6/27/2024 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

   Those present were Chairman Jesse Crews, along with Commissioners Alphya Benefield and James Everett, County Administrator Hampton Raulerson, Deputy Clerk Madeline Nettles, Finance/HR Coordinator Rebecca Harden, and visitors as recorded hereafter. Commissioners Drew Jones, Luke Gowen, and County Attorney John Adams were absent.
   The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

   Commissioner Benefield led the Invocation and Chairman Crews led the Pledge to the Flag.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

   Commissioner Everett made a motion to add the amended item under item 15 of the agenda. Commissioner Benefield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
   Commissioner Everett made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Benefield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

   Commissioner Everett made a motion to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Benefield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT (SECOND MEETING)

   Finance/HR Coordinator Harden reported that all is in order regarding the financial report.
   Commissioner Benefield made a motion to approve the financial report. Commissioner Everett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. ACKNOWLEDGE RECREATIONAL DEPARTMENT TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES

   Joel Shivar, Recreation Director, presented to the commissioners the track and field athletes to be recognized. Mason Crews, one of the athletes, was in attendance of the meeting and was recognized by the board. Shivar reported that this was the first year the recreational department had offered track and field, with 38 children signing up. After the end of the season, Shivar received letters in the mail from Representative Buddy Carter, recognizing 7 of the athletes that had participated and placed in state. Mr. Shivar presented Mason Crews with the sealed letter addressed to him from Representative Carter. The Board acknowledged the athletes’ accomplishments.

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PERMIT FEES

   County Administrator Raulerson presented the proposed change in permit fees to the board, reporting that no changes had been made to the proposal since it was presented at the last meeting. Raulerson reminded the board that changes, per the State, must be made by July 1.
   Commissioner Benefield moved to approve the proposed permit fee changes. Commissioner Everett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

8. CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF DUMP TRUCK REPAIR

   County Administrator Raulerson reported to the board that the county had received two quotes for the repair, with CarQuest submitting the lowest quote.

CarQuest- $6,245.70
O'Reilly Auto Parts- $7,710.43

Commissioner Benefield made a motion to ratify the repair. Commissioner Everett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF HOSE AND LADDER TESTING FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

County Administrator Raulerson presented the board with a proposal to accept the estimated cost of hose and ladder testing from Southeast Management Services LLC at $5,585.00. Raulerson stated that they are required to test both every so often.
Commissioner Everett made a motion to approve paying for the testing at the estimated cost. Commissioner Benefield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSIDER PURCHASE OF FIRE TRUCK

County Administrator Raulerson presented a proposal to purchase a fire truck due to on-going issues with two of the current trucks. Chief CL Lewis was present to answer questions.
Chief Lewis has three trucks that he has found through research as potential replacements. County Administrator Raulerson asked the board to authorize Chief Lewis and Mr. Chuck Edwards to travel to view the potential replacement trucks in person and put in an offer on whichever of the three is considered most suitable for the county's needs.
Commissioner Benefield made a motion to approve for Chief Lewis and Mr. Edwards to travel and authorize them to make an offer on the most suitable truck. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion.
Commissioner Everett asked why a grant that the county previously was seeking out was not approved. County Administrator Raulerson stated that they were not awarded the grant, with very little explanation as to why. Chief Lewis stated that the grant they had applied for was a nationwide grant, which increased the competition for it.
The board voted; motion carried unanimously.

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COUNTY PARTICIPATION CONTRACT WITH UNISON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

County Administrator Raulerson explained that this was the annual agreement of support with Unison, with no changes to the annual support amount.
Commissioner Everett made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Benefield seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR. ST. MARY'S RIVERKEEPER GRANT APPLICATION

County Administrator Raulerson presented a draft of a support letter for the St. Mary's RiverKeeper in their grant pursuit. County Administrator Raulerson explained the grant and explained that the support letter would include 30 hours of dedicated time, which Mr. Raulerson would provide himself.
Chip Campbell, with the St. Mary's Riverkeepers, was present to answer questions. Mr. Campbell stated that it has real potential for emergency management. County Administrator Raulerson stated that this would allow localities to use the plan to seek funding as needed.
Commissioner Benefield motioned to approve the letter of support. Commissioner Everett seconded. Motion carried.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RATIFICATION OF CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR JOHN AND SUSIE ATWATER

Commissioner Everett made a motion to approve the ratification of the certificate of recognition.

Commissioner Benefield seconded it.
The Certificate of Recognition was presented this past Saturday, June 22nd, to the Atwater family. Ms. Elaine Bailey was present and shared her appreciation of the commissioners' participation. She also thanked them on behalf of the Chatman family.
The board voted; motion carried unanimously.

14. CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR SALLIE LOCKSON CHATMAN

Commissioner Everett made a motion to approve the ratification of the certificate of recognition. Commissioner Benefield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

15. CONSIDER ROCKY HARRINGTON III ABANDONMENT OF ALLEYWAY PROPOSAL

County Administrator Raulerson stated that the proposal had been sent to the attorney. At this time, there were no issues with moving forward. The proposal still needs to be advertised at this time.
Commissioner Benefield made a motion to approve the proposal. Commissioner Everett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA: CONSIDER ADOPTING CHANGES TO ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR CLASSIFICATION FROM EXEMPT TO NON-EXEMPT EMPLOYEE.

County Administrator Raulerson explained that the Department of Labor is changing the salary requirements for exempt employees. County Administrator Raulerson also explained that they would have to come before the board by January for other changes that would be upcoming.
Commissioner Benefield moved to adopt the changes. Commissioner Everett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

16. ACKNOWLEDGE WELLNESS REPORT

Finance/HR Coordinator informed the board that Ms. Pam has decided to stay on with the county to continue meeting the employees and remain as the coach. Program Manager, Kristen Bowen, will be working on the administrative side to alleviate duties on Ms. Pam.
The board took no action at this time.

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

Andrew Delmonte, from District 5, addressed the board. Mr. Delmonte expressed surprise as other residents are in violation as well. Mr. Delmonte stated that he is working to bring his property into compliance, but is concerned about "Backyard Mechanics," individuals doing work themselves, or people who have lost a loved one recently. Mr. Delmonte asked why it is required to carry insurance and registration if it is not being driven on public right-of-way. He asked that the board consider abolishing the code.
Chairman Crews stated that they will check into it and address the issue at a later time. He thanked Mr. Delmonte for bringing the issue to the commissioners' attention.

18. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Benefield thanked everyone for being present.
Commissioner Benefield thanked the Atwater and Chatman families for making them aware of the celebration and inviting them to participate.
Commissioner Benefield stated that there is no intent for the commissioners to be prejudiced against anyone and stated that they want to recognize their community, which is why it is important that the commissioners be informed about the community.
Commissioner Benefield thanked the Chairman, County Administrator, staff, as well as the community, for their support of the honorable recognitions of each of those citizens.

Commissioner Benefield asked the board to consider a request from Homeland City Councilman Delbert Shelton to use the old Unison building as a food bank. Commissioner Benefield stated that she had informed the councilman that the building was in need of repairs and is aware of consideration of the building by the county for another public use. Commissioner Benefield asked the board to consider this request and asked County Administrator Raulerson to remind her of the situation that requires repairs with the building. Chairman Crews recommended that this issue be addressed at the next meeting.

Commissioner Everett thanked the community for support during bereavement.

Chairman Crews stated that the dinner for the Atwater celebration was lovely. Chairman Crews shared a story about the Atwater and Benefield families that he was told at the celebration. Chairman Crews stated that he enjoyed getting to participate and celebrate with the community.
Chairman Crews read a card addressed to the board from Roy Taylor’s children regarding the bridge renaming resolution. In the card, the family shared their appreciation for the resolution. Chairman Crews thanked the board for the resolution.

Commissioner Benefield asked if County Administrator Raulerson could contact Homeland and Folkston officials to discuss putting on a Firework celebration downtown for the Fourth of July. County Administrator Raulerson stated that he will also speak with the Chamber regarding the request. Finance/HR Coordinator Harden shared that Philadelphia Free Will Baptist Church hosts a firework show on church property annually, and opened an invitation to anyone that would like to come.

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

No executive session was necessary at this meeting.

20. NEXT MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM- 6:00 PM

21. ADJOURN

Commissioner Everett motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Benefield seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.

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Jesse A. Crews, Chairman

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Jenifer Nobles, County Clerk