

CHARLTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023  
BOC CONFERENCE ROOM  
6:00 P.M.

4/20/2023 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Those present were: Chairman Jesse Crews, along with Commissioners Alphya Benefield, James Everett, Drew Jones, and Luke Gowen; County Administrator Hampton Raulerson; County Clerk Jenifer Nobles; HR Clerk Becky Harden; and visitors as recorded hereafter. County Attorney John Adams was absent.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Benefield led the Invocation and Pledge to the Flag.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Jones made motion to amend April 20, 2023 Agenda, to include Hear Enterprise Presentation. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett. Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Benefield made motion to adopt the April 20, 2023 Agenda to include above stated amendment. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve April 6, 2023 Minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT (SECOND MEETING)

Commissioner Benefield made motion to approve Financial Report. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

6. PUBLIC HEARING - ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF HAROLD WHITE ROAD

Commissioner Gowen recused himself from the meeting at 6:03 p.m., due to Public Hearing.

Public Hearing to consider abandonment of a Portion of Harold White Road was called to order. Hearing no comments from the public, public hearing ended.

7. ABANDON A PORTION OF HAROLD WHITE ROAD, AS PETITIONED BY LUKE GOWEN

Commissioner Jones made motion, based on proper advertising and public hearing, to abandon portion of Harold White Road, as petitioned by Luke Gowen. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

8. SURPLUS AND SALE A PORTION OF HAROLD WHITE ROAD, AS PETITIONED BY LUKE GOWEN

Commissioner Jones made motion to surplus and sale a portion of Harold White Road, as petitioned by Luke Gowen, for \$5,000.00 per acre. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gowen entered meeting at 6:05 p.m.

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT

Commissioner Benefield made motion to approve Budget amendments as follows:

2022 Budget Amendment Final  
2023 Budget Amendment - #1-04/20/2023  
2023 Budget Amendment - #1A-04/20/23 Tax Assessor  
2023 Budget Amendments - #1B-04/20/2023 Cooperative Extension/4H

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Itemized Amendments become integral part of Minutes.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA-

HEAR ENTERPRISE PRESENTATION - Simon Ortego appeared before Board with Presentation of current fleet impacting the overall budget and fleet operations. By partnering with Enterprise Fleet Management, Charlton County would be better able to leverage its buying power, implement a tighter controlled resale program to lower total cost of ownership and in turn minimize operational spend. The Board asked that more information be presented for the Board to consider at the next meeting. Fleet does not include ambulances or fire trucks.

10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PLAYGROUND BORDER BID FOR RECREATION DEPT.

Bids for Playground Border for Recreation Department were received as follows:

Amazon \$10,335.31  
Playworld \$6,412.50

Commissioner Gowen made motion to award bid to Playworld for playground border for recreation department for \$6,412.50. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

11. CONSIDER PURCHASE OF SHOP TRUCK

Commissioner Gowen made motion to table purchase of shop truck. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FISHER SCIENTIFIC REQUEST FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Jones made motion to approve purchase of 10 Scott 30 minute SCBA cylinders from Fisher Scientific, for the Fire Department, for \$10,450.00. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

13. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF MARCH, 2023 WELLNESS REPORT

The Board acknowledged receipt of March, 2023 Wellness Report.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (PLEASE LIMIT TO 3 MINUTES)

Cody Murrell and others were present to discuss concerns of canceling coed softball. Mr. Murrell expressed concerns of coed softball becoming a dying sport, saw on Facebook and started getting calls. "I've enjoyed playing the sport and has always been a passion". Last year Joel, recreation director did a good job, and ask that Board reconsider decision to cancel. Commissioner Crews and Benefield are on the Recreation Board and asked that concerned citizens attend the next Recreation Board meeting on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. The Board agreed the main reason canceling was considered was due to alcohol at games, causing liability for County and the focus for recreation is for the children. Everyone agreed rules would need to be enforced.

15. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Jones stated that he would like to see concession stand at the recreation area updated, as well as restrooms, and making facility closer to soccer games.

Commissioner Everett asked that everyone do their part in keeping Charlton County clean.

Commissioner Benefield expressed condolences to Jamison, Charlton County Herald, for the passing of her grandfather.

Commissioner Crews reminded everyone of National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at the Courthouse, and Update of Okefenokee Heritage Center in the Auditorium at 3:00 p.m.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

None.

17. NEXT BOC MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023, BOC CONFERENCE ROOM - 6:00 P.M.

18. ADJOURN

Commissioner Benefield made motion that meeting be adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

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Jesse A. Crews, Chairman

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Jenifer Nobles, County Clerk