

**Minutes of Public Hearing  
Monday, July 8, 2019**

- 1) Request to rezone 5.82 at 918 Elbert Street from GB (General Business) to I (Industrial) for a truck service and truck body fabrication facility.  
Mark Bice owner of the business stated he has another facility and some of the business would be transferred to this location.
- 2) Request to rezone 2.0 acres of a 3.57-acre tract on Ruckersville Road from R1 (Residential) to GB (General Business) for a proposed dance studio.  
David Buchanan owner of Tah-Dah Dance Studios stated his plan is to build a dance studio at this location similar to the one in Hartwell but smaller. The usual days of operation are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 to 8:30.
- 3) Request to rezone 365 acres on Harley Rucker Road from AG (Agriculture) to I (Industrial) for an aggregate quarry. This tract is part of a 779-acre tract located close to the intersection of Harley Rucker Road and Hulmes Chapel Road.  
Steve Ebbert agent for Gray Rock Farms stated the request complies with the land use plan and already has two quarries that adjoin the main tract. He stated there has been no opposition from the residents of the Blackberry Bend subdivision located in the area. Mr. Thomas also stated he has received a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the developer and owner of Blackberry Bend subdivision indicating there was no opposition regarding the project.

There being no further comments, Chairman Vaughn called the meeting to a close.

**Minutes  
Elbert County Board of Commissioners  
Monday, July 8, 2019**

Chairman Vaughn called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Vaughn, Vice Chairman Chris Alexander, Commissioner Horace Harper, Commissioner Casey Freeman, 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.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 10, the Called Meetings on June 20<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the Minutes to reflect the correct Vice Chairman as Chris Alexander. Commissioner Harper made the motion to adopt the minutes as amended. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and Approval to rezone 5.82 acres at 918 Elbert Street from GB (General Business) to I (Industrial).** Applicant request to locate a truck service and truck body alteration/fabrication business. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and Approval of a request to rezone 2.0 acres of a 3.57-acre tract on Ruckersville Road from R1 (Residential) to GB (General Business) for a proposed dance studio.**

Commissioner Ashworth made a motion approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a request to rezone 365 acres on Harley Rucker Road from AG (Agriculture) to I (Industrial) for an aggregate quarry.** This tract is part of a 779-acre tract located close to the intersection of Harley Rucker Road and Hulmes Chapel Road. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval to amend Section 2-3 of the Code of Ordinances (Purchasing Policy) to comply with the Georgia Procurement Registry requirement under O.C.G.A 36-80-26.** State law was changed to require Publication of Request for Bids on the official county website; publication of Request for Bids in the legal organ; minimum of three (3) sealed written bids if possible, Board of Commission approval and posting of request for bids with the Georgia Procurement Registry for goods, services or both valued at \$100,000 and over, and request for bids involving Public Works contract for over \$100,000 subject to Chapter 91 of Title 36 of the official Code of Georgia. Mr. Daughtry stated this change is to comply with state law and is for First Reading only; no vote is required.

**Discussion and approval to approve the Lux Mitigation and Planning Corporation to update our Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2020-2025 at a cost of \$24,000.** Mr. Thomas stated FEMA covers 75% of the total cost and through In-Kind Services (meeting attendance, Plan Update review, employee/citizen time spent on project) Elbert County's out of pocket expense would be \$0.

Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the 2020-2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of bids for a zero-turn mower for the grass cutting crew. Funds to come from 2017 SPLOST.** Mr. Thomas stated that four (4) vendors had returned bids and his recommendation would be the low bid from P & J Small Engines for the Grasshopper 25 hp mower for \$6,290. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to go with the slightly larger 26 hp Grasshopper mower (also from P & J Small Engines) for \$6,340. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a request from the Elbert County Senior Center to negotiate for two (2) used vans.** Funds to come from SPLOST and the Senior Center budget. Mr. Thomas asked for approval to start the process of looking for two used vans up to \$70,000. He stated that \$40,000 had been set aside from SPLOST Funds and the balance would come from the Senior Center's budget. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a 3-year lease for a side-arm cutter and tractor for the Road Department.** This will be a Georgia State contract approved piece of equipment and will replace the old one currently used for parts. Mr. Thomas stated two (2) bids were received. Southern Equipment for a Massey-Ferguson- 3-year lease at \$3117.00/month. Flint Equipment for a John Deere Alamo Maverick -3-year lease at \$3684.67/month. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the bid from Flint Equipment stating this is a better and heavier piece of equipment. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion of the FY 2020 budget.** Mr. Pitts stated that he and Mr. Thomas are continuing to work on the budget and now have the report through June 2019. Through June, we are 2.82% under budget, with revenues \$171,281 less than last year; due to the millage rollback and property tax appeals.

**Finance Report.** As Mr. Pitts stated earlier about the 2020 budget, revenues are down, but expenditures are 2.82% under budget. Hotel/Motel Tax fund has a balance of \$8,324.

**Public Comments.** There were no public comments.

**Executive Session.** Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of land acquisition. Commissioner Ashworth made the motion. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

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

**Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion for Mr. Thomas to enter into a contract to purchase two (2) small parcels of land.** Parcel # E23005 for \$15,000 and parcel# E24107 for \$6,200 for the construction of a new entrance to Porter Drive due to the culvert collapsing. Commissioner Alexander made the motion to approve the purchase contract. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

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