

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Eric K. Maxwell, Chairman
Randy Ognio, Vice Chairman
Steve Brown
Charles W. Oddo
Charles D. Rousseau



FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Dennis A. Davenport, County Attorney
Tameca P. White, County Clerk
Marlena Edwards, Deputy County Clerk

140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

MINUTES

June 6, 2017

7:00 p.m.

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 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.*

****The Board of Commissioners new meeting time will change to 6:30 p.m. effective July 13, 2017.***

Call to Order

Chairman Eric Maxwell called the June 6, 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Steve Brown

Commissioner Steve Brown offered the Invocation and led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda

Commissioner Brown moved to accept the agenda as presented. Vice Chairman Randy Ognio seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION:

1. **Presentation of Government Finance Officers Association Certificates of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for Fayette County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.**

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Mary Parrott reported to the Board that the Finance Department received notification from the Government Finance Officers Association that the Finance Department had been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the twenty-fourth year in a row. She commended her staff for doing an awesome job. The department also received a perfect score from the state office as well. Assistant CFO Sheryl Weinmann accepted the award on behalf of the staff. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 1", follows these minutes and is made an official part thereof.

2. **Presentation of the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Award for Fayette County's annual budget document for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017.**

CFO Mary Parrott reported that the Finance Department also received the Distinguished Budget Award for the county's annual budget document for the twentieth year in a row. Budget Officer Sergio Acevedo and Finance Analyst Amanda Schoonover accepted the award on behalf of the staff. County Administrator Steve Rapson expressed that the finance

department was doing a great job. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 2", follows these minutes and is made an official part thereof.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- 3. First of Two Public Hearings on Fayette County's recommended annual budget for Fiscal Year 2018 which begins on July 1, 2017 and ends June 30, 2018. A copy of the request and PowerPoint presentation, identified as "Attachment 3", follows these minutes and is made an official part thereof.**

CFO Mary Parrott briefed the Board regarding the fiscal year 2018 annual budget. This was the first of two public hearings regarding the budget. She stated that the General Fund revenues included \$656,897, the 911 services was \$675,704, Fire services was \$1,538,640 and Emergency Medical was \$518,830 in fund balance. Ms. Parrott reported that the expenditure overage for Juvenile Supervision was (\$3,750) and to-date the fund balance was \$95,000 so there was ample money to cover that shortage. The Solid Waste fund also included an overage of (\$134,390) and to-date that fund balance was \$492,000 to cover that shortage. There was a recommendation of \$5,919,315 for capital projects, \$2,791,000 for the enterprise fund (Water System) and for vehicle and equipment the recommendation was \$1,501,169 included in the proposed budget.

The proposed budget included a rollback of the millage rate, three months of stabilization fund (\$12,401,233), assigned emergency fund (\$2,000,000), Stormwater advance (\$3,913,956) and unassigned fund (\$3,888,425).

County Administrator Steve Rapson presented to the Board the results from University of Georgia regarding compensation comparison for the Solicitors and State Court Judges of Clayton, Coweta, Henry and Spalding. He stated that this was one of the items that remained for the Board to decide how to proceed. The proposed increases were \$3,600 for a \$40,000 supplement; \$6,300 increase for a \$43,000 supplement and \$12,600 increase for a \$50,000 supplement. The State Court Judges' salary was 90% of the supplement for the Superior Court Judge. The supplements are paid from the Griffin Circuit total. The associated increase to the General Fund would be providing the 2.4% increase for the remaining Constitutional officers that receive supplements. Staff's recommendation was to increase all six Constitutional officers who receive supplements.

The Board made comments about the Memorandum of Understanding between the judges and the county regarding not hiring court reporters (transcriptionist). Vice Chairman Ognio pointed out that the Superior Court judges are scheduled to receive an increase from the State in January of 2018.

Vice Chairman Ognio moved to approve the 2.4% increase for all six Constitutional officers who receive supplements. Commissioner Charles Oddo seconded. Discussion followed.

Mr. Ted Toles stated that when there are loyal dedicated employees it is a good incentive for a job well done to receive an increase and it is impactful over time on how the employee performs.

