

CHARLTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY ROOM  
6:00 P.M.

3/21/2024 - 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; HR Clerk Becky Harden; County Attorney John Adams, and visitors as recorded hereafter. County Clerk Jenifer Nobles 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 Gowen made motion to adopt the March 21, 2024 Agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gowen made motion to adopt the March 7, 2024 Minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT (SECOND MEETING)

Commissioner Gowen made motion to adopt the Financial Statements. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

6. HEAR JENNIFER BERGLUND, COMPANY 1433 PROJECT

Jennifer Berglund, Company 1433 Project appeared before the Board and presented brochures concerning Company 1433 Project," celebrating the legacy of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 1433, an all-black unit of the CCC that opened up much of the Okefenokee region for tourism and commerce in the 1930's and 1940's. Through research, community engagement, and construction of a digital archive of objects, documents, and photographs detailing the CCC's work, the project preserves and shares the important, but largely over-looked history of Black conservationists in South Georgia."

Archive Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 30, 2024 from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Depot.

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

7. CONSIDER HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S REQUEST FOR TRADERS' DAY

Donna Nance, Historical Society, was present to ask County to waive \$10.00 per camp site fee for Traders'

Day, and instead sponsor the event. Adam and Tammy Bell are in agreement to waive their 3% fee. Commissioner Gowen made motion to waive the fee as requested. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PLAT FOR PHASE 2 OF THE FARM AT OKEFENOKEE

Doug Davis presented plat for Phase 2 - The Orchard. Commissioner Benefield made motion to approve Plat for Phase 2 (The Orchard) of the Farm at Okefenokee. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Plat becomes integral part of Minutes.

9. CONSIDER SURPLUS OF LAND BETWEEN LAURA STREET, BELL STREET, AND SHORT STREET

Commissioner Gowen made motion to surplus land between Laura Street, Bell Street, and Short Streets, and solicit sealed bids to sell land "as is", no restrictions. (Description of land becomes integral part of Minutes). Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones. After discussion, Commissioner Everett abstained from vote and Commissioner Benefield voted no. Motion carried with the following - Commissioners Gowen, Jones, and Crews voted yes. Commissioner Everett abstained and Commissioner Benefield voted no. Motion carried.

10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DUMP TRUCK REPAIRS FOR THE ROAD DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Jones made motion to approve Dump Truck Repairs, up to \$20,000.00 from Road Department vehicle maintenance line item of the general account. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF AIR BOTTLES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve purchase of air bottles for the fire department, from Fisher Safety for \$10,850.00, to be paid out of the Fire Department general fund. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

12. CONSIDER PURCHASE OF CAT140 MOTOR GRADER

Commissioner Benefield made motion to purchase CAT 140 Motor Grader for \$386,749.00, to be paid with 2020 SPLOST account, and sell of 2019 Motor Grader will go back to 2020 SPLOST account. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. 2019 grader warranty is expiring.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDER REQUEST - CRUSHING CONCRETE

Commissioner Jones made motion to approve road department purchase order request for crushing concrete, from Norton Irrigation for \$21,500.00, to be paid from TSPLOST account. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

14. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF FEBRUARY, 2024 MONTHLY WELLNESS REPORT

The Board acknowledged receipt of February, 2024 Monthly Wellness Report.

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

Yvonne Chapman Ragsdale - was present and discussed Easter weekend activities around Chatman Park Area. She asked for the Board's consideration and help with people that come and cause issues, such as loud music, and parking.

Commissioner Benefield made motion to close county parks, (except Boat Ramps and Traders Hill) on Easter Sunday, at 3:00 p.m. and work with the Sheriff in closing all necessary roads. Motion was

seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

16. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Everett thanked those involved with Company 1433 Project.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

None.

18. NEXT BOC MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024, BOC CONFERENCE ROOM - 6:00 P.M.

19. ADJOURN

Commissioner Jones made motion to adjourn meeting at 6:50 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

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Jesse A. Crews, Chairman

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Jenifer Nobles, County Clerk