
2016 RETREAT ACTION AGENDA
Friday, April 22, 2016
Historic County Courthouse
200 Courthouse Square- Third Floor
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Vanessa Birrell, Environmental Management
Bernard "Buster" Brown, 911 Director
Ted Burgess, Purchasing Director
Carlos Christian, Building and Grounds Director
Phil Frieder, Information Technology Director
Anita Godbee, Parks and Recreation Director
Steve Hoffman, Roads Director
Phil Mallon, Public Works Division Director
Harold Myers, Chief Marshal
Mary Parrott, Chief Financial Officer
Lee Pope, Water System Director
Thomas Sawyer, Elections Director
David Scarbrough, Fire Chief
Rani Rathburn, Animal Control Director

STAFF PRESENT:

Lee Ann Bartlett, Senior Financial Analyst
Tom Bartlett, Deputy Fire Chief
Leslie Hancock, Stormwater Utility Technician
Bonnie Jones, Senior Financial Analyst
Bryan Keller, Environmental Engineer
Bradley Klinger, Assistant Road Director
Rob McCool, Lead Network Administrator
Deborah Sims, Environmental Management Specialist
Sheryl Weinmann, Assistant Chief Financial Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dan Gibbs, Director, Fayette Senior Services
Darryl Hicks, Chairman, Development Authority
Jason Nord, Representative, Filter Magic
Emily Poole, Vice-President, Development Authority
Carlotta Ungaro, President, Chamber of Commerce
Joan Young, President, Development Authority

Breakfast (7:30am – 8:20am) – 50 minutes

County Administrator Steve Rapson gave opening remarks at 8:01 a.m.

FY2016 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Overview/Forecast

1. Governmental Funds:

- a. General Fund
 - i. Property Tax
 - ii. LOST/TAVT/Auto
- b. E-911 Operations Fund
- c. Fire Fund
- d. EMS Fund
- e. Surcharge Funds
 - i. Jail Surcharge
 - ii. Victim's Assistance

2. Proprietary Funds/CIP:

- a. Water System Fund
- b. Solid Waste Fund
- c. Stormwater Fund

3. Internal Revenue Funds:

- a. Workers Compensation
- b. Employee insurance

4. Tax Digest/Millage Rate History

5. Capital/CIP/SPLOST Projects

Chief Financial Officer Mary Parrott and County Administrator Steve Rapson updated the Board on Fayette County's Governmental Funds by giving a high-level review of Governmental and Proprietary Funds, General Fund Revenues and Expenditures, and General Fund- Fund Balance Trends for the last five years. Updates were also provided concerning Real Property Tax Collections, Motor Vehicle and Personal Property Collections, LOST / Auto / and TAVT by Sales Month. The Board was briefed on the 911 Special Revenue Fund, the Fire Service Special Revenue Fund, and the EMS Special Revenue Fund. The Board was further briefed on the County's Jail Surcharge Fund and the Victim's Assistance Surcharge Fund. Mrs. Parrott and Mr. Rapson updated the Board on the County's Proprietary Funds, Internal Service Funds, the current Tax Digest / Millage Rates Statistics, and the County's Capital / CIP Projects. Discussion occurred throughout this briefing. The Board provided direction on these matters.

SPLOST Proposal – 30 minutes

County Administrator Steve Rapson briefed the Board on Fayette County's Proposed Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Program. He pointed out that the County's Proposal was a tentative project list that included Stormwater Projects, the 911 Radio System Project, and a Fire Burn Training Facility Project. The proposed, aggregate cost for these projects was estimated to be \$44,903,177. Mr. Rapson briefed the Board on the three projects and answered questions from the Board. The Board provided direction on these matters.

Break (10:00am – 10:20am) – 20 minutes

The Board and those in attendance took a break from 10:00 a.m. until 10:15 a.m.

Stormwater Billing Collection- Update

Environmental Management Director Vanessa Birrell introduced Environmental Management Specialist Deborah Sims and Stormwater Utility Technician Leslie Hancock who briefed the Board on Stormwater Billing Collections. Staff spoke about the measure Environmental Management has taken to bring efficiency to the billing collection and future steps to collect past due fees. The Board took no action and gave no direction on this update.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION

FCDA Overview and Abatement TIER Proposal (10:30am-11:15pm) – 45 minutes

Chainman Darryl Hicks, President Joan Young, and Vice President Emily Poole, each representing the Fayette County Development Authority, provided an overview concerning economic development, the purpose and work of the Development Authority, the financial needs of the authority, and the authority's anticipated future goals. The Fayette County Development Authority asked the Board to consider entering into a Joint Development Authority with metropolitan Atlanta counties in order to promote Fayette County's competitiveness. The Authority also asked the Board to consider a Resolution that provides an approved tax plan incentive for prospective businesses coming to Fayette County. The Authority asked the Board to consider a stabilized operating budget for its operations and recommended this goal could be achieved by entering into a five-year multi-year funding contract for five years providing the authority with a budget equal to \$4.25 per capita. The representatives also asked the Board to consider an effort to revitalize Fayette County's image by working to establish a holistic Fayette County Brand. The Board provided direction on these matters.

