

Minutes of Called Meeting

Elbert County Board of Commissioners

Friday, January 24, 2025

Call to Order

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

Pledge and Invocation

After the pledge to the United States flag, the invocation was given by Mr. Bill Daughtry.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Commercial Poultry House Moratorium

Discussion and consideration of a Resolution Establishing a Moratorium on the acceptance of any applications related to the construction of new commercial poultry houses to allow study on the effects that the location of new commercial poultry farms in Elbert County may have on the future spread of avian influenza and how changes to the county's zoning ordinance and code of ordinances may mitigate the future spread of and/or mitigate the impact that future cases of avian influenza may have on other poultry producers, other agricultural producers and on the public in general.

Public Discussion and Avian Influenza Response

Many were in attendance, including poultry farmers, officials from UGA, DOA and the general public. The meeting was prompted by a report of a positive testing for (HPAI) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in a local poultry farm. The DOA's Emergency Management and State Agricultural Response Teams were sent to the site to conduct cleaning, disinfecting and disposal operations. A 6.2-mile radius quarantine was put in place with testing to be done over the next two weeks. Several poultry farmers spoke against the Moratorium, saying that poultry farmers are already going above and beyond what was needed to help prevent the disease. A few residents spoke in favor of the moratorium.

Moratorium Vote

Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion Establishing a Moratorium and for how many days. Commissioner Jones made the motion for a 180-day Moratorium. Commissioner Scoggins seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1, with Commissioner Hunt voting against the motion.

Adjournment

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Scoggins. The motion passed unanimously.