

**Minutes of Public Hearing  
Elbert County Board of Commissioners  
March 11, 2024**

Discussion and consideration of a request by Damein Hughes to rezone from R1 (Single-Family Residential) to I (Industrial) to combine with adjoining parcel. Located on Athens Hwy., Elberton. Map and parcel: 024 016A. Planning and zoning recommended **approval** by a 5-0 vote. There were no public comments.

Discussion and consideration of a request by Tia Johnson to rezone 2.30 acres from A (Agricultural) to R1 (Single-Family Residential). Map and parcel: 032E 038. In addition, parcel 032E 040 from R1 (Single-Family Residential) to A (Agricultural). Located at 1279 Limo Rd., Elberton. Planning and zoning recommended **approval** by a 5-0 vote. Mr. William Dean, a resident of Mineral Springs Road, asked if this was for the purpose of putting poultry houses on this property; Mr. Hulme stated this was not. Mr. Dean also expressed concern about the big trucks coming over onto his property tearing up his yard and the road. Mr. Hulme stated we are working on a solution for that issue. Mr. Anthony Strange asked about purchasing the 2.3 acres on Limo Road; Chairman Vaughn stated he would have to contact the owner.

Discussion and consideration of a request by Daniel Brown to rezone from R1 (Single-Family Residential) to GB (General Business) to combine with adjoining parcel. Located on Longstreet Rd., Elberton. Map and parcel: 073 066A. Planning and zoning recommended **approval** by a 5-0 vote. There were not public comments.

Discussion and consideration of a request by Mayra Juarez to rezone from RR (Rural Residential) to R1 (Single Family Residential) in order to split lot. Located at 1136 Flagstone Rd., Elberton. Map and parcel: 029 070. Planning and zoning recommended **denial** by a 5-0 vote. There were no public comments.

Discussion and consideration of a request by Roger Stonecipher to rezone from A (Agricultural) to (Industrial) in order to build granite storage. Located on Ruckersville Rd., Elberton. Map and parcel: 041 005. Planning and zoning recommended **approval** by a 5-0 vote. There were no public comments.

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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 United States flag, the invocation was given by Commissioner Jones.

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**Adoption of the Agenda.** Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 18a) Discussion and consideration of a request of an appeal filed with the Tax Assessors office. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Adoption of the Minutes of February 12, 2024 and the Called Meeting of February 12, 2024.** Commissioner Freeman made a motion to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Scoggins seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and consideration of a request by Damein Hughes to rezone from R1 (Single-Family Residential) to I (Industrial) to combine with adjoining parcel. Located on Athens Hwy., Elberton. Map and parcel: 024 016A. Planning and zoning recommended *approval* 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.

**Discussion and consideration of a request by Tia Johnson to rezone 2.30 acres from A (Agricultural) to R1 (Single-Family Residential). Map and parcel: 032E 038. In addition, parcel 032E 040 from R1 (Single-Family Residential) to A (Agricultural). Located at 1279 Limo Rd., Elberton. Planning and zoning recommended *approval* by a 5-0 vote.** Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve this rezone request. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and consideration of a request by Daniel Brown to rezone from R1 (Single-Family Residential) to GB (General Business) to combine with adjoining parcel. Located on Longstreet Rd., Elberton. Map and parcel: 073 066A. Planning and zoning recommended *approval* by a 5-0 vote.** Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve this rezone request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and consideration of a request by Mayra Juarez to rezone from RR (Rural Residential) to R1 (Single Family Residential) in order to split lot. Located at 1136 Flagstone Rd., Elberton. Map and parcel: 029 070. Planning and zoning recommended *denial* by a 5-0 vote.** Commissioner Scoggins made a motion to deny this rezone request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and consideration of a request by Roger Stonecipher to rezone from A (Agricultural) to (Industrial) in order to build granite storage. Located on Ruckersville Rd., Elberton. Map and parcel: 041 005. Planning and zoning recommended *approval* by a 5-0 vote.** Commissioner Scoggins made a motion to approve this rezone request. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and consideration to move the July meeting date to July 15<sup>th</sup> due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve this change. Commissioner Scoggins seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