Lunch (11:30pm – 12:30pm) – 1 hour

The Board and all attendees took lunch from 11:39 a.m. until 12:31 p.m.

Future Consideration & Direction (12:45pm-4:00pm) – 15 minutes/per

1. Water Department Reorganization

Water System Director Lee Pope briefed the Board on the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Organizational Improvements for the Water System, and he answered questions from the Board. The Board did not provide direction on this matter.

2. Cyber Crime Update

Information Technology Director Phil Frieder updated the Board on the current challenges presented by Cyber Crime. The Board did not provide direction on this matter.

3. Address Assignment Recommendation

Fire Chief David Scarbrough briefed the Board on the need to create Address Assignment Procedures and on staff's recommendation on how to implement the initiative. He stressed that this effort was under consideration in order to improve public safety responses, and he emphasized that this effort would have to take place in coordination with the U.S. Postal Service as well as the county's municipalities. The Board provided direction on the recommendation.

4. Signature Capital Project overview

a. Links Master Plan – Training Facility

Buildings and Grounds Director Carlos Christian updated the Board on the Links Master Plan, and he explained where the various buildings and components of the site would be located. Commissioner Ognio asked staff to look into how much fencing it would take to fence the perimeter of the Sheriff's facilities including the shooting range. He stated he was concerned with safety and he suggested a fence would help enhance safety in the area. The Board also asked staff to consider selling 57.5 acres of land that is currently shown as greenspace adjacent to the neighborhoods.

b. West & East Fayette Bypass Projects

Public Works Director briefed the Board on the progress of the West and East Bypass Projects. He stated that plans for the West Fayetteville Bypass were recently provided to the Georgia Department of Transportation and the plans were returned with minor comments. He stated that the right-of-way plans have been developed and are going through an internal quality control check. He stated that once the control check is completed and once the final approval from GDOT, the Right-of-Way Acquisition Team comprised of County Attorney Dennis Davenport and Mr. Anthony Stanley would proceed with obtaining the needed right-of-way to complete the West Fayetteville Bypass. He suggested that this effort to complete the West Fayetteville Bypass was contingent on several factors, but there was anticipation that the road could be completed by December. Discussion followed on whether the county or GDOT would

pay for and be responsible for a traffic light at the intersection of the West Fayetteville Bypass and State Route 92. Commissioner Rousseau suggested that the county could lobby the local delegation in order to get the state to pay for the traffic signal, and the Board agreed with his suggestion. Mr. Mallon stated that the next steps would include relocating the utilities in the area, to acquire the right-of-way, and to put together a bid package in order to have a contractor available to do the work. Mr. Mallon also gave a brief update on the progress of the East Fayetteville Bypass while answering questions from the Board. He also spoke about challenges presented the historic Jackson House with respect to the East Fayetteville Bypass.

c. SR 74 Corridor Study Project

Public Works Director Phil Mallon briefed the Board on the State Route 74 Project. Discussion followed concerning how complicated the project was based on the City of Fairburn's allowance of fast food restaurants on State Route 74. There was other discussion about why Sandy Creek Road does not have a traffic light. The Board did not provide direction on this matter.

d. Kenwood Park Master Plan Amendment

Buildings and Grounds Director Carlos Christian briefed the Board on the Kenwood Park Master Plan Amendment for Phases 1, 2, and 3. He stated that staff was anticipating releasing bids for the Pavilion and Restroom in May and that the Board of Commissioners may expect to have the bids before them for awarding around June or July. He stated that in the meanwhile staff could begin grading the area in preparation of the pavilion and restroom.

e. Filter Control System – Zero Waste

Water System Director Lee Pope and Mr. Jason Nord, who represented Filter Magic, briefed the Board on Filter Magic's Zero2Waste (Z2W) Technology. He explained that every water plant has filters that have to be washed, however, there is no technology that tells operators when the filters need to be washed. He said that lack of technology results in filters being constantly washed wasting water, energy, and operator's time. He stated that the recommended technology would reduce the waste while increasing efficiency and the water treatment plant's capacity. He concluded that by embracing this technology the county would have a return on its investment. The Board provided direction on this matter.

5. Recreation Fee Proposal

Parks and Recreation Director Anita Godbee briefed the Board on staff's recommendation to adjust the fees at Fayette County's Parks. She showed that the current fees for pavilion reservations were \$25 per hour, \$5 each for each additional hour with a 2-hour minimum for Fayette County citizens and with a 50% surcharge for non-residents. She recommended the fees be increased to \$30 per hour with a 2-hour minimum for county residents and \$60 per hour with

a 2-hour minimum for non-residents. The Board agreed to the proposed recreational fee increase.

