

**Public Hearing**  
**Elbert County Board of Commissioners**  
**September 12, 2016**

A Public Hearing was held prior the regular meeting to hear zoning changes as follows: A Rezoning request by Jason Brown to rezone 6.94 acres, parcel# 040D 010, on the Hartwell Hwy from residential to general business for an auto repair shop. A request by Raisel Hm Ra for a Conditional Approval permit on 6.65 acres, parcel# 028004H on Maple Springs Road to allow burial plots. There were no public comments on the rezoning request.

**Minutes**  
**Elbert County Board of Commissioners**  
**September 12, 2016**

Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. Present for the meeting were Chairman Lyon, Vice Chairman Horace Harper, Commissioner Lee Vaughn, Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, 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 Mr. Thomas.

**Adoption of Agenda.** Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of the minutes of the Called Meeting on August 4, 2016 and the Regular Meeting on August 8, 2016.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Ms. Angela Jones to come before the Board, representing residents from Allen Lane, Georgia White Road, Tommy Downer and Thornton Drives to address cleanup of debris caused by the Railroad Connection project.** Mrs. Jones appeared before the Board at the regular work session and stated her concerns regarding the lack of cleanup along the railroad. Mr. Thomas stated that some cleanup had been done after her appearance before the board and he would continue to follow the progress.

**Appointment of Rusty Warner as the Representative for Elbert County to the Northeast Georgia Joint Development Authority.** This position has been vacant and Mr. Warner has agreed to the appointment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to accept the appointment of Mr. Warner. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion of the last Grand Jury Recommendations. The following recommendations were made by the Grand Jury.**

- 1) Looking into the cost efficiency of the unification of governments within the county.
- 2) Recommend improvement of the ventilation system on the upper floor for the work areas of the deputies.
- 3) Recommend additional funding for one Assistant District Attorney and two Investigators for the District Attorney's office.
- 4) Recommend additional funding for a part time position with the Magistrate Court office.
- 5) Recommend additional funding for a full time position with the Superior Clerk of Court.
- 6) Recommend nomination of Janeen Benefield and Joe Wilson to the Board of Equalization.

**Discussion and approval of a Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness.** This Proclamation will recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness month and urges every citizen to actively participate. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the Proclamation. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval to transfer the property on the Bowman Highway that the county recently purchased to the Joint Development Authority for future industrial development.** According to Mr. Thomas there are some requirements and regulations that have to be looked into before any decision is made; therefore the item was tabled by Commissioner Ashworth.

**Discussion and approval of the Planning Commission's recommendations for rezoning request. A Public Hearing was held prior to the Regular Meeting to hear any concerns.**

- 1) A request by Jason Brown to rezone 6.94 acres on the Hartwell Highway from residential to general business for an auto repair shop.

Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Commissioner Vaughn abstained from voting; therefore the motion carried 4-0.

- 2) A request by Raisel Hm Ra to rezone 6.65 acres on Maple Springs Road to allow burial plots. This will be used as a family burial plot.

Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approved the rezoning request. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a 2016 Budget Amendment as recommended by our auditors for the FY2016 Budget Year.** At the end of the year there is usually in some departments an expense that was not budgeted for; therefore the auditors ask that the administration makes a request to amend the budget not the individual departments. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the Radio Communications project for all of the public safety agencies in Elbert County.** This project was approved in the 2016 SPLOST ballot. Chuck Almond, EMS Director came before the board at the work session to discuss this project. As has been discussed in previous meetings, it is imperative that we move forward with upgrading our communications county-wide. There are some areas that have no radio access which makes it a safety issue. With this updated communications, 95% of the county will be covered. The total cost of the project is \$746,667.00; with the City's part being \$77,487.00 and the Board of Education's part being \$136,000.00. Mr. Thomas stated that he feels we should move forward with the project contingent upon the City and the BOE approving funding on their end and will come back at the October meeting with financing options for the balance of the project. Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to approve the project subject to the approval of the City of Bowman, City of Elberton, and the Board of Education. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the project. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Finance Report.** Mr. Pitts stated that we are slightly under budget for the first two months of the fiscal year in General Fund expenditures. We are also under in revenues compared to last year; but at this point in time is not something to be concerned about. Solid Waste revenues are up and expenditures down since moving the convenience centers to the general fund account.

**Public Comments.** Denise Rucker of Georgia White Road come before the Board to voice concern of the debris left behind by the railroad project and the 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance/exit on Georgia White Road and wishes to stay informed of the issues.

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