

## **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Charles W. Oddo, Chairman  
Randy Ognio, Vice Chair  
David Barlow  
Steve Brown  
Charles D. Rousseau



## **FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Steve Rapson, County Administrator  
Dennis A. Davenport, County Attorney  
Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk  
Tameca P. White, Chief Deputy County Clerk

140 Stonewall Avenue West  
Public Meeting Room  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

## **ACTION AGENDA**

December 10, 2015  
7:00 p.m.

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Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Commissioners. Your participation in County government is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Oddo called the December 10, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **Invocation by Chairman Charles W. Oddo**

Chairman Oddo offered the Invocation.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Oddo led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Acceptance of Agenda**

Chairman Oddo moved to accept the Agenda as published and to add Agenda Item 3A to recognize the winners of the Christmas Door Art Competition. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 5-0.

### **PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:**

#### **1. Recognition and honoring of Commissioner and Vietnam War Veteran David Barlow as Vietnam War Veteran Senator Valencia Seay.**

State Senator Valencia Seay and the Board of Commissioners recognized Commissioner David Barlow for his service in the Vietnam War from 1966 through 1969.

#### **2. Recognition of the summer interns who worked in Fayette County's State Court.**

State Court Judge Jason Thompson and the Board recognized two summer interns, Daniel Richardson and Alexa Yanar, who worked in Fayette County's State Court.

**3. Recognition of Assistant Chief Financial Officer Sheryl Weinmann for earning the Level 1 Local Finance Officer Certification in pursuit of professional development in governmental finance, accounting, budgeting, and public finance topics.**

Chief Financial Officer Mary Parrott, County Administrator Steve Rapson, and the Board of Commissioners recognized Assistant Chief Financial Officer Sheryl Weinmann for earning the Level 1 Local Finance Officer Certification in pursuit of professional development in governmental finance, accounting, budgeting, and public finance topics.

**3A. Recognition of the winners of the 2015 Merry Door Decorating Contest.**

County Administration Steve Rapson recognized the winners of the 2015 Merry Door Decorating Contest. The 911 Department won 1<sup>st</sup> place. The Library won 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The Tax Commissioner's Office won 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Community Development Director Pete Frisina read the *Introduction to Public Hearings for the Rezoning of Property* into the record before introducing Public Hearing #4.

**4. Public Hearing of staff's recommendation to transfer an existing 2015 Retail Alcohol, Beer and Wine License from Amy McKnight to Timothy Evans, doing business as Metro Sports Bar, which is located at 1950 Hwy 85 North, Fayetteville, Georgia 30214.**

Community Development Director Pete Frisina briefed the Board on the matter.

No one spoke in favor of or in opposition.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the transfer of an existing 2015 Retail Alcohol, Beer and Wine License from Amy McKnight to Timothy Evans, doing business as Metro Sports Bar, which is located at 1950 Hwy 85 North, Fayetteville, Georgia 30214. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**5. Public Hearing of Petition No. 1251-15, Ruth M. Sitton, Owner, and Al Gaskins, Agent, request to rezone 4.238 acres from A- R to R-70 to develop a Single-Family Residential Lot with said property being located in Land Lots 169 and 170 of the 4th District and fronting on Antioch Road.**

Community Development Director Pete Frisina briefed the Board on the matter and he noted that both staff and the Planning Commission recommended denial of the request.

**Tom Lord:** Mr. Lord read a letter in favor of the petition that was written by Mr. Al Gaskins. Mr. Lord then urged the Board to approve Petition No. 1251-15. Mr. Lord asked members of the audience if they came to the meeting in support of approval of Petition 1251-15 and many people indicated their support of the petition.

**Bonnie Hicks:** Ms. Hicks spoke in favor of approving Petition No. 1251-15.

**Frank Gardner:** Mr. Gardner spoke in favor of approving Petition No. 1251-15.

No one spoke in opposition of Petition No. 1251-15.

Commissioner Brown moved to deny Petition No. 1251-15. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion to deny Petition 1251-15 passed 5-0.

**6. Public Hearing of Petition No. 1252-15, Jeffrey Anderson Jr., Owner, request to rezone 8.87 acres from R-20 to A-R to develop a Single-Family Residential Lot with said property being located in Land Lot 62 of the 4th District and fronting on Bankstown Road with two (2) recommended conditions.**

Community Development Director Pete Frisina briefed the Board on Petition 1252-15 and he reported that both staff and the Planning Commission supported the petition with two recommended conditions.

**Jeffrey Anderson:** Mr. Anderson spoke in favor of Petition No. 1252-15.

No one else spoke in favor or in opposition to Petition No. 1252-15.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Petition No. 1252-15 with the two conditions as written. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion to approve Petition No. 1252-12 with the two conditions as written was approved 5-0.

**7. Public Hearing of Petition No. RP-058-15, Jeffrey Anderson Jr., Owner, request to revise the Survey for P.K. Dixon Subdivision to add A-R uses to the subdivision with said property being located in Land Lot 62 of the 4th District and fronting on Bankstown Road.**

Community Development Director Pete Frisina briefed the Board on the request saying it was associated with Public Hearing #6.

No one spoke in favor of or in opposition to Petition No. RP-058-15.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Petition No. RP-058-15. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**8. Public Hearing on Ordinance 2015-13 amending the Fayette County's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 110. Article V., Sec. 110-169. Conditional Use Approval, to eliminate buffers between specified Conditional Uses in a residential or A-R zoning district.**

Community Development Director Pete Frisina briefed the Board on this request.

**John Lee:** Mr. Lee, headmaster of Konos Academy, spoke in support of Ordinance 2015-13.

No one else spoke in favor of or in opposition to Ordinance 2015-13.

Commissioner Brown moved to adopt Ordinance 2015-13 amending the Fayette County's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 110. Article V., Sec. 110-169. Conditional Use Approval, to eliminate buffers between specified Conditional Uses in a residential or A-R zoning district. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-13 amending the Fayette County's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 110. Article V., Sec. 110-169. Conditional Use Approval, to eliminate buffers between specified Conditional Uses in a residential or A-R zoning district passed 3-2 with Chairman Oddo and Vice Chairman Ognio voting in opposition.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Commissioner Brown requested to remove Consent Agenda Item 10 and 19.

Commissioner Barlow moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Consent Agenda Items 10 and 19.

**9. Approval of staff's amendments to Policy 100.01- Policy Development / Revision.**

- 10. Approval of Chairman Oddo's recommendation to authorize the County Administrator to allow the individual department heads to reduce to minimal staffing beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 23, 2015 in observance of the Christmas holiday.**

Commissioner Brown stated that this item is traditionally voted on off the Consent Agenda. He reminded the Board that in 2014 he made the motion to give the Friday after Christmas off since it did not make sense for the employees to take two days holiday, only to return to work on a Friday, only to return to the weekend for another two days. He stated that since Christmas Eve and Christmas Day about the weekend he did not see the necessity of having December 23.

Chairman Oddo moved to approve the recommendation to authorize the County Administrator to allow the individual department heads to reduce to minimal staffing beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 23, 2015 in observance of the Christmas holiday. Discussion followed. The motion to authorize the County to have a hard close beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 23, 2015 in observance of the Christmas holiday failed 2-3 with Chairman Oddo and Commissioner Barlow voting in favor of the motion.

- 11. Approval of Chairman Oddo's recommendation to authorize the County Administrator to allow the Fayette County Library to be closed on Saturday, December 26, 2015 in observance of the Christmas holiday.**
- 12. Approval of the County Clerk's recommendation to adopt the 2016 County Commissioner Meeting Schedule.**
- 13. Approval of the County Attorney's recommendation to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter on County letterhead and addressed to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division certifying Fayette County is actively involved in and has a strategy for meeting Georgia's statewide goal of waste reduction.**
- 14. Approval of staff's recommendation to authorize the Fayette County Solicitor's Office to accept a grant award from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in the amount of \$68,000.00 with the initial grant award period beginning October 1, 2015 and expiring September 30, 2016, and authorization for the Chairman to sign all grant related documentation.**
- 15. Approval of staff's recommendation to add Waterlance Pod D, also known as Canoe Club, subdivision to Fayette County's Street Light Program.**
- 16. Approval of staff's recommendation to award Quote #1042-A- Floating Docks at Lake Horton and Lake McIntosh to the low bidder, Amaysing Services, Inc. in the amount of \$80,000.00 utilizing Renewal and Extension funds, and authorization for the Chairman to sign any related documents**
- 17. Approval of staff's recommendation to award Quote #989-A- Crosstown Water Treatment Plant Thermoplastic Polyolefin Roofing System to the low bidder Briggs Brothers Enterprises Corporation, in the amount of \$73,500.00, to utilize Renewal and Extension funds for the project, and to authorization for the County Administrator to sign all related documents.**
- 18. Approval of Water Committee's recommendation to continue the Metropolitan North Georgia Planning District Toilet Rebate Program with an additional funding in the amount of \$50,000.00.**
- 19. Approval of staff's recommendation to award RFQ #1021-A- Easement Clearing at the South Fayette Water Treatment Plant to Georgia Power in the amount of \$20,562.50, to transfer \$10,562.50 from the Renewal and Extension fund to existing easement clearing funds, and authorization for the Chairman to sign any necessary documents.**

Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Ognio questioned aspects of the request. Water System Director Lee Pope and County Administrator Steve Rapson replied to their questions.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve RFQ #1021-A- Easement Clearing at the South Fayette Water Treatment Plant to Georgia Power and to exclude the property as church and the funding associated with that, from the Renewal and Extension fund to existing easement clearing funds, and to authorize the Chairman to sign any necessary documents. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

20. **Approval of the Water Committee's recommendation to accept the 2016 meeting schedule as presented. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 21," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.**
21. **Approval of the November 12, 2015 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There were no items of Old Business on the Agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

22. **Consideration of a recommendation from the Selection Committee, comprised of Vice Chairman Randy Ognio and Commissioner David Barlow, to appoint Page McDonald to the Fayette County Library Board for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2016 and expiring December 31, 2019.**

Commissioner Ognio moved to accept the Selection Committee's recommendation to appoint Page McDonald to the Fayette County Library Board for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2016 and expiring December 31 2019. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion.

23. **Consideration of a recommendation from the Selection Committee, comprised of Chairman Charles W. Oddo and Commissioner Charles D. Rousseau, to re-appoint Alvin Gilbert and James Graw to the Fayette County Planning Commission for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2016 and expiring December 31, 2018.**

Chairman Oddo moved to accept the recommendation from the Selection Committee, comprised of Chairman Charles W. Oddo and Commissioner Charles D. Rousseau, to re-appoint Alvin Gilbert and James Graw to the Fayette County Planning Commission for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2016 and expiring December 31, 2018. Commissioner Rousseau seconded the motion

24. **Consideration of a resolution from the City of Fayetteville consenting to the inclusion of certain Fayette County Ad Valorem Taxes in the Computation of the Tax Allocation Increment for the City of Fayetteville Tax Allocation District Number One- Highway Corridor.**

County Administrator Steve Rapson notified the Board that the City of Fayetteville had originally asked for this item to be tabled but subsequently had asked for the Board to remove this item from consideration.

Commissioner Brown moved to not act on this request. Commissioners Ognio and Rousseau seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 24," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

25. **Consideration of staff's recommendation to adopt Ordinance 2015-15, Resolution 2015-13, and the Purchasing Card User Agreement for compliance with Georgia General Assembly House Bill 192 pertaining to county issued Purchase Cards and Credit Cards by county elected officials, and for said documents to become effective on January 1, 2016.**

Chief Financial Officer Mary Parrott briefed the Board on this request.

Commissioner Brown moved to adopt Ordinance 2015-15 as written. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-15 as written passed 5-0.

Commissioner Ognio moved to approve Resolution 2015-13. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**26. Consideration of staff's recommendation to proceed with transitioning the County's Defined Benefit retirement plan from GEBCorp to MassMutual and to authorize the Chairman to sign any associated documents.**

County Administrator Steve Rapson reported that Regional Client Manager Paul Bates, representing the Association of County Commissioners Georgia (ACCG) Retirement Team, was in the audience for the meeting. He stated that part of the concerns that have been discussed involve transparency and reporting issues. He said ACCG had agreed to provide the information, and he recommended that the request be tabled to January 28, 2016 in order to give ACCG time to provide the information.

Chairman Oddo moved to table this item to the January 28, 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion to table this item to the January 28, 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting passed 5-0.

**27. Consideration of staff's recommendation to adopt Ordinance 2015-16- Transportation Committee and in so doing adding a new division to the Fayette County Code of Ordinances to provide for the establishment of the Fayette County Transportation Committee.**

Commissioner Ognio briefed the Board on his request.

Commissioner Brown pointed out that there was a packet on the dais containing a red-lined version of Ordinance 2015-16 and he quickly briefed the Board on the recommended changes.

Commissioner Brown moved to adopt Ordinance 2015-16- Transportation Committee as written in the red-lined version on the dais. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Commissioner Brown amended his motion to include population of the Committee within sixty days. Commissioner Barlow seconded the amended motion. Further discussion followed. Commissioner Brown amended his motion to strike the wording "who may be an officer or employee of Fayette County," out of the ordinance. Commissioner Barlow seconded the amended motion.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-16- Transportation Committee as written in the red-lined version on the dais, for populate the Committee to become effective within sixty days, and to strike the phrase "who may be an officer or employee of Fayette County" from the third line of page seven of the ordinance passed 5-0.

**28. Consideration of staff's recommendation to approve Change Orders with Southeastern Pressure Grouting, Inc., in the amount of \$12,570, to fill settled small voids in the Lake Peachtree Spillway and with Piedmont Geo-technical to oversee work and issue a final report approving the safety of the structure in the amount of \$7,316, and to authorize the County Administrator to sign related Change Orders.**

County Administrator Steve Rapson briefed the Board on this request and reported that the \$12,570 amount would change to \$14,186 and the \$7,316 amount would change to \$5,700.

Commissioner Barlow moved to approve Change Orders with Southeastern Pressure Grouting, Inc., in the amount of \$14,186, to fill settled small voids in the Lake Peachtree Spillway and with Piedmont Geo-technical to oversee work and issue a final report approving the safety of the structure in the amount of \$5,700, and to authorize the County Administrator to sign related Change Orders. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Commissioner Barlow amended his motion to ratify the Change Orders. Commissioner Ognio seconded the amendment.

The motion to ratify Change Orders with Southeastern Pressure Grouting, Inc., in the amount of \$14,186, to fill settled small voids in the Lake Peachtree Spillway and with Piedmont Geo-technical to oversee work and issue a final report approving the safety of the structure in the amount of \$5,700, and to authorize the County Administrator to sign related Change Orders passed 5-0.

**29. Discussion concerning Fayette County's Ethics Ordinance.**

Chairman Oddo asked if the discussion could be tabled the discussion to the January 28, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting since there was a lot to discuss.

Chairman Oddo moved to table the discussion concerning Fayette County's Ethics Ordinance to January 28, 2015. Commissioner Rousseau seconded the motion.

**30. Discussion of Commissioner Brown's request to display "Out of Many, One" as the English translation of the original national motto "E Pluribus Unum" in the Commissioners' Meeting Chambers.**

Commissioner Brown briefed the Board on the request.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the request to add the motto "Out of Many, One," to prominently display the motto in the Commission Meeting Chambers, to put the motto beneath the seal opposite of "In God We Trust," and to not forward the motto to the Public Arts Committee. Commissioner Rousseau seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Chairman Oddo opened the floor for Public Comment on this matter.

George R. Moore, Judith W. Moore, Marcia Hendershot, and Carla Brady spoke in opposition to displaying "In God We Trust" on the wall of the Public Meeting Room. Steve Yoshment stated he was in favor of adding "Out of Many, One" to the Public Meeting Room.

Chairman Oddo closed public comment and discussion continued.

The motion to approve the request to add the motto "Out of Many, One," to prominently display the motto in the Commission Meeting Chambers, to put the motto beneath the seal opposite of "In God We Trust," and to not forward the motto to the Public Arts Committee passed 3-2 with Commissioners Barlow and Oddo voting in opposition.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Tom Waller:** Mr. Waller reminded the Board that approximately five months ago the County provided an update on the progress of the West Fayetteville Bypass. He stated that since that time there was no apparent progress on completing the road and he suggested that if staff was incapable of completing the road that it should be sent to a third party who could bring it to completion.

**Frank Gardner:** Mr. Gardner said an ordinance was changed about three years ago that affected him so he has attended meetings often since that time. He stated that the ordinance that governed the denial of Petition 1251-15 should be amended or that the decision needed to be reconsidered.

**John Hendershot:** Mr. Hendershot stated that he had heard several of the Commissioners say the Board should not have approved displaying "In God We Trust" in the Public Meeting Room. He encouraged the Commissioners to reconsider their decision of displaying that motto.

**Greg Clifton:** City of Fayetteville Mayor Greg Clifton reminded the Board that there is no constitutional separation between church and state but rather the phrase came from a letter from President Thomas Jefferson. He stated this would be the last time coming to the meeting as mayor. He added that the city just had its best Christmas parade ever and that the city was currently celebrating Chanukah. He said there was a great turnout to the parade and he thanked the Board for the use of the Heritage Park fountain and county facilities. He reported that next year's parade would be hosted by the Shriners, and he finished his comments by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. Chairman Oddo replied that it had been a pleasure to work with Mayor Clifton and welcomed him to future meetings.

**Dennis Benson:** Mr. Benson spoke for approximately 16 minutes about the ongoing lawsuit between the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Fayette County, and he stressed that the lawsuit should not prevail in favor of the NAACP.

**Paul Oddo:** City of Fayetteville Councilman Paul Oddo repeated Mayor Clifton's comments about the successful Christmas parade and other events. He said he was a student of history and that the "In God We Trust" motto is historical and is the national motto so he would support the effort to place the motto on the wall. He added that *E Pluribus Unum* is something that people forget since people come to the country and remain separate. Councilman Oddo reminded the Board that the Land Use Plan is not concrete and is not set in stone like the Ten Commandments so he asked the Board to reconsider helping out the family with Petition 1251-15. He closed his comments by wishing everyone Merry Christmas.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:**

**Response to Mr. Waller's Public Comments:** County Administrator Steve Rapson replied to Mr. Waller's comments saying Director of Engineer and Buildings and Grounds Carlos Christian is working on the project. He said Mr. Christian is saving the County thousands of dollars by making and submitting the plans to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). He reported that Mr. Christian has sent about thirteen plans to GDOT for review, but the plans are very dynamic and has changed dozens of times based on conversations with GDOT. He said there are particular concerns with the intersection and there have been conversations both with the Commissioners and with Mr. Waller about the intersection. He acknowledged that Mr. Waller was unhappy with the results and progress and he understood Mr. Waller's frustration, but he added that the County is on target to have the final plans for the intersection submitted to GDOT by the end of the year. He said at that point the County would be waiting on GDOT and that staff would continue to keep the Board and Mr. Waller apprised of the situation.

**Upcoming Holiday Open Houses:** County Administration Steve Rapson reminded the Board that the County would be holding Holiday Open Houses at the Public Works Building on December 11, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. and then at the Justice Center on December 16, 2015. He suggested that it would be nice for the Commissioners to go to each Holiday Open House.

**Grand Opening for the Old Jail:** County Administrator Steve Rapson informed the Board that the grand opening for the Old Jail would take place on January 8, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

**Selection Committee for the Recreation Commission:** County Administrator Steve Rapson asked the Board to appoint a Selection Committee for the Recreation Commission to fill an unexpired term on the Recreation Commission. The Board appointed Commissioner Barlow and Commissioner Rousseau to the Selection Committee.

**Selection Committee for the Transportation Committee:** County Administrator Steve Rapson reminded the Board that it approved New Business #27 and he asked for the Board to appoint a Selection Committee for the Transportation Committee. The Board appointed Chairman Oddo and Commissioner Barlow to the Selection Committee. Commissioner Brown stated that he wanted to be a part of the Transportation Committee and therefore could not be on the Selection Committee.

**Commissioner Brown Appointed to the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board:** Commissioner Brown stated he informed Commissioner Barlow that if no one else wanted to fill in the vacancy on the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board then he would be glad to take the position. The Board appointed Commissioner Brown to the vacancy on the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board.

#### **ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:**

**Notification of Executive Session:** County Attorney Dennis Davenport reported that he had one item of Real Estate Acquisition, one item of Pending Litigation, and review of the November 12, 2015 Executive Session Minutes.



## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:**

### **Commissioner Barlow:**

**Keep Christ in Christmas:** Commissioner Barlow thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He reminded everyone to keep Christ in Christmas and he stated that Christmas is all about the birth of Christ and what Christ brought to the nations.

### **Commissioner Brown:**

**Response to Mr. Gardner's Public Comments:** Commissioner Brown replied to Mr. Gardner's comments saying there are no easy decisions when it comes to rezonings and that decisions can bring divisions even among acquaintances. He said many decisions that are made, and particularly with Petition 1251-15, are not made lightly but the consequences of spot-zoning the area could have significant and negative consequences. He hoped the people would be able to find another solution but stated that Commissioners have to take the longer approach and a bigger view on these matters.

**Suggestions for the County Website:** Commissioner Brown stated he was doing research on the website and he tried to pull up the County's Policies and Procedures. He said he could not find a tab for Policies and Procedures and was only able to find them by doing a Google search. He suggested that if he could not find them then the citizens may not be able to find them. County Administrator Steve Rapson replied that the Policies and Procedures were on the web but agreed that their location could be made easier to find on the website. Commissioner Brown then stated that he tried to look up individual ordinances on the website, that he found Municode, but he could not find individual ordinances. County Attorney Dennis Davenport replied that in the past the individual ordinances were available but they were not available now since the individual ordinances were merged into the County Code when they were sent to Municode. He said there would be temporary, individual ordinances on the Municode site until those ordinances were merged into the County Code. Commissioner Brown said he could not access the body of the ordinances and could not get into certain sections of the code. Mr. Rapson added that the Policies and Procedures were under "Open Government" on the home page.

**Contribution to the Fayette County Water System:** Commissioner Brown stated that he had a tradition of sending Christmas cards to each of the County employees but last year he changed the tradition due to a financial situation. He said he had made a contribution to the Hopeful Primitive Baptist Church restoration fund so he gave the donation in the name of the employees. Commissioner Brown stated that this year he was going to make another contribution but it occurred to him that there is a lady who he is familiar with who has two small children. He said the lady could not pay her water bill so he called staff and agreed to pay her water bill. He asked the Board to recall that earlier this year the Board received a surprise pay raise from the Georgia General Assembly. He said he did not vote for the raise or ask for the raise, and so he decided to put the balance of the raise to the Water System for single mothers who are having trouble paying their water bills. He said if they could pay the money back that would be great for others down the road but he would put the money in that fund.

### **Commissioner Ognio:**

**Comments on Petition 1251-15:** Commissioner Ognio stated that it was a hard decision to deny Petition 1251-15, but he felt bound by zoning and the Land Use Plan. He added that he was not sure that rezoning the property was the property way to handle the situation. He hoped another solution could be found to help out the situation. He concluded that he was not giving up on the possibility of helping the family out.

**Merry Christmas and Be Safe:** Commissioner Ognio wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He urged everyone to be safe and aware of their surroundings, and to make sure purchases are hidden when stored in cars. He said it would help lower the crime rate when people take proper precautions.

### **Commissioner Rousseau:**

**Thoughts of Thankfulness:** Commissioner Rousseau appreciated the diversity of thought even though there may be disagreement on the subject matters being broached. He wished the Fayette community and particularly staff a safe and prosperous holiday, and he thanked his colleagues saying they would continue to work collectively for the common good.

**Chairman Oddo:**

**Reflection on the Year 2015:** Chairman Oddo took a moment to reflect on the year 2015. He thanked everyone who was present including the Commissioners and staff as well as the elected officials and citizens of Fayette County. He thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to serve as Chairman through the year 2015 saying it was a distinct honor and pleasure. Chairman Oddo thanked his family for the support they gave him saying they have been "a rock." He reminded everyone that the year had many valleys and peaks. He stated that the deepest valley was the loss of Commissioner Coston which was felt by all personally and business-wise. He said her voice would have made a difference had it not gone silent. Chairman Oddo stated that through the diversity of a split Board of Commissioners the County stayed the course and moved forward with the addition of Commissioner Rousseau to the dais. He said he did not want to dwell on the sad times but to recall that even through the many adversities wonderful achievements that were reached in the community. He stated that, like the lesson of Christmas, hope springs from despair and good can come from disappointment and he said he looked on the difficulties as learning experiences on the way to success. He concluded by wishing each one, on behalf of his family, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Real Estate, Pending Litigation, and Review of the November 12, 2015 Executive Session Minutes:** Commissioner Brown moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 10:46 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 11:35 p.m.

**Return to Official Session and Approval of the Executive Session Affidavit:** Commissioner Ognio moved to return to Official Session and for the Chairman to sign the Executive Session Affidavit. Commissioner Rousseau seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**November 12, 2015 Executive Session Minutes:** Commissioner Ognio moved to approve the November 12, 2015 Executive Session Minutes. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Ognio moved to adjourn the December 10, 2015 Board of Commissioners Meeting. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 5-0.

The December 10, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

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Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk