

Minutes of Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, September 9, 2019

- 1) A Public Hearing was held to hear a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of Elbert County to amend Chapter 7.15 to limit the circumstances under which submittal of a site plan is required. County Attorney Bill Daughtry stated the new language of the ordinance states any alteration or construction that increases the value of the property by \$200,000 or more shall require a site plan and include a plat. If any alteration or construction increases the value of the property between \$50,000 and \$200,000, then only a plat signed by a registered surveyor shall be required. No site plan or plat shall be required if value of property is increased less than \$50,000.
- 2) A Public Hearing was held to hear a request from Randy Saxon to rezone 2.62 acres at 2624 Athens Highway from R1 (Residential) to GB (General Business). Mr. Thomas stated this property is already in use as a storage area for “roll-off” containers. The Planning Commission has approved this rezoning request.

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

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Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Vaughn, Vice Chairman Chris Alexander, Commissioner Horace Harper, Commissioner Casey Freeman, Commissioner Kenneth Alexander, 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 Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 13a) Executive Session. Commissioner Alexander made the motion to amend the agenda and 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 on August 12, 2019. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to amend Chapter 7.15 of the Elbert County Zoning Ordinance to limit the circumstances under which submittal of a site plan shall be required. Mr. Daughtry read details of the amended ordinance at the Public Hearing. This is first reading; no vote is required.

Discussion and approval of a rezoning request from Randy Saxon to rezone 2.62 acres at 2624 Athens Highway from R1 (Residential) to GB (General Business). Mr. Thomas stated this is already being used as a storage area for “roll-off” containers. The owner plans to put up a fence and have an office on the property. The Planning Commission has approved this application. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of an addition to the Elbert County Personnel Policy regarding “Hands Free” use of cell phones when in county vehicles and equipment. This policy follows guidelines to the Georgia State law. Mr. Daughtry stated this Ordinance is an amendment to the Elbert County Personnel Policy and Procedures creating a new section titled “Elbert County Distracted Driving Policy” which applies to all employees and agents driving county vehicles and driving their personal vehicles while on County business. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the amendment to the Personnel Policy. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval for the Fire Department to purchase three (3) fire vehicles at a cost of \$75,000. Mr. Thomas stated that three (3) vehicles were found for less than the \$130,000 approved budgeted amount. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the purchase of the vehicles/equipment for the Fire Department. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of bids for repair and resurfacing a portion of Middleton Church Road and Corinth Church Road. Funds to come from the 2019 LMIG program and the 2017 SPLOST account. Mr. Thomas stated three bids were turned in. Stratton and Sons had the low bid of \$754,737.75. He also stated that with the LMIG program a 30% in kind match is required and work should start around the middle to end of October. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the bid from Stratton and Sons Paving. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the purchase of six (6) new cardiac monitors/defibrillators for our ambulances at a cost of \$157,551.46. Funds will come from the 2017 SPLOST account. Beth Seymour from EMS spoke to commissioners at the August work session stating the current monitors being used were outdated and needed to be replaced. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the purchase of the new cardiac monitors. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to move the Board of Commissioners regular meetings of October 14th and November 11th to October 15th and November 12th. Mr. Thomas stated these two (2) meeting dates were county recognized holidays. This would change the dates to the Tuesday following the holiday; the Work Session dates would not change. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the change. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts reported that General Fund revenues are \$155,967 more than this time last year. Sales Tax Revenues for August were \$184,519 and TSPLOST revenues were \$124,881. He stated that our retirement benefit program was in good shape since we are paying into it more frequently than in years past when we would make a large lump sum payment. He also stated that there would be a called meeting later in September to discuss and approve the millage rate. He did say there would be no increase in the millage rate; therefore, no public hearing would be held.

Public Comments. There were no public comments.

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

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

Chairman Vaughn stated that no action was taken.

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