Alexander made the motion to approve amending the agenda and to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2018. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Request from the Sheriff's Department to present a letter of Commendation to David Umble for his assistance in the capturing of a fugitive. Sheriff Melvin Andrews presented the Commendation to Mr. Umble and thanked him for his brave and heroic actions on that day.

Request from the Sheriff's Department to present a letter of Commendation to Candace Smith and Darlene Brode for their assistance during a house fire. Sheriff Melvin Andrews presented the Commendation to Candace Smith and Darlene Brode; commending them for their heroic actions in rescuing Mr. Tommy Vaughn from a house fire on January 8, 2018.

Request from Mr. Jimmy White of the Jim Ree Museum for \$2,500 from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund to assist with their annual festival to be held June 2, 2018. Mr. Thomas stated that we have donated to this in the past but recommends donating \$1,000 since funds are low in the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve donating \$1,000. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Request for Approval of a Beer and Wine License for The Food Store, LLC at 2379 Calhoun Falls Highway. This property has changed ownership recently. Mr. Thomas stated that whenever ownership changes the application has to be redone. He also stated that all fees and taxes have been paid.

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

Discussion and approval of a rezoning request from New Dove's Creek Church to rezone 27.31 acres on the Athens Highway from Agricultural to General Business for construction of a new church. The Planning Commission recommends approval of this rezoning request. A Public Hearing was held before the regular meeting. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to make changes to the County's Drug and Alcohol Policy which is part of our Employee Personnel Policy to include full-time, part-time and volunteers. This change to the county's Alcohol and Drug Policy will apply to volunteers equally as well as county employees. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the changes to the policy. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to adopt a new Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for the Elbert Transit. This policy is to establish guidelines to maintain a drug and alcohol-free workplace in compliance with the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988. This is required by the Federal government because of the federal grants received by the county. This puts the testing procedures in line with federal law. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the new policy. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from the Development Authority to make the Executive Director's position a full-time position with the county. The city of Elberton has declined to make their annual contribution. Mr. Thomas recommended to the Board that we keep the Development Authority funded until the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2018) but not make it a full-time position with the County. The City of Bowman is still funding their part. He stated that we should only have to fund an additional estimated \$30,000 until the end of the fiscal year. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the continuance of funding for the Development Authority. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of bids for a Hurst Tool/Jaws of Life equipment for the EMS department. Funds to purchase the equipment will come from the FEMA reimbursement. The price for the piece of equipment will be \$24,113.78. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the purchase. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts stated that General Fund revenues thru January are \$8,157,127 compared to \$7,788,753 last year at this time; but E-911 revenues are down from previous years. The Solid Waste fund is continuing to improve with a surplus of \$31,680.

Public Comments. Mr. Jimmy White of the Jim Ree Museum thanked the commissioners for their support and donation.

Mr. Mike Case, owner of Sunset Ridge Campground came before the Board to discuss the trash and litter along the roads going to the landfill.

Adjournment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.