Minutes

Board of Commissioners
January 8, 2015
4:00 P.M.

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, met in Official Session on January 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

Commissioners Present:	Charles Oddo, Chairman Pota Coston, Vice Chair David Barlow Steve Brown Randy Ognio
Staff Present:	Steve Rapson, County Administrator Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk Tameca P. White, Chief Deputy Clerk Dennis Davenport, County Attorney

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Call to Order

County Attorney Dennis Davenport called the January 8, 2015 Board of Commissioner's meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Invocation by Commissioner Brown

Commissioner Brown offered the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Oddo led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Barlow moved to approve the Agenda as published. Commissioner Coston seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION:

1. Election of Board Chairman for the year 2015.

County Attorney Davenport opened the floor for nominations for Board Chairman for the year 2015.

Commissioner Ognio nominated Commissioner Brown for Board Chairman. Commissioner Barlow nominated Commissioner Oddo for Board Chairman. There were no other nominations.

Commissioner Ognio moved to close the nominations. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ognio moved to appoint Commissioner Brown as Board Chairman for the year 2015. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion failed 2-3 with Commissioners Oddo, Barlow, and Coston voting in opposition.

Commissioner Barlow moved to appoint Commissioner Oddo as Board Chairman for the year 2015. Commissioner Coston seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 3-2 with Commissioners Brown and Ognio voting in opposition.

County Attorney Dennis Davenport acknowledged Commissioner Oddo as the Board Chairman for 2015 and turned the meeting over to Chairman Oddo. Chairman Oddo thanked Commissioner Steve Brown for his service to Fayette County as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the year 2013 and 2014.

2. Election of the Board Vice-Chairman for the year 2015.

Chairman Oddo asked for nominations for the Board Vice-Chair for the year 2015. Commissioner Barlow moved to appoint Commissioner Pota Coston as Vice-Chair for the year 2015. Chairman Oddo seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 3-2 with Commissioners Brown and Ognio voting in opposition.

PROCLAMATION /RECOGNITION:

3. Recognition of 2010 Starr's Mill High School graduate, Brooke Fletcher, for being crowned Miss Georgia USA 2015.

The Board recognized Ms. Brooke Fletcher for being crowned Miss Georgia USA 2015. Commissioner Coston read a Certificate of Appreciation that was presented to Ms. Fletcher. A copy of the request, identified as “Attachment 1,” follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

4. Recognition of Ms. Johanna Nelson, a student of J.C. Booth Middle School, who is the winner of the 2014 Water Essay Contest.

The Board recognized Ms. Johanna Nelson as the winner of the 2014 Water Essay Contest. Ms. Nelson read her essay to the Board and the audience. Commissioner Brown thanked Ms. Nelson and read a certificate to Ms. Nelson for bringing attention to the importance of both water quality and quantity. A copy of the request, identified as “Attachment 2,” follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

PUBLIC HEARING:

There were no items for Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 5-10 as written. Commissioners Ognio and Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of authorization to sign checks combining any of the following two signatures for transactions at or above $5,000.00: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, County Administrator.

6. Approval of authorization to sign checks for transactions in the amount of $4,999.99 or less: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, County Administrator.

7. Approval of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the County Administrator to execute contracts, resolutions, agreements, and other documents approved by and on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

8. Approval of staff's request to accept a Major Repair and Renovation Grant, in the amount of $1,251.13, for a paging system at the Fayette County Library and approval of $1,344 in matching funds to be paid from the Library's 2015 operations budget for supplemental upgrades to the paging system and authorization for the County Administrator to sign required documentation associated with the grant. A copy of request, identified as "Attachment 3," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

9. Approval of a request from Fayette County's Clerk of Superior Court to amend and expand the scope of the 'Court's Technology' Fund to include revenues received from GreenCourt Legal Technologies, LLC, for the purpose of electronically filing court documents, as set forth in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Clerk of Superior Court and the Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 4," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

10. Approval of the 2015 Water Committee's Meeting Schedule.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were no items of Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

11. Appointment of the 2015 Fayette County Legislative Coordinator.

County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that he had served as Fayette County's Legislative Coordinator for the last two years, and that he was willing to remain Fayette County's Legislative Coordinator with the Board's consent.

Commissioner Ognio moved to appoint County Administrator Steve Rapson as Fayette County's Legislative Coordinator for 2015. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 5," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

12. Consideration of Resolution 2015-01: Resolution of the Fayette County Commissioners Pledge to Citizens and County Staff on Core Values and Beliefs.

Commissioner Coston provided background on Resolution 2013-01, and she recommended that the Board adopt Resolution 2015-01 renewing the Board's Core Values as pledged to the citizens. She added that the pledge had been enlarged and posted near the back wall.

Commissioner Coston moved to adopt Resolution 2015-01: Resolution of the Fayette County Commissioners Pledge to Citizens and County Staff on Core Values and Beliefs. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion.

Commissioner Brown asked that the Resolution be amended to reflect that Charles Oddo as Chairman of the Board.

Commissioner Coston moved to amend the motion to include Charles Oddo as Chairman and to recognize Steve Brown as Commissioner. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously. Copies of the request and Resolution 2015-01, identified as "Attachment 6," follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof.

13. Consideration and approval of the December 11, 2014 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Coston was not present for this meeting.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the December 11, 2014 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Terrence Williamson: Mr. Williamson thanked outgoing Chairman Steve Brown for his service and he asked incoming Chairman Charles Oddo and Vice-Chair Pota Coston to do the business of the county. Mr. Williamson asked the Board to engage the City of Peachtree City in order to obtain a reciprocal agreement pertaining to golf cart usage throughout the county. Mr. Williamson also spoke about the long-standing issue with Lake Peachtree saying that it appears that was some unspoken, gentleman's agreement that was entered into between the City of Peachtree City and Fayette County concerning the maintenance of the lake. He stated that while that type of agreement may have been fine in the past, that the way to conduct business is to enter into documented Intergovernmental Agreements. Mr. Williamson also asked the Board to reconsider its stance pertaining to District Voting. He stated there are other needs to spend money on other than the lawsuit.

Virgil Fludd: State Representative Virgil Fludd acknowledged the meeting as a particularly important meeting since, for the first time in Fayette County's history, an African-American was serving on the Board of Commissioners. He thanked the Board for its work for Fayette County, and he specifically thanked former Chairman Steve Brown for his work. Representative Fludd asked the Board to consider the visioning project that is on-going, and to consider investments in Kenwood Park since it needs additional work. Representative Fludd also asked the Board to no

longer appeal the District Voting case. He acknowledged that this was issue was a bone of contention for a number of years, and he said it had been a divisive issue. He thought it would make sense to pause and no longer appeal. He stated that the November election pointed to the fact that there is a great team of Commissioners who will work together, and he stated that Commissioner Coston would work for her constituents in District 5 and for Fayette County in an admirable way.

Tom Waller: Mr. Waller spoke about the on-going construction of the West Fayetteville Bypass. He stated that the road is unfinished while the information provided is that the County is waiting for the State to pay for the completion of the road into State Route 92. He stated that now that the County has a Legislative Coordinator, the Board should charge the Legislative Coordinator to look into when the State would do its part to complete the West Fayetteville Bypass.

Mike Coley: Mr. Coley stated that he lives in North Fayette County and that he moved to Fayette County about three years ago. He spoke about why he chose to move to Fayette County, and he stated that one reason he chose Fayette County was because of the equal way Commissioners and School Board Members were chosen. He stated that he was dismayed to learn of the changes represented by District Voting since 4/5th of his voting rights were being taken away. He stated that he went door to door during explaining all of the qualities that caused him to move to Fayette County to those in his neighborhood. He said his neighbors largely have moved in from Fulton, Clayton, and Henry Counties, and he said his neighbors all indicated to him that they came to the Fayette County since they appreciated the same quality of life that Fayette County provides. Mr. Coley said he then asked his neighbors why they wanted to change the voting structure in Fayette County and, by doing so, becoming like the counties they left. Mr. Coley said his neighbors are often silent after he asks that question. Mr. Coley stated that Fayette County is a conservative county, and he spoke about how the NAACP has become an extension of the Democratic Party that uses race to implement the Democratic Party's agenda. He thanked the County Commission for continuing to pursuit equal representation for all Fayette County's residents. He also asked the Board to rebuff any attempts to implement denser development, public transportation, or more government interference that all cost higher taxes. Mr. Coley added that when the terms "those people" only refer to the politics of the situation, namely the Democratic Party, and it does not involve race. He closed saying dividing people by race is not acceptable and does nothing but create division.

Larry Younginer: Mr. Younginer said he subscribed to the theory that change is difficult but necessary, and he said everything changes whether we like it or not. He stated he recently read an article that stated throughout the country there were 20 million more votes for Democratic Senators that were elected versus Republican Senators that were elected. He said the reason that the Republican Party has the majority is Washington is because each state elected its own senators, since senators are not elected on a national basis. Mr. Younginer stated that group elections do not work at the federal, state, or county levels. He stated that a perfect example was sitting on the Board before him since the Board now has a non-white man sitting on it. He stated that the Board has never had a non-white man serve on the Board. He indicated that now that the county has District Voting that the elections will reflect those who represent the people. He stated that there was not a need to vote for a black person just because it is the Fifth District, but rather that the people would vote for a good person because there is a Fifth District. He asked the Board not to step back.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

Update on Lake Peachtree: County Administrator Steve Rapson reported that Lake Peachtree was recently reclassified as a Category II status, and that the reclassification entailed a really good financial impact. He stated that the gentleman's agreement that was referred to was actually a fifty-year contract. He stated that is it because

there is a fifty-year contract that Fayette County is required to dreg Lake Peachtree. Mr. Rapson stated that Lake Peachtree is owned by the City of Peachtree City and that it is not a county reservoir. He said the agreement is that the county has to dredge the lake every seven to ten years. He stated that the County has already requested the Land Disturbance Permit that will give the County the ability to start dredging the dirt out of the lake. He stated that letters have also already been sent to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) since the County would have to access State Route 54 in order to dredge the lake. He stated that the submittals were on track for next week, and that the bids were opened earlier in the day for the dredging project. He stated that staff was evaluating the bids and would bring them to the January 22, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting for Board approval. Mr. Rapson reported that the spillway still has to be repaired. He said meetings will be set up with Peachtree City with the goal of repairing the spillway in parallel with dredging the lake so that Lake Peachtree could be refilled in May 2015.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport reported that he had two items of Pending Litigation, two items of Real Estate, and approval of two sets of Executive Session Minutes for discussion and review in Executive Session.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Commissioner Barlow: Commissioner Barlow thanked Commissioner Brown for his service over the years. He also welcomed Chairman Oddo for being the newly elected Chairman of the Board. He also welcomed Vice-Chair Coston to her new position on the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Brown: Commissioner Brown congratulated the new Chairman and Vice-Chair. He stated that it was an absolute privilege to serve as Chairman for the past two years, and he thanked the Board for giving him that privilege. He stated the he would still work on various issues, just not in the Chairman's capacity. Commissioner Brown stated that the District Voting lawsuit was never about Commissioner Coston, and he said he holds Commissioner Coston in the highest esteem. He stated that on a previous Board he had to fight to get Commissioner Coston on the Ethics Board. He said he reached out to Ms. Dawn Oparah who helped him find Commissioner Coston. He said there was a fight to get her on the Ethics Board. Commissioner Brown stated that now the entire Ethics Board is made up of African-American people, and that configuration is the first that has ever happened on any board, authority, or committee in Fayette County. He welcomed Commissioner Coston to the Board. Commissioner Brown asked everyone who lives in unincorporated Fayette County and who owns a golf cart to register their cart with Fayette County in the month of January. He stated if they are not registered in January then they will be in violation. Commissioner Brown stated that decals are given for the golf carts for law enforcement purposes.

Commissioner Ognio: Commissioner Ognio welcomed Commissioner Coston to the Board, and he congratulated Chairman Brown and Vice Chair Coston to their new positions on the Board. He also wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Coston: Commissioner Coston wished everyone a Happy New Year. She thanked Commissioner Brown for his service as Chairman, and she congratulated Chairman Oddo for his new position. Commissioner Coston said she looked forward to serving as Vice Chair and working with the Commissioners in order to make Fayette County the best place to live in the State of Georgia.

Chairman Oddo: Chairman Oddo thanked Commissioner Brown. He said the change was not directed toward him. He stated that Commissioner Brown does not have as much energy as the Energizer Bunny, and he did not anticipate Commissioner Brown would slow down. Chairman Oddo said he would look to Commissioner Brown for support in an effort to get things accomplished. He said there were many things he wanted to do with Commissioner Brown's help, and he again thanked Commissioner Brown for his service. Chairman Oddo congratulated Vice-Chair Coston, and he said there was a good team in the County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Pending Litigation, Real Estate, and Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner moved to recess into Executive Session. Commissioner Barlow moved to recess into Executive Session. Commissioner Coston seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. and returned to Official Session 8:48 p.m.

Executive Session Affidavit: Commissioner Ognio moved to exit Executive Session and for the Chairman to sign the Executive Session Affidavit. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the Executive Session Affidavit, identified as "Attachment 7," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

November 13, 2014 Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner Ognio moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes for November 13, 2014 Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

December 11, 2014 Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner Ognio moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes for December 11, 2014. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Ognio moved to adjourn the January 8, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

The January 8, 2015 Board of Commissioner's meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk Steve Brown, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 22nd day of January 2015.

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Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk