

**Minutes of Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, September 14, 2020**

- 1) Rezoning request from Kenneth Worley to rezone R-1 (Residential) to I (Industrial) on a 3.88-acre tract located at 1191 Old Middleton Road between Global Values and the State DOT local office. Most of the property in this area is zoned for Industrial.
- 2) Rezoning request from Travis Cronkrite to rezone from RR (Rural Residential) to R-2 (Multi-Family) on a 10-acre tract located at 2961 Calhoun Falls Hwy. The property will be used for a campsite for travel trailers. Mr. & Mrs. Cronkrite stated this property is used for get-togethers for family and friends. They love Elberton and participate in events in the area. Mr. Thomas read a letter from Mr. James V. Moon and Mr. Gerald B. Moon which stated they do not support the rezoning of this property, that it is a residential and farming community.
- 3) Public Hearing on changes to Chapter 38 of the Code of Ordinances regarding Travel Trailer Parks.

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

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

Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 18a) Discussion and approval to change the meeting date in October. Commissioner Alexander made the motion to amend the agenda and approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of August 10, 2020 and August 20, 2020. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Keep Elbert County Beautiful to purchase a camera that will take pictures in detail to help with the ongoing problems with litter on county roads. Pam Algood with KECB spoke to Commissioners at the work session and proposed the purchase of a camera which would have the capability to read license plates from Guard Dog Security Services for \$1750.00. Mr. Thomas stated that Mrs. Algood would be also talking to the City Council to hopefully split the cost. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to approve the request if the purchase is split three (3) ways. Commissioner Harper made the motion; Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a Resolution to adopt the Elbert County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for the period 2020 to 2025. Mr. Thomas stated FEMA has required that every county have a plan in place in order to receive funding from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the 2020-2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Alexander seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a Resolution to recognize Telecommunications Officers (911) as First Responders in Elbert County. Mr. Daughtry stated several counties have done this and is hoping to get action from the Georgia General Assembly in the next couple of years. This is the first step in that process. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve this Resolution. Commissioner Alexander seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the renewal lease for the State Department of Juvenile Justice in the Governmental Complex building. The lease is for a 1-year term with 6 renewal options. Annual rent is \$21,358.13. Mr. Thomas stated that DJJ has been in this building since 2004 and have proven to be a good tenant. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the lease renewal. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a rezoning request from Kenneth Worley to rezone from R-1 to Industrial, 3.88 acres at 1191 Old Middleton Road. The Elbert County Planning Commission recommended approval of this request. There was a public hearing held to discuss this rezoning request. No one spoke in favor of or against this request. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve this rezoning request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a rezoning request from Travis Cronkrite to rezone from RR to R-2, a 10-acre tract at 2961 Calhoun Falls Hwy. The Elbert County Planning Commission recommended approval of this request. There was a public hearing held to discuss this rezoning request. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to **not** approve the rezoning request as recommended by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of First Reading on changes to Chapter 38 of the Code of Ordinances regarding Travel Trailer Parks. Mr. Daughtry stated this is for first reading only. No action required.

Discussion and approval of the Task Order No. 5 for the Airfield Lighting Design Update for the Elbert County Airport. Mr. Thomas stated this is a project that has been in the works for about two years to get the lighting improved at the airport. This order between Elbert County and Lead Edge Design Group sets forth the project description, schedule, and engineering fees related to the Design Phase for the project at the airport for \$10,200. Mr. Thomas also stated this is a 95/5 Grant from the state. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve; Commissioner seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to nominate an appointee to the Elbert Memorial Hospital. This position is for a 6-year term. Current representative Max Black's appointment terms at the end of the year. Commissioner Casey Freeman made a motion to appoint Mike Webb to this position. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Development Authority and Silverleaf Health Alternatives to clear and rough grade enough space for a facility to be constructed on

a portion of land at the Elbert Industrial Park. Mr. Thomas stated this is only for clearing for the building, not entire property; and no work will be started until the application is approved by the state. Commissioner Alexander made a motion approve the MOU; Commissioner Ashworth seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of bids for new trucks for the Fire Department and the Code Enforcement Department. The only bids received were from Casey Jackson Ford. Commissioner Freeman made a motion approve the purchase of a 2021 Ford F150 for \$34,943.92 for the Code Enforcement Department and a 2021 Ford F150 for \$35,988.92 for the Fire Department. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to begin a search for another used pumper truck for the Fire Department not to exceed \$100,000. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the search for a used pumper truck. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to waive penalty and interest on two mobile homes for Sanden Andrews at the Lincoln Heights Mobile Home Park. Mr. Thomas stated the owners are asking to have only penalty and interest fees of \$657.15 and \$854.72 waived on two (2) mobile homes. Chairman Vaughn asked why taxes were not paid at the time of closing on the property. This item was tabled until later when more information can be obtained.

Discussion and approval to purchase two (2) LUCAS devices for the EMS department to take on ambulance calls when needed. Mr. Thomas stated that a total of four (4) LUCAS devices has been requested by EMS to have one for each ambulance. The total amount is \$65,644.64 and will be paid from the CARES funding. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the purchase of four (4) LUCAS devices. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to change the regular meeting in October from October 12 to October 13, 2020 due to the Columbus Day holiday falling on the date of the regular meeting. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve changing the meeting date. Commissioner Ashworth seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts stated that some expenditures will go down because some departments have made purchases but will be reimbursed from COVID funds. Hotel/Motel Tax Fund is in good shape. T-SPLOST revenues were \$134,424 and SPLOST revenues were \$200,368.

Public Comments. Chelsea Cronkrite spoke in response to the vote to not approve the rezoning request on Calhoun Falls Hwy. She stated that this place is her "second home" and she and her family love Elberton and enjoy bringing people here to enjoy it also.

Travis Cronkrite also spoke and stated that he had talked to the neighbors in the area and that no one had a complaint. He said that he has done everything by the book when he started this project.

Chairman Vaughn encouraged the applicant to meet with Code Enforcement again to see if any other options existed.

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

