

**Minutes of Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, June 8, 2020**

5:15 PM

A Public Hearing was held to consider a rezoning request from Shannon Wood to rezone 8.99 acres on Bobby Brown Park Road from RR (Rural Residential) to GB (General Business), Parcel# 085, for the proposed purpose of building a machine shop on the property. The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval of this application.

There were no public comments regarding this request.

Discussion of the Proposed 2021 Budget. With a projected shortfall of slightly over \$400,000; CFO Phil Pitts stated we would possibly have to pull from our reserve to balance the budget.

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Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Vaughn, Vice Chairman Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Horace Harper, Commissioner Casey Freeman, Commissioner Chris Alexander, 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 Ashworth.

Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 10a) Discussion and approval to seek bids for a used bucket truck. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to amend the agenda and approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of May 11, 2020 and the Called Meeting on May 21, 2020. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a Resolution to approve the 2021 proposed budget of the Northern Circuit Public Defender's office. Elbert County's portion is \$52,535, a decrease from 2020. Mr. Daughtry stated the cost of the Public Defender's office is shared by 5 counties. Elbert County's share went down from \$55,804 to \$52,535. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the Indigent Defense Resolution for 2021. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of bids for a Tax Anticipation Note for Elbert County. Mr. Pitts stated bids were sent to 4 banks, with only 2 returning proposals. Both lines of credit were for \$3,000,000.

Pinnacle Bank returned a proposal of 2.5%, and Northeast Georgia Bank returned a proposal of 1.49%. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the low proposal of Northeast Georgia Bank. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Shannon Wood to rezone 8.99 acres on Bobby Brown Park Road from RR (Rural Residential) to GB (General Business) for the purpose of building a machine shop on the property. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a Second Reading of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 18 Article IV (Building Permits) to clarify when and under what circumstances fees will be assessed for applications for and issuance of building permits and certificates of occupancy. Mr. Daughtry stated the three (3) changes are as follows: 1) demolition permits are required, but no fees shall be assessed, 2) commercial sign permits are required, but no fees shall be assessed for the construction or installation of signs by a church or other nonprofit organization, 3) the fees for inspection and issuance of Certificates of Occupancy for a structure shall be included in the cost of the building permit if any, if such Certificate of Occupancy is requested within 12 months of the issuance of the building permit for such structure. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the amended ordinance. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of First Reading of a proposed ordinance for Special Tax Districts for the provision of local government services. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to table this item and will revisit at a later date. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion of the proposed 2021 budget. As discussed at the Public Hearing, Mr. Pitts stated with a projected shortfall of slightly over \$400,000; we could possibly have to pull from our reserve to balance the budget.

Discussion and approval to seek bids for a used bucket truck to be used by the Maintenance Department, Road Department and Parks/Recreation Department. The bid amount will be up to \$45,000. Funds from all three (3) departments will be used to purchase the vehicle. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts stated we are close to the budget through May. May revenues are higher than anticipated, with June probably being much lower. SPLOST and TSPLOST revenues are up.

Executive Session. Commissioner Jones made a motion to enter Executive Session. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to enter General Session. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Vaughn stated no action was taken.

There were no public comments.

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