

**Minutes- Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, June 14, 2021**

Request from Stephen Wagner for a Conditional Use permit in an Agricultural Zone to allow two (2) campers located at 2142 Jones Ferry Road. This property is approximately 64 acres. The Planning Commission approved this request with conditions. There were no comments.

Request from Lynn Norton to rezone 17.5 acres from Agricultural to R1 (Residential) for the purpose of subdividing property into four (4) smaller lots. The Planning Commissioner approved this request with conditions. There were no comments.

Request from Michael and Cheryl Case to rezone from Mixed Use to General Business property located at 2320 Middleton Shores Drive. Property is approximately 30.47 acres and is being used as a mobile home park and recreational area. The Planning Commission approved this request. There were no comments.

Request for a proposed amendment to Section 11.01.02 of the Elbert County Zoning Ordinance regarding procedures of notifying adjacent property owners for rezoning requests. There were no comments.

Request from Sonny Solar, LLC to rezone 1.6 acres from Agricultural to General Business for an electrical substation on Longstreet Road. There were no comments.

Hearing on FY2022 proposed budget. There was no discussion of the budget at this time.

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Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Vaughn, Vice Chairman Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Horace Harper Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Casey Freeman, Jr., 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 Jones.

Adoption of the Agenda. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda to remove item 12) Discussion and Approval of the FY2022 proposed budget and replace with Discussion and Approval of the Title IV Plan for the Elbert County Transit; and add to 20) Discussion and Approval of a Resolution Amending the County Administrator's qualifications – approval to start advertising for the position of County Administrator; 23a) Executive Session for personnel and possible litigation. Commissioner

Alexander made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of May 10, 2021. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the minutes of May 10, 2021. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Request from a representative of the United Way organization to speak to the Board. Mr. Mark Madison, Director of Community Impact gave a power point presentation focusing on the 2-1-1 program which is about providing resources and connect individuals in need with those resources. You can dial or text 2-1-1 to be connected with someone in the organization.

Request from the Elbert County Sheriff's Department to place a curfew on the visitation of the Guidestones to deter vandalism at this location. Suggested curfew would be from 10 pm to 6 am. Mr. Thomas stated that because of so much vandalism at the Guidestones his recommendation would be to impose a curfew and have a Deputy dispatched to the location when individuals are caught on camera during that time. A warning or fine would possibly be imposed. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the curfew. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Stephen Wagner for a Conditional Use permit in an Agricultural Zone to allow two (2) campers located at 2142 Jones Ferry Road. This property is approximately 64 acres. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the request with the conditions imposed by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Lynn Norton to rezone 17.5 acres from Agricultural to R1 (Residential) for the purpose of subdividing property into four (4) smaller lots. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve this request with the conditions imposed by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Michael and Cheryl Case to rezone from Mixed Use to General Business property located at 2320 Middleton Shores Drive. Property is approximately 30.47 acres and is being used as a mobile home park and recreational area. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request for a proposed amendment to Section 11.01.02 of the Elbert County Zoning Ordinance regarding procedures of notifying adjacent property owners for rezoning requests. This has been approved by the Planning Commission and is for first reading only. No vote required.

Discussion and approval of a request from Sonny Solar, LLC to rezone 1.6 acres from Agricultural to General Business for an electrical substation on Longstreet Road. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the Title 6 Plan for the Elbert County Transit. This is a Title 6 Plan regarding Nondiscrimination Policy Statement and Management Commitment to the plan for Elbert County Transit Program for the 2022 fiscal year. This is a standard policy approved each year in order to receive

funding. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the Title 6 plan. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce for the county to be a sponsor for the 2021 Granite Bowl Blast Fireworks Show on July 17th in front of the Granite Bowl following the annual car show in downtown Elberton. The cost of sponsorship is \$1,600. Chairman Vaughn stated that several years ago the Hotel/Motel tax fund was very low; and a maximum of \$1,000 was imposed on donations. Even though the fund has built up; he still suggests a cap of \$1,000 on donations. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve a \$1,000 donation to the fireworks show. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from the Jim Ree Museum for a \$1,000 donation from the Hotel/Motel tax fund to assist in the cost of having author Dr. Vanessa S. Walker to come to Elbert County to talk about her book on State Senator Horace Tate who was born and raised in Elbert County. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve a \$1,000 donation. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the 2022 Agreement and budget of the Indigent Defense Agreement of the Northern Judicial Circuit for Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Madison, and Oglethorpe Counties. Elbert County's portion of the budget is \$54,278.54. Mr. Daughtry stated that Elbert County's portion has increased by about \$2,000. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the 2022 Indigent Defense Agreement. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of Mr. Randolph Davis to serve on the Elbert County Board of Family and Children Services effective July 1, 2021, for a term to expire on June 30, 2026. This is a reappointment for Mr. Davis. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the reappointment of Mr. Randolph Davis. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of Mr. Johnny Lutz to serve on the Elbert County Planning Commission for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2021. This is the replacement for Mr. Robert Whitworth who resigned effective June 30, 2021. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Johnny Lutz to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Elbert County Board of Education and the Sheriff's Department for the provision of providing School Resource Officers for the period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. One (1) officer will be assigned to Elbert County Comprehensive High School, one (1) to Elbert County Middle School, one (1) to the Elbert County Elementary School, one (1) to Elbert County Primary School, and one (1) to the Paul J. Blackwell Learning Center. The School District will pay \$50,000 each for four (4) officers. Mr. Daughtry stated there was a slight increase per officer from last year. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the IGA. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval to amend Chapter 38 of the Code of Ordinances to prohibit the placement of a mobile home in Elbert County unless the mobile-home owner also owns the land. This will not apply to mobile home parks. This is for first reading only. No vote is required.

Discussion and approval of a Resolution requesting an Amendment to the County Administrators qualifications. Mr. Daughtry stated the request is to change the education qualifications and experience; that education does not have to be in public administration but also in business administration; and the minimum experience requirement does not have to be in government or public administration, but also in business executive experience or non-profit. Also, if the applicant is a resident of an adjoining county, then they may maintain their current residence if hired.

Chairman Vaughn also asked that as part of this motion he would like to recommend adding the advertising of this position. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve both the change request to the qualifications and advertising for the position. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Chuck Almond at EMS to purchase:

- a. 9-1-1 Consoles, radios, hardware/software (communications center upgrade) for \$185,689
- b. Battery backups for each satellite station (towers located throughout Elbert County) for \$12,505
- c.

Mr. Thomas stated that as this is an upgrade to our cyber-security and replaces old software that it can be funded from the American Rescue Plan Act. Commissioner Alexander made a motion approve this purchase. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts stated revenues have exceeded what was predicted at this time. General Fund is under budget by \$184,525. TSPLOST and SPLOST are in good shape. Hotel/Motel fund is also in good shape.

Public Comments. Mr. Jimmy White from the Jim Ree Museum thanked the commissioners for the donation.

Executive Session for Personnel and possible litigation. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to enter Executive Session. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Upon returning, Commissioner Freeman made a motion to enter General Session. Commissioner Harper seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Chairman Vaughn stated no action was taken.

Adjournment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Alexander seconded; the motion passed 5-0.