

Minutes
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, November 9, 2015

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 Commissioner Ashworth.

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 October 19, 2015. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Parks White, District Attorney to appear before the Board to request that Elbert County administer the District Attorney's office General Fund account. Mr. White would like Elbert County to administer the District Attorney's office General fund account with an estimated balance of less than \$30,000 monthly. Commissioner Alexander voted to table the item until more information is collected.

Bill Daughtry to report on Chamber of Commerce activities. Mr. Daughtry first thanked the Board for their continued support through the hotel/motel tax revenue. The Chamber is hard at work on tourism efforts in Elbert County, providing brochures and magazines to local motels, parks, visitor information centers and state welcome centers. The Chamber has recorded a total of 4,894 contacts from April through October and these contacts have provided the Chamber an opportunity to promote business in our community.

Bill Hood to appear before the Board to discuss the future of recycling. Mr. Hood was not present at the regular meeting but had talked to the Commissioners at the work session concerning the future of recycling in Elbert County and how crucial it is. Also, he asked that a written resolution be made to show our commitment to recycling in the future. Mr. Daughtry stated that he will contact Mr. Hood and together they will work on the resolution and hope to have it by the December meeting.

Karen Mills to appear before the Board to commend law enforcement officials for their effort in bringing two criminals to justice. Mrs. Mills and her husband presented plaques to the Dispatch Center, Dive Team and the Sheriff's Office. She commended all of the law enforcement agencies and emergency services for their hard work and dedication and stated that Elbert County has a lot to be proud of.

Second Reading and approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 6 of the "Alcoholic Beverages". This amendment will increase the annual license fees in sections 1,2, and 3 from \$500 to \$750. The

increase will take effect immediately. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Second reading approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 18 of the “Code of Ordinances”. This amendment will create a new section 18-2 to require state licenses for Electrical Contractors, Master Plumbers, Journeyman Plumbers and HVAC Contractors and to authorize the County Code Enforcement Officer to ensure that anyone performing these duties has the requisite state license to do so. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 3-2 with Commissioner Ashworth and Commissioner Jones opposing the amendment.

Discussion and approval to consider regulations of the International Property Maintenance Code for Elbert County regarding residential and nonresidential structures. This Property Maintenance Code is very comprehensive. The Commissioners were given a handout and asked to look over it and note any revisions or deletions that need to be made before the next regular meeting in December. Commissioner Harper made a motion to table the item until further information is gathered and discussed.

Discussion and approval of leasing equipment for the Road Department as opposed to purchasing equipment. Items for discussion are the motor grader, skid steer, mini-excavator and side arm tractor. Mr. Thomas stated to the board that some of the equipment is in need of repair or is totally broken down. In particular the motor grader that is used frequently needs repairs estimated to cost between \$12,000 and \$15,000. Mr. Thomas also stated that a company will pay \$55,000.00 for the used motor grader as is; and these funds could pay for a 3-year lease of the same equipment. Also, when leasing equipment there would be no upkeep expense therefore cutting down tremendously on costly maintenance and repairs. At this time there will be no vote as more information needs to be gathered and options discussed.

Financial Report. Mr. Pitts stated that there were 3 pay periods in October; with that said; we are slightly beyond budget in total expenditures year to date. Revenues are slightly above what was collected last year at this time. Total revenues in the general fund are \$2,630,417.00 compared to \$2,611,222.00 last year. SPLOST revenues are slightly down, but the last few months have been stable. Also, there are 21 months left before this SPLOST expires. Solid Waste is slightly above break even.

Public Comments. Mr. Thomas announced that the bridge on Hwy 368 at Coldwater Creek will be closed in February 2016 for construction.

Chuck Almond stated that he would like to come before the board to discuss the upcoming SPLOST project regarding a new communications system.

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