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**Discussion and consideration of the list of county roads for paving.** Mr. Hulme stated that each commissioner has an updated list of roads to be paved that was discussed at the work session to get us within our budget amount in TSPLOST. Commissioner Freeman asked to add Dr. George Ward Road to the list as it has two (2) churches, a convenience center and a nursing home on the road. Mr. Hulme stated that by adding that road, which is not on the list of roads to be paved, will put us at over \$2.6 million. There was some discussion of using LMIG funds to do Dr. George Ward Road, but Commissioner Alexander stated it had been discussed that those funds were to be used for Old Middleton Road. Chairman Vaughn stated that Dr. George Ward Road had been on the list, but other roads were in worse shape; therefore, it is his recommendation to go ahead with the current list of Pulliam Mill Road, Whiteside Drive, Lincoln Avenue, Bakers Ferry Road (SR72 to Charles Yeargin Rd.) and Marion Road and use LMIG for Old Middleton Road, then if the bids come in lower for the other roads, we could possibly add Dr. George Ward Road. Commissioner Scoggins made a motion to approve the paving of roads that are on the current updated list. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner Freeman opposing.

**Discussion and consideration to seek sealed bids for grading of the new 4-H building.** Mr. Hulme stated it is his recommendation to seek bids just to see how much it will cost, but we may still use our road department to do the work. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to seek bids. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and consideration of a new Call Recording System for E911 Dispatch.** Mr. Bobby Howell stated E911 dispatch is in need of a new call recording system, but would like to stay with the same brand they already have. Even-Tide is the only supplier of that equipment in Georgia. The total will be \$30,000; and will come from SPLOST funds. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the purchase. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and consideration of the Elbert County Emergency Medical Service Transfer Policy.** Chairman Vaughn stated this policy has been in place for 2 years, but has never been formally ratified by the board and it hasn't needed to be; but EMS has asked to have it formally approved by the board. Commissioner Scoggins made a motion to approve the EMS transfer policy. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and consideration of leasing the old train depot to the Humane Society.** Mr. Hulme stated the Humane Society had been in contact with us about leasing the old train depot and made clear it would be for office use only. They will be responsible for utilities and we would be responsible for outside maintenance. It is still being used for storage for 4-H; and, also the historical society has items that is still being stored. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to lease the building to the Humane Society as soon as we get it cleared out and ready. Commissioner Hunt made the motion; Commissioner Scoggins seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

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**Discussion and consideration of a request from Tammy Dalton, Executive Director of Friends of Advantage, of a \$1000 sponsorship for the Mental Health Awareness 5K Run & Walk. Funds to come from Hotel/Motel Tax fund.** Commissioner Scoggins made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Keith Metcalf to address the Board to discuss the sale of his property.** Mr. Metcalf said he needed help. He divided a 6-acre lot into two (2) 3-acre lots. After selling the house and 3-acres, it was determined that he had sold both lots but didn't get money for one of the lots. He stated that he has turned it over to the Georgia Real Estate Commission and asked that if they needed anything from us, that we please comply.

**Timothy Aaronstyles to address the Board regarding the municipal building.** Mr. Styles stated that he takes care of his brother and he has noticed that our complex is not equipped very well for people with challenges; and the building is not for the physically challenged or handicapped.

**Discussion and consideration of an appeal filed with the Tax Assessors office.** Chairman Vaughn stated Mark Bice had an issue with ad valorem tax bill. He was being billed for some equipment on the property that was not his; he was storing it for someone. Doug Kirkpatrick stated he had not responded to the notice in time. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to send the tax bill back to the Tax Assessor's office. Commissioner Alexander made the motion. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Finance Report.** Ms. Witcher stated we are operating under budget thru February. General Fund budget expenditures are \$65,254 less than this time last year. General Fund Revenues are looking good and the 2023 SPLOST fund is starting to build up a balance of a little over \$1 million. The TSPLSOT balance is at \$1.29 million. Hotel/Motel taxes are coming in and continuing to build up.

**Public Comments.** Mr. Tyler Taylor from the hospital commented on the EMS transfer policy and thinks it's too restrictive and should be broadened. He suggested that everyone should come together for a solution.

Mr. Randolph Davis commented on the old train depot and suggested that it should be used for historical purposes.

**Adjournment.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Freeman. The motion passed 5-0.