

Minutes
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
July 11, 2106

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, CFO Phil Pitts. County Clerk Tamara Butler was not present.

After the pledge to the United States flag the invocation was given by Chairman Lyon.

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

Adoption of the minutes of June 13, 2016. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. W.D. Albertson to come before the board to discuss improvement of the condition of the sides of railroad track on Hwy. 17. Mr. Albertson addressed the board regarding the condition of the sides of the railroad tracks. He stated that the new connection offered great opportunities for economic growth in Elbert County but that the sides of the tracks were littered with debris and really needs to be cleaned up to beautify the area.

Discussion and approval of increasing fines for throwing trash from vehicles and illegal dumping on public or private property. Mr. Bill Hood came before the Board regarding KECB (Keep Elbert County Beautiful) activities and areas in which they are recommending changes. He recommended purchasing a game camera to place in an area in which there is illegal dumping; purchasing 25 – 18x24 “No Dumping” signs and possibly leasing a billboard to place in a strategic location to deter littering and illegal dumping. He also made a suggestion about using “Community Service Workers” once a month to help with the clean-up effort. The Board agreed for County Attorney Bill Daughtry to write up a resolution increasing the fines as follows: 1st violation \$250, 2nd violation \$500, 3rd violation \$1,000. This resolution will require two readings therefore no vote is required.

Discussion from Bill Daughtry regarding the county purchase of properties at county advertised tax sales which are conducted by the Tax Commissioner when property is in bankruptcy. Mr. Daughtry stated there are 2 properties, one at 139 N. McIntosh St., and one at 1280 Bobby Brown Park Rd., that taxes can't be collected due to penalties and interest on the properties being so much that no one will put in an offer. Under Georgia law, County Administrator Bob Thomas has the authority to bid on the properties at an advertised tax sale. Mr. Daughtry stated also that the county would most likely recoup some money but it will take time. No vote is necessary at this time.

Discussion and approval of amending Chapter 34, Section 76 through 83, of the Code of Ordinances regarding Erosion and Sedimentation Control. Mr. Daughtry came before the Board stating these changes are required by the State EPD as they have made changes to the state requirements and in order to remain certified we must update our ordinances. This resolution will require two readings therefore no vote is required.

Discussion and approval of the annual agreement with the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce regarding Hotel/Motel tax proceeds. The purpose of this agreement is to provide tourism services to enhance the economic opportunities of the citizens of county using revenue from the Hotel/Motel tax. This is an amount equal to 40% of the revenue generated from the hotel/motel excise tax. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report. County CFO Phil Pitts address the Board regarding the June 2016 financial report. The report was in a similar format to prior months but it also included recommendations for amending the fiscal year 2016 budget. The Board will consider these recommendations at the next board meeting.

Public Comments. There were no public comments.

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