

CHARLTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024
BOC CONFERENCE ROOM
6:00 P.M.

4/18/2024 - 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; County Clerk Jenifer Nobles; HR Clerk Becky Harden, County Attorney John Adams; and visitors as recorded hereafter.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Benefield led the Invocation and Pledge to the Flag.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Everett made motion to amend agenda to include the following amendments:

A. Consider Acceptance of Limited Warranty Deed Between Alexander Land Company Georgia, LLC and Charlton County, Georgia

B. Consider Ratifying Approval of Hofstadter Land Survey and Permit Preparation

C. Consider Approval of Eston Prescott Road Property Owner Agreement

D. Consider Approval to Advertise Deputy Clerk Position

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Benefield made motion to approve April 18, 2024 Agenda to include the above mentioned items. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve March 21, 2024 Minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT (SECOND MEETING)

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve Financial Report. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Copy of financial report becomes integral part of Minutes.

AMENDMENTS -

A. CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF LIMITED WARRANTY DEED BETWEEN ALEXANDER LAND COMPANY GEORGIA, LLC AND CHARLTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

Commissioner Gowen made motion to accept Limited Warranty Deed between Alexander Land Company Georgia, LLC and Charlton County, Georgia. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Copy of Deed becomes integral part of Minutes. Charlton County will put up fence and clean ditch. Alexander Land Company will construct parking area. Copy of Deed becomes integral part of Minutes.

B. Consider Ratifying Approval of Hofstadter Land Survey and Permit Preparation

Commissioner Benefield made motion to ratify approval of topographic and boundary survey for \$4,850.00, and three phase erosion control plans for \$4,600.00, to Hofstadter and Associates and will submit to EPD for approval. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. This will be needed for obtaining permit to clear the property that was purchased from Rayonier for a new Bend Fire Station.

C. Consider Approval of Eston Prescott Road Property Owner Agreement

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve Agreement for Eston Prescott Road Owner Agreement. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Agreement agrees to repair damage to the well for a period of five (5) years. Copy of Agreement becomes integral part of Minutes.

D. Consider Approval to Advertise Deputy Clerk Position

Commissioner Gowen made motion to advertise Deputy Clerk Position. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. County Clerk Jenifer Nobles will retire June 14, 2024.

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AMENDMENT #1

Commissioner Benefield made motion to approve Resolution to Adopt Amendment #1 - ACCG 457(B) Deferred Compensation Plan for Charlton County Employees. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Resolution becomes integral part of Minutes.

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REQUISITION FOR SGRC SERVICES

Commissioner Everett made motion to approve Requisition for SGRC Services for the purpose of assistance with the development of the Land Use Element for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update for Charlton County and the Cities of Folkston and Homeland. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. The cost will be \$10,000.00. Current plan will expire June 30, 2024. Copy of Requisition becomes integral part of Minutes.

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BIDS - SALE OF PARCEL F012-088

The following bids were considered for Sale of Parcel F012-088 - property situated at Laura Street and Ann Streets.

Sowing Seeds Outside the Walls \$16,500.00
Shanna Kidd \$6,100.00

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve bid from Sowing Seeds Outside the Walls for \$16,500.00 for sale of Parcel F012-088. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; Commissioners Crews, Everett, Jones, and Gowen voted yes. Commissioner Benefield voted no. Motion carried.

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR REMOVAL OF HVAC AT ANNEX BUILDING

Bids for Removal of HVAC at Annex Building were received as follows:

Jim Brown HVAC \$6,000.00
Sam Pickren HVAC \$9,350.00
Dixie Air & Heating \$12,000.00

Commissioner Jones made motion to award bid to Jim Brown HVAC for \$6,000.00 for removal of HVAC at Annex Building, to be paid with general account (facilities maintenance). Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CANON PRINTER AND COPIERS AGREEMENT

Commissioner Benefield made motion to award bid to Canon for 4 (four) Canon 3936's for \$16,296 and 5 (five) Canon MF1333c for \$4,845.00, to be paid with 2020 SPLOST funds. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONTRACT #AA-2025-21 TO PROVIDE OPERATION OF SENIOR CENTER

Commissioner Benefield made motion to approve Contract #AAA-2025-21 to Provide Operation of Senior Center with Congregate and Home Delivered Meals for fiscal year (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025). Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BID FOR MATERIAL FOR CHATMAN MOBLEY PARK

Bids for Infield material for Chatman Mobley Park and Deuce Lloyd were considered. Commissioner Benefield made motion to authorize \$5,000.00 to purchase sand, if needed - and the road department will provide the labor. The Board asked for cooperation in keeping parks clean.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FENCING BIDS FOR CHATMAN MOBLEY AND DEUCE LLOYD PARKS

Bids were received for fencing at Chatman and Deuce Lloyd Parks:

T & T Fencing - \$3,380.00 (T Ball Field)
T & T Fencing - \$5,177.00 (Chatman Mobley Park)
Howell Fencing - \$8,377.00 (for both fields)

Commissioner Benefield made motion to award bid to Howell Fencing for \$8,377.00. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. The fencing for Deuce Lloyd is for a new T-ball field, to be located behind the concession stand, and the fence at Chatman Mobley Park will be extended out to the right-of-way along Indian Trail.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BID FOR FIRE STATION 1 EXPANSION

One bid was received for Fire Station 1 Expansion -

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve bid from Tyco Construction for \$132,500.00 for Fire Station 1 Expansion, to be paid with 2020 SPLOST funds. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

15. CONSIDER RESOLUTION REGARDING UNITED NATIONS POLICY AND PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

Commissioner Jones made motion to approve Resolution of Charlton County, Georgia to Protect Charlton

County Citizens' Private Property Rights. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Resolution becomes integral part of Minutes.

16. DISCUSS NACO CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

The Commissioners will not be attending NACO Conference.

17. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF MARCH, 2024 WELLNESS REPORT

The Board acknowledge receipt of March, 2024 Wellness Report.

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

Sharon Presley asked about status of Heritage Park and Cultural Community Center funding? Charlton County has applied for an economic development grant for \$250,000.00. If awarded, will be used at the land located next to the Annex Building to construct a community center that will be leased to Okefenokee Adventure, and also serve as community center for Charlton County.

Antwon Nixon thanked the Board for making Park a priority. Mr. Nixon stressed the importance of history, being the #1 theme, where the first colored school existed; plan to erect plaque for recognition and construct swings for the park; hoping to bring community together and asked for community support in taking care of the park.

Melodey Martindale, Okefenokee Chamber, was present and reported to the Board that a brochure is being developed that will include a map, referencing activities, recreation, shopping and eating. Charlton County is also being advertised in Braves book. Ms. Martindale reminded the Board that a City-County Employee Luncheon will be held on May, 20, 2024 at the Depot.

Elaine Bailey informed the Board that she attended the meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2024 (that was cancelled, due to not having a quorum present). She wanted to know if it was advertised in the paper, was informed there was not time to publish. The Board agreed to post notice on the outside door when a meeting is cancelled.

The Board was reminded of community meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Annex Building Auditorium to hear candidates running for Sheriff and School Board.

19. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Benefield thanked the community for prayers for her family and Election Supervisor, the family of Kecia Brown.

Commissioner Jones thanked Elaine Bailey for constructive criticism.

Commissioner Everett stated that he has been in Charlton County for 60 years and this is the first time there has not been a sawmill located in the county. "We need local investments".

Commissioner Crews thanked Mr. Gardner for his attendance and coverage provided in the Charlton County Herald.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

None.

21. NEXT BOC MEETING, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024 - BOC CONFERENCE ROOM, 6:00 P.M.

22. ADJOURN

Commissioner Jones made motion to adjourn meeting at 6:55 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

Jesse A. Crews, Chairman

Jenifer Nobles, County Clerk