

Minutes
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, January 13, 2020 5:30 P.M.

Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Vaughn, Vice Chairman Chris Alexander, Commissioner Horace Harper, Commissioner Casey Freeman, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, 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. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of the Called Meeting on December 5, 2019 and the Regular Meeting on December 9, 2019. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Recognition of the Elbert County KECB organization that recently received the Governor's Circle Recognition Award for 2019. This award recognizes affiliates in good standing with Keep America Beautiful. Requirements include conducting an annual litter index, calculating the affiliate's cost/benefit ratio, and engaging volunteers to take greater responsibility for their community spaces. Additionally, the affiliate must be an active member to the Georgia network. Mr. Thomas praised the efforts of the KECB staff and volunteers. Also, he recognized Mr. Harold Reynolds, former Commissioner for his help in funding this organization. On hand to accept the award was Pam Algood, Rita Harper and Bill Hood.

Request from the EMS Department for the following:

- a. Approval of the Georgia Emergency Management/Homeland Security Mutual Aid Agreement
- b. Renewal of the Debris Management Contractor Agreement with Southern Disaster Recovery

Mr. Thomas stated both are contract renewals for disaster debris removal services and GEMA (Georgia Emergency Management Act) that gives local governments the authority to make agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve both agreements. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to appoint Bill Daughtry of Daughtry Law as county attorney. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve Mr. Daughtry as county attorney. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Clete Brady to change his 911 address. The address is listed as 1096 Hartwell Highway which is out of sequence with other addresses along this highway. The address should be 1104 Hartwell Highway. Mr. Thomas stated the county does have 30 – 50 addresses that are out of sequence in the county and this sometimes presents a problem if EMS responses are

needed. He also stated he would recommend approval to change Mr. Brady's address now, and in the future when property is purchased that is out of sequence with other addresses; to look for procedures to put them in sequence. Chairman Vaughn also stressed the importance of having your address signs visible and if you don't have one; please obtain one. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the address change for Mr. Clete Brady. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

First Reading on changes to the Elbert County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 18 regarding building regulations and construction standards. Mr. Daughtry stated there are several updates needed to Chapter 18; one has to do with the minimum construction standards adopted by the State; those standards has changed and so we are adopting the most recent list according to the State. Another has to do with state-mandated licenses. Now, they are enforceable under state law; but it is not in our county code. The updated change will allow our Code Enforcement Officer to enforce the regulations along with providing exemptions to projects that may not require new permits. Painting and routine maintenance shall not require a permit.

First Reading of a Resolution updating and establishing permit fees for building construction in Elbert County. Mr. Daughtry stated the purpose of this update is to provide for new fees for Plumbing, Electrical, Heating and Air, as well as minor updates to the current fees.

Discussion and approval of bids for two (2) pickup trucks for the Sheriff's Department. Funds will come from the approved 2017 SPLOST program. Mr. Thomas stated three (3) bids were received with Jacky Jones Ford being the low bid of \$26,010 (each vehicle). Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the low bid from Jacky Jones Ford. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of bids for a new lawnmower for Bobby Brown Park. Funds will come from the approved 2017 SPLOST program. Mr. Thomas stated three (3) bids were received with P & J Small Engines being the low bid of \$8,728 (Grasshopper 61"). Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the low bid from P & J Small Engines. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request to purchase a used low-boy trailer for the Road Department. This unit will be utilized to haul our heavy equipment in the county. Since this is a piece of used equipment, we are requesting a limit of \$40,000. Funds will come from the 2017 SPLOST Program. Mr. Thomas stated the lowboy trailer we have now is old and not in very good shape. He would like approval to look for a used piece of equipment up to \$40,000. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to this request. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of equipment for the kitchen at the Civic Center. Mr. Thomas stated the kitchen appliances and other items have not been updated in a while. Items to be replaced are a refrigerator, freezer, hand sink, worktables and carts. A bid of \$8,748 was received from Manning Brothers. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve this purchase. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Public Comments. Mr. Troy Colquitt spoke against the building regulations as presented at the meeting. Mrs. Robin Smith spoke in favor of the building regulations.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts stated General Fund revenues are up; with sales tax revenues at \$184,000 for December and TSPLOST revenues at \$121,053. There is \$13,685 in the Hotel/Motel tax account for local projects.

Executive Session. Commissioner Harper made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of litigation and real estate.

Upon returning, Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to enter General Session. Commissioner Freeman made the motion and Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Vaughn stated no action was taken.

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