

**Minutes of Public Hearing**  
**Elbert County Board of Commissioners**  
**June 12, 2023**

- 1) Discussion and approval of a request by Joey Roberts for a Variance, and a rezone of .34-acres from R1 (Single Family Residential) to GB (General Business) to allow for a small carport and trailer display to be located on the property. Located on Hartwell Hwy, Elberton, GA. Map and Parcel# 029A 025. Planning and Zoning made a motion to approve with conditions that if this was ever sold, the zoning goes back to R1 (Single Family Residential). Approved by a 5-0 vote. There were no public comments.
- 2) Discussion and approval of a request by Jonah Bishop to rezone from RR (Rural Residential) to R1 (Single Family Residential). Located at 155 Robert Reid Rd., Royston, GA, 30662. Map and Parcel# 004 024. Planning and Zoning approved by a 5-0 vote. There were public comments.
- 3) Discussion and approval of a request by Gennel Lawson to rezone approximately 5.146-acres from A (Agricultural) to R1 (Single Family Residential). Located on Pulliam Mill Rd., Dewy Rose, GA. Map and Parcel# GMD-011 004. Planning and Zoning approved by a 5-0 vote. There were no public comments.
- 4) Discussion and approval of a Proposed Amendment to Chapter 11 of the Elbert County Zoning Ordinance to amend the Notification Procedures in Zoning Actions to comply with Georgia HB 1045. Planning and Zoning approved by a 5-0 vote.

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Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order. Present were Commissioner David Hunt, Commissioner Casey Freeman, Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Mike Scoggins, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Administrator Allen Hulme, CFO Macie Witcher, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Tamara Butler and media.

After the pledge to the flag the invocation was given by Commissioner Jones.

**Adoption of the Agenda.** Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add: Discussion and approval to of the Indigent Defense Agreement and Executive Session. Commissioner Freeman made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Adoption of the Minutes of May 8, 2023 and the Called Meeting on May 18, 2023.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a request by Joey Roberts for a Variance, and a rezone of .34-acres from R1 (Single Family Residential) to GB (General Business) to allow for a small carport and trailer display to be located on the property. Located on Hartwell Hwy, Elberton, GA. Map and Parcel# 029A 025. Planning and Zoning made a motion to approve with conditions that if this was ever sold, the zoning goes back to R1 (Single Family Residential). Approved by a 5-0 vote.** Commissioner Scoggins made a motion to approve this rezone request with conditions. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a request by Jonah Bishop to rezone from RR (Rural Residential) to R1 (Single Family Residential). Located at 155 Robert Reid Rd., Royston, GA, 30662. Map and Parcel# 004 024. Planning and Zoning approved by a 5-0 vote.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve this rezone request. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a request by Gennel Lawson to rezone approximately 5.146-acres from A (Agricultural) to R1 (Single Family Residential). Located on Pulliam Mill Rd., Dewy Rose, GA. Map and Parcel# GMD-011 004. Planning and Zoning approved by a 5-0 vote.** Commissioner Scoggins made a motion to approve this rezone request. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Second Reading for Discussion and approval of a Proposed Amendment to Chapter 11 of the Elbert County Zoning Ordinance to amend the Notification Procedures in Zoning Actions to comply with Georgia HB 1045. Planning and Zoning approved by a 5-0 vote.** Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. Commissioner Scoggins seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Second Reading for Discussion and approval of an Amendment to Chapter 7.17 of the Zoning Ordinance for Farm Wineries to remove “weddings and wedding receptions” from Special Events.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve removing “weddings and wedding receptions” from Special Events of the Zoning Ordinance for Farm Wineries. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the reappointment of Ms. Kyra Graves to the Elbert County Board of Family and Children Services for a five (5) year term. Term will expire June 30, 2028.** Commissioner Hunt made a motion to approve the reappointment of Ms. Graves to the DFCS board. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a grant contract with Elbert County Concerned Citizens and the Jim Ree African American Museum for the committed ARPA funds and LATCF.** Mr. Daughtry stated four (4) contracts have already been approved; these are the final two (2) contracts. A list of projects has been given to the board. Commissioner Scoggins made a motion to approve these grants with the Elbert County Concerned Citizens and the Jim Ree Museum. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of increasing tipping fees for tires to \$500 per ton.** Mr. Hulme stated we currently charge \$250 per ton for tires only; which does not cover the cost of what we pay to dispose of them; therefore, an increase is recommended. The increased rate is in line with

other counties in the area. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to increase the tipping fees. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval to surplus two (2) transit buses at the Transit Department.**

- 1) **2006 Ford Suttle Van w/ Lift- VIN -1FDWE35S16DA83197**
- 2) **2006 Ford Suttle Van w/ Lift- VIN- 1FDWE35SX6DA83196**

Mr. Howell stated the two (2) buses are out of service; he will put them up for sale on GovDeals. Chairman Vaughn requested that they also be advertised locally in case a church or other organization would be interested. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to surplus the buses. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval to surplus a Kawasaki Mule 3010 at EMS. Serial# KAF620H with 1656 hours.** Commissioner Freeman made a motion to surplus this item. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of sealed bids to replace the road culvert on Allen White Road.** Mr. Hulme stated that sealed bids were received with H.D. Construction submitting the low bid of \$604,655.00. Chairman Vaughn stated there was some concern of the bid being much lower than the others bids received, but had heard only good things about the company. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the bid from H.D. Construction. Commissioner Scoggins seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of sealed bids for lawn care maintenance for all county properties.** Mr. Hulme made the recommendation to not accept any bids for lawn care maintenance; he stated we could save the \$87,000+ it will cost and utilize the resources that we have to do it in-house. Chairman Vaughn stated if this doesn't work out, we can always revisit it at a later date.

**Discussion and approval of sealed bids for sealcoating and restriping the parking lot at McWilliams Park and at the tennis courts.** Chairman Vaughn stated that no bids were received, therefore, we will put it back out for bids.

**Discussion and approval of a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Elbert County approving the Indigent Defense Agreement for the Northern Judicial Circuit for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.** Mr. Daughtry stated that every year we enter into an agreement with the Public Defender's Office and the four (4) other counties in our Judicial Circuit. This year, Elbert County's share of the budget is \$70,630.50; an increase from last year; but second to the smallest share. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the Indigent Defense Agreement for the FY 2023-2024. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Finance Report.** Ms. Witcher stated the General Fund budget expenditures were under budget thru May. General Fund revenues are still up compared to this time last year which is due to the excess SPLOST proceeds and Insurance reimbursements. SPLOST and TSPLOST funds are looking good thru May and the Hotel/Motel Tax fund is starting to build back up.

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

**Executive Session for litigation.** Commissioner Freeman made a motion to enter Executive Session for discussion of litigation. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Upon returning, Commissioner Freeman made a motion to come out of Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner Alexander. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Vaughn stated no action was taken.

**Adjournment.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Scoggins. The motion passed unanimously.