

**Minutes of Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
September 11, 2023**

Discussion and approval of a request by Johnna Baskett to rezone .166 acres from R1 (Single Family Residential) to RR (Rural Residential) and .271 acres from RR (Rural Residential) to R1 (Single Family Residential). Property located at 1987 Indian Hill Road, Elberton, GA. Map and Parcel # 044 042. Planning and Zoning voted to approve by a 5-0 vote. There were no public comments.

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

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

Adoption of the Agenda. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda by moving Public Comments to the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner Alexander made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Scoggins seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the Minutes of August 14, 2023. Commissioner Hunt made a motion to adopt the minutes of August 14, 2023. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments. There were no public comments

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Mrs. Mary Clark to address the Board to discuss county resources and some support for the City of Bowman. Mrs. Clark called and asked to be taken off the agenda.

Rock Evans to address the Board regarding EMS. Mr. Evans started by saying he was very thankful for the hospital and EMS; but stated there was a problem to be addressed. He

related the incident of how long it took to get transportation of his mother from the hospital to the nursing care facility at which she resided. He stated she was bed-ridden and could not be taken by personal vehicle and had to wait 8 hours to be transported.

Discussion and approval to surplus property at 1280 Bobby Brown State Park Road. Mr. Daughtry stated a formal vote was needed to go ahead and list it either by live auction or sealed bids. Mr. Bobby Howell stated the following are options:

- 1) Auction.com - (but would have to have multiple properties to sell)
- 2) Courthouse steps (but would need an auctioneer)
- 3) Gov.Deals
- 4) RFQ for Realtor

Since there are several alternatives in selling the property and all need to be looked at; he recommended at this time to list the property as surplus. Commissioner Scoggins made the motion to list the property as surplus; seconded by Commissioner Freeman. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval to increase tipping fees to \$65 per ton at Elbert County Solid Waste. Mr. Hulme stated last fiscal year were paying \$52 per ton to dispose of waste. As of July 1, 2023 we are paying \$58.75 per ton for disposal but we are only charging \$56. It is his recommendation to increase the amount we are charging to \$65 per ton. Commissioner Hunt made a motion to approve increasing tipping fees. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval to increase the cost of yellow bags to \$1.25 each and blue bags to \$2.50 each. Chairman Vaughn stated we have an agreement with the City of Elberton; that when we increase tipping fees that we have to increase the cost of recycling bags. Commissioner Scoggins made the motion to approve the increase. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a Beer and Wine license for Beaverdam Marina and Adventure Center, LLC. Background check completed and all taxes paid. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the license for Beaverdam Marina. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the 2025 Grant Application for the Section 5311 Program Formula Funds for Rural Transit in the amount of \$635,918. Mr. Hulme stated this is the matching grant that we do every year for Transit. Our part of the match is \$223,191. Commissioner Alexander made a motion approve the 2025 grant application for transit. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval to move the regular October 2023 meeting from Monday, October 9th to Tuesday, October 10th due to the Columbus Day holiday. Commissioner Hunt made the motion to approve changing the October meeting date. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

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Discussion and approval to renew and increase the rent of the Fortsonia Recycling Center by the new owner of Nancy Hart Nursing Center. Mr. Daughtry stated the rent for the recycling center has been \$1500 a year for many years; but the owner wanted to increase to \$2000 per year. It is his recommendation to approve the increase. Commissioner Freeman made the motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Scoggins. The motion passed 5-0.

Finance Report. Ms. Witcher stated General Fund expenditures are under budget thru August. General Fund revenues are looking ok. We did receive the 2nd tranche of the LATCF grant; and have received the first payment of collections for the 2023 SPLOST. TSPLOST and Hotel/Motel tax funds are still looking good.

Public Comments. Crystal Todd commented on the rental of the Civic Center. Chairman Vaughn stated we are addressing the issues.

Adjournment. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.