6. Out of County Park Access

Parks and Recreation Director Anita Godbee briefed the Board on the issues concerning out-of-county access to the county's parks, and she answered questions from the Board. The Board did not provide direction on this matter.

7. Small Cell Technology

Community Development Director Pete Frisina briefed the Board on the topic of Small Cell Technology. He concluded that there is uncertainty what legal rights companies have to locate small cell telecommunication towers in the county's right-of-way and he pointed out that the county does not have policies or guidelines to control their height, location, or distribution. County Attorney Dennis Davenport added that the small cells technically meet the requirements of cell towers, however, the Zoning Ordinance does not allow cell towers in the right-of-way. He suggested that if the Board wanted to allow this technology to be implemented in the county then it would have to change the Zoning Ordinance. The Board took no action and gave no direction on this matter.

8. Open Meetings/Records/Parliamentary Procedures Overview

County Attorney Dennis Davenport quickly briefed the Board on the nuances of the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure. He stated that the current County Code, as it relates to the Rules of Procedure, is not very easy to understand and he asked the Board if he could review the procedures and bring back recommendations at a future date. The Board agreed to consider implementing aspects of the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure.

Chairman & Commissioner Topics (4:15pm-Done) – 20 minutes/per

1. Discussion of Campaign Speeches During Public Comment (Vice-Chairman Ognio)

County Administrator Dennis Davenport asked what options are available with regard to campaign speeches during Public Comment. Commissioner Rousseau replied that the issues involved equal time and establishing a time limit. Commissioner Brown stated that, in general, most of the people are observant of the people's time and he did not want to punish the majority of the people by limiting their ability to speak at the public podium. He suggested that there could be a comment directed to the speakers to be mindful of the time and if someone was campaigning to perhaps hold their speech to no more than five minutes. Commissioner Barlow suggested that someone running for office needed to be able to tell their name and what office they are running for, but nothing else.

County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that Policy 110.11 limits political campaigns and rallies, and he suggested that the policy would have to be changed if the Board allowed for political campaigning at the public comment podium.

Mr. Davenport stated that campaigning was not allowed when his firm served as the County Attorney during the 1990s and early 2000s. He also spoke about the nuances of campaigning. He agreed with Mr. Rapson that the policy would have to be amended if campaigning is allowed.

Commissioner Barlow moved to adhere to the policy already in place meaning they are not allowed to come to the microphone at all. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Barlow amended his motion to allow candidates to introduce themselves and announce their candidacy for office but to have no other discussion. Chairman Oddo seconded the motion. Additional discussion followed.

The Board agreed to allow the County Attorney to review and revise Policy 100.11- Use of Public Buildings and Grounds and Policy 448.09- Political Activity.

The motion to allow candidates to introduce themselves and announce their candidacy for office but to have no other discussion passed 3-2 with Commissioners Brown and Rousseau voting in opposition.

2. Fayette County Public Art Committee Review (Commissioner Brown)

Commissioner Brown provided a high-level overview of Fayette County's Public Arts Committee, and he provided various examples of the types of art the committee was considering. He asked the Board members to provide any other ideas that they may have for consideration. The Board did not provide direction on this matter.

3. Mowing State Route Corridors

Commissioner Rousseau asked what was the plan for the county's "gateways," namely, State Routes 314 and 85. He explained that the grass on the State Routes are already overgrown and full of trash. County Administrator Steve Rapson replied that staff was currently reviewing the situation and that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) was entering into an agreement with their "folks to beef up what they are doing."

Road Director Steve Hoffman stated that the low-bidder for the state was contracted to cut the entire state. He did not anticipate GDOT doing much with their contractor this year and he pointed out that GDOT was already behind schedule.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that State Route 314 was unacceptable. He realized that while the county was a little hamstrung due to SR 314 being a state highway, but he pointed out that State Route 74 was well maintained on a regular basis. He stated that if the gateway to Fayette County looks like the people do not care to live in the county, then there would be little chance of attracting quality businesses. He said he had heard reasons on why the corridor could not be maintained, but he insisted that the gateways could be addressed. Extensive discussion followed.

Commissioner Rousseau moved to tell the local delegation, whoever it may be after the upcoming elections, that more emphasis needs to be placed on the regular maintenance of the state's corridors coming into Fayette County with an understanding that the corridors be cut and the trimmings be removed. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion.

Commissioner Ognio suggested that the message would be better received in the form of a resolution to the local delegation.

Commissioner Rousseau amended his motion to notify the local delegation via resolution. Commissioner Barlow seconded the amended motion.

The motion to tell the local delegation, whoever it may be after the upcoming elections, by means of a resolution, that more emphasis needs to be placed on the regular maintenance of the state's corridors coming into Fayette County with an understanding that the corridors be cut and the trimmings be removed passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business came before the Board.

Commissioner Barlow moved to adjourn the April 22 Board of Commissioners Retreat. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board adjourned the April 22, 2016 Retreat at 3:56 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk