

**Minutes of Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, September 10, 2018**

A Public Hearing was held to hear citizen input on the proposed amendment to the Solar Panel Ordinance creating a new Chapter 9.13 titled “Elbert County Solar Ordinance”. Mr. Thomas touched on the highlights of the ordinance in regard to mounting, setbacks, placement and height of such solar equipment. Mr. Daughtry stated the reason for the public hearing is not that we expect any disagreement with the ordinance but because it is a land use regulation a public hearing is always required under Georgia law.

There were no public comments; therefore, Chairman Lyon called the hearing to a close.

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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 Mr. Daughtry.

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

Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 10A) RFQ for Economic Development and an Executive Session for Personnel and Litigation. Commissioner Ashworth made the motion. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 13, 2018 and the Called Meeting on August 23, 2018. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to appoint Kyra Graves to replace Rudine Phelps on the Board of Family and Children Services. Her appointment will continue until June 30, 2023. Mrs. Graves has expressed a desire to be appointed to serve the Family and Children Services board and meets the qualifications. Commissioner Harper made a motion to appoint Mrs. Graves to the Board of Family and Children Services. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to add a new Section 9.13 of the Ordinance titled “Elbert County Solar Ordinance” for regulations on large solar farms as well as solar connections to residential units. This is the Second Reading and a Public Hearing was held previous to this meeting as required by Georgia law. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance adding a new Section 9.13 of said Ordinance. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and update from Linda Grijalva regarding the current CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) on Porter Drive and the possibility of submitting another application next spring. Mrs. Grijalva met with Commissioners at the work session with updates on the current project on Porter Drive and discussed the future possibilities of more funding for additional areas in the community. Mr. Thomas stated that five (5) homes have been remodeled with the possibility of funds to renovate another home with the grant that we already have. He also stated that he and Commissioner Vaughn were attending a DCA seminar specifically for housing programs and hopefully would attain more information for future projects.

Discussion of a proposed Property Maintenance Code for Elbert County. Mr. Thomas stated that we have talked about this a couple of years ago; what we'd like to do is to add some additional wording in the maintenance code but would like to take this first to the Planning Commission and the County Attorney to look over before final consideration about what is feasible for this community. Most of the items to be considered are for the health, safety and welfare of the community.

Discussion and approval of the purchase of software for the County Shop to use in the diagnosis of current equipment. The cost of the laptop and software is \$8070. Mr. Thomas stated this laptop and software would be used for county vehicles and heavy equipment and could be used off site to diagnosis problems without having to bring the vehicles/equipment to the shop. The funds will come from SPLOST Technology fund. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the purchase of the laptop and software from Diesel Laptops. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to move the October Regular meeting to October 15, 2018 due to the Columbus Day holiday being on October 8, 2018. The Work Session will still be held on October 4, 2018. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve moving the October regular meeting from the 8th to the 15th. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion of an RFQ for the Economic Development. Chairman Lyon stated that Commissioners had received information for an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) and should read over the material and be prepared to discuss and approve at the October meeting. An RFQ is the first step in the site planning and construction of a spec building.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts stated that with August being a three (3) pay period month; it causes the budget to be off. General Fund revenues are slightly less than this time last year. He also stated that he and Tax Commissioner Lorrie Higginbotham were going over the figures for the tax digest. The millage rate will be set at a called meeting held on September 21, 2018.

Public Comments. There were no public comments.

Executive Session. Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation. Commissioner Ashworth made the motion. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Upon returning, Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to enter General Session. Commissioner Harper made the motion. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Lyon stated that no action was taken.

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