Chairman Maxwell stated that the State pays the Superior Court Judge and gives the county the power to decide whether to give a supplement or not in addition to that payment. He stated that it was not required. He stated the four counties in the Judicial Circuit would have to work together to determine what should be the supplement. The proposed supplement amounts per county were determined based on a percentage of the number of cases for each county. He stated that he would prefer that the judges' supplements at least match the proposed increases for county staff. Vice Chairman Ognio reiterated that there was a proposed 2% increase from the State for the judges for the beginning of 2018.

Mr. Rapson stated that the supplement for the judges was in the Griffin Circuit fund and that the salary was paid by the State. He explained that there would be an impact to the General Fund due to the other six increases that would be impacted.

Commissioner Brown wanted to clarify two points. The first point was does an increase for the Judges mean an increase for the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Rapson stated that the State of Georgia was approving that increase and that the Board was doing nothing but receiving it by the mechanics of how the allocation is distributed.

Commissioner Brown's second point was even if the supplement was agreed upon at this meeting it would not be official until the budget was approved at the next meeting. Mr. Rapson stated that was correct.

Vice Chairman Ognio moved to approve the 2.4% increase for all six Constitutional officers who receive supplements. Commissioner Charles Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Rousseau voted in opposition noting that he was not against the motion, however he wanted to wait to see how the Board would vote regarding increases for the employees which was the primary responsibility of the Board.

The second outstanding item for consideration before the Board involved a request from Fayette FACTOR for \$7,000 to cover the increase in rent.

Commissioner Oddo recused himself from any discussion regarding this item, due to a potential conflict of interest because his family has a peculiarity interest and relationship with FACTOR and therefore he would not participate in the discussion or vote regarding Fayette FACTOR. He stated that he would participate in the discussions regarding the budget, just not specifically about Fayette FACTOR.

Ms. Parrott stated that the county had not funded FACTOR in the past and that the county had only acted as a fiscal agent to coordinate their grant. She asked the Board how they would like to move forward with the request.

Commissioner Brown stated that the county did provide space for Fayette FACTOR in years past. Mr. Rapson stated that FACTOR had space in the old Department of Drivers Services building until 2006. He stated that since that building was now vacant he suggested that FACTOR take a look at the building. FACTOR declined to use the building because of the substantial renovation cost needed to make the building feasible for their need.

The third item for consideration before the Board involved a request from Fayette Care Clinic for \$14,000 to cover the increase in rent. There was also conversation regarding a facility for the Health Department.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he recognizes that the discussions about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was a negative one because of the county's income levels. He stated that regarding public health there may be opportunities available despite the county's income level and that there should be application made for the CDBG. Commissioner Brown stated it was important to point out that the Health Department does not just see Fayette County residents and that they service Clayton and Fulton and other surrounding counties; therefore those counties income levels could be considered in favor of applying for the grant.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he recognizes that it was precarious to open the door in assisting with tax payers dollars for Fayette Care Clinic, but he knows there can be an argument made based on the services provided and because they fall under the umbrella of Fayette FACTOR and there was a reciprocal relationship with the Health Department for those who may not have adequate access to health care.

There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner Brown that he was trying to link the provisions to assist Fayette Care Clinic to a mandate. He suggested that there may be a program for Fayette Care Clinic to partner with the hospital. Commissioner Rousseau stated that he was open to exploring opportunities to assist and he would like to give the County Administrator instructions to explore some opportunities. Commissioner Brown stated that he did not see an issue with the Fayette FACTOR request because the county has assisted them in the past, but that Fayette Care Clinic he would like to have staff look into grants.

Mr. Rapson stated that he would instruct the Grant Coordinator to research grants for servicing the county needs.

Commissioner Brown moved to include the request for \$7,000 as a contribution for Fayette FACTOR and not necessarily for rent, but as a contribution for their services and that they are a state chartered organization and the county has consistency provided space for FACTOR in the past which does have a monetary value that far exceeds the \$7,000. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that he knows FACTOR shares the space with someone else and he does not know who or how this payment would benefit the "someone else". He stated that he would like to know who that is. Mr. Rapson stated that he would find out and let the Board know.

Ms. Parrott gave a budget highlight. There was no proposed property increase in the budget. Mr. Rapson stated that this was a cumulative total over the past years of \$14,000,000 that the residents did not have to pay because there had been five rollbacks. Ms. Parrott continued that a 5 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was included in the proposed budget and also some personnel changes. She pointed out that the unassigned fund was not being used to balance the budget. She stated that working together with the Constitutional officers and the departments was refreshing.

Ms. Parrott concluded the presentation by reminding the Board and audience that the second public hearing was scheduled for June 22, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Brown made a request for consideration of the Board to fund a launch boat for the rowing program due to concerns for safety on the lake. He stated that Meagan Gray was in charge of the rowing program at Lake McIntosh. He stated that he was looking at ways to assist the program with purchasing the launch boat. He stated that he had some suggestions of what funding lines the funds could come from to make it a budget neutral request. He stated that there was a safety issue with the participants using the jon boats. He stated that he had the electric motors donated. He stated that it would be approximately \$48,000 to purchase the boat. He suggested that before starting new programs such as the dog park and the equestrian park that the Board would take care of this current program first.

Commissioner Rousseau asked if there was registration fees associated with this program. Mr. Rapson explained that all recreation associations pay \$5 per resident. He stated that the county purchasing a boat to be used by the program would create some liability for the county. He stated that there was more than one reservoir and would the Board purchase one for each reservoir. He stated that the funds could be taken from the CIP Water System.

Commissioner Brown stated that there was no rowing programs at the other lakes so there would not be a need to purchase a boat for the other reservoirs. He stated that the safety issue was paramount and that the County does provide athletic fields, concession stands and other things for the other associations. He stated that safety was why the County was replacing the light poles at the fields. Mr. Rapson stated that the issue would be the liability to the county. He stated that if there was ever a safety concern with any program he would shut it down immediately as not to allow safety issues to continue.

Mr. Rapson stated that the course of action for staff would be to have the Parks and Recreation Director work with the Water System Director to speak with the Recreation Commission and to determine which policies or agreements would have to be amended.

Commissioner Oddo stated that the safety issues were not discussed when this was brought to the Board. He stated that the Board was giving the rowing club the opportunity to use the County's reservoir. He stated that there are restrictions on the reservoirs that have to be considered. He stated that the county did not get involved with the program to spend money. He stated that the rowing program needs to figure out how to do what needs to be done.

Commissioner Brown moved to another issue. He stated that he had been pinged regarding compensation issues for the staff in the past twelve years. He wanted to ensure that the following points be included in the minutes:

- The County reduced the amount of the insurance premium paid by the employees significantly. The county covers 79.4% of the insurance premiums.
- The County funded \$1,910,809 in incentive bonuses for employees.
- Job reclassifications to get staff to proper levels, prior to the recent compensation and pay study at the amount of \$55,242. This is an annual expense.
- Carl Vinson Institute certifications at \$10,800 which does not include the cost paid for hotel and travel. This is an annual expense and will grow as more staff get reclassified for the additional stipend.

He stated that when there is almost \$2,000,000 in bonuses and over \$66,000 in increases related to training incentives, significant savings to employees on insurance premiums. He stated that there was a huge gap on vehicle, equipment and technology and the Board has bridged that gap by doing what needed to be done. He stated that it had not been an all or nothing gain and the Board had done an admirable job in the mist of the trying circumstances in terms of capital improvements. He stated that a lot of people are worried about the assessments and he would like to have staff look into what Fulton County was doing about recent concerns with their assessments and to give a report to the Board. He stated that the Board had done a lot under the circumstances in the past 12 years. He stated that the Board was working to get additional staff when it could. He stated that there were gaps in 911 and the Fire Department regarding keeping employees, but that the Board was addressing that issue. He stated further stated that he had no problem with a millage rate rollback.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that Fulton County's property values have been going up and their Board had not rolled the millage rate back. He stated that some Fayette citizens would see a slight increase even though the millage rate would be rolled back.

Mr. Rapson stated that it was true that the county was paying 79% of the insurance premiums for employees. He stated that when he started working for the county in 2013 it was close to 82%. That had not changed substantially over the past five years. He stated that from an employee perspective, what had changed was that the standard deductibles had increased and the medical plan had enhancements added that included surcharges to offset the cost. He stated that the savings depended on the employee. He continued that if an employee did not use the medical coverage often then it had been a flat premium over the past four or five years. He stated that an employee who utilizes the medical coverage would have a substantial increase to medical cost over the last four to five years. He stated that the \$1,910,809 for incentive bonuses was referring to the one-time 2% increases that were given in 2014, 2015 and 2016. He stated that he agreed that this was money in the employee's pocket, but it did not change the employee's base salary. He stated that in the past 10 (ten) years employees had two 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) increases which means that the employee's base salary only adjusted by 4%. He stated that the \$1.9 million sounds like a lot, but it should be looked at in perspective to the county's budget. The \$55,242 was not a lot for a county the size of Fayette. He stated that there was still pay and classification and pay parity issues in the county and a part of that was due to a number of employees with 20 plus years of employment. He stated that there had been an increase in training and technology. He continued that was one of the reasons why the staffing was approaching the same as they were in 2006 where there were more employees than there are currently. He stated that Fayette County did not have the issues that Fulton County had. There are citizens who are upset about the assessment increase, but those citizens realize that the home could sell for the assessed amount. Citizens have an appeal process available. He stated that he was proud of the work that staff was doing. He stated that he felt a merit increase was important because the County had to keep up with the environment. He stated that the County was losing fire fighters to the City of Fayetteville because the city did not stop COLA increases and merit increases over the last four or five years when the county did. He stated that he did not think the proposal from Commissioner Brown regarding the launch boat was insurmountable but that it should be approached logically and rationally before being implemented.

Commissioner Oddo stated that he did not have a lot of people saying the Board did not do a lot for them and that they are appreciative of what had been done. He stated that when he was elected to serve, the Board "clamped down" on the Defined

Benefit Plan and it did not sit well with staff, but they accepted it. He stated that things appear to be getting better and that should be recognized.

No action was taken.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Consent Agenda as written. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

4. **Approval of staff's recommendation to award 2018 Property & Casualty Insurance coverage at \$525,055 to OneBeacon, and Sheriff's Office AD&D at \$2,035 and Commissioners' Travel Accident at \$750 to The Hartford, for a total award of \$527,840. A copy of the request identified as "Attachment 4", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.**
5. **Approval of staff's recommendation to add Canoe Club at Waterlace A3 subdivision to Fayette County's Street Light Program. A copy of the request identified as "Attachment 5", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.**
6. **Approval of the May 15, 2017 Departmental Overview Minutes.**
7. **Approval of the May 25, 2017 Budget Workshop Minutes.**
8. **Approval of the May 25, 2017 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes.**

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Maxwell announced that the Board of Commissioners approved to move the meeting time to 6:30 p.m. and that this would begin on July 13, 2017.

9. **Consideration to adopt Resolution 2017-08 to approve the revision of the schedule of the Board of Commissioners regular meetings to reflect a start time of 6:30 p.m.**

County Attorney Dennis Davenport briefed the Board that the approval of this Resolution would move the meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 2017-08 to approve the revision of the schedule of the Board of Commissioners regular meetings to reflect a start time of 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Rousseau stepped out the meeting. A copy of the request identified as "Attachment 6", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

10. **Consideration of the approval of the County Clerk's recommendation to re-adopt the 2017 County Commissioner Meeting Schedule to reflect the meeting time change to 6:30 p.m.**

This item was to re-adopt the originally approved calendar for the Board of Commissioner meeting to reflect the change of meeting time to 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve to re-adopt the 2017 County Commissioner Meeting Schedule to reflect the meeting time change to 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Rousseau stepped out the meeting. A copy of the request identified as "Attachment 7", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

11. Consideration of Ordinance 2017-09 to amend the time to set forth for notice given to the public pertaining to the hearings conducted by the Board of Commissioners for consideration alcoholic beverage permits.

Mr. Davenport stated that this was part of the code that referenced the meeting time regarding public hearings for the consideration of alcoholic beverage licenses. He stated that the document in the meeting package stated that the new meeting time would be advertised at 6:30 p.m. He stated that during the pre-agenda meeting Commissioner Oddo suggested that it should instead state that the hearings would be at the regular meeting time and place of the Board of Commissioners.

Vice Chairman Ognio moved to approve Ordinance 2017-09 to amend the time to set forth for notice given to the public pertaining to the hearings conducted by the Board of Commissioners for consideration alcoholic beverage permits with the generic meeting time. Commissioner Oddo seconded.

Commissioner Oddo asked were there any other meetings that follow the same situation. Mr. Davenport responded that the zoning code also followed the same situation and was scheduled to come before the Board at a later meeting. Vice Chairman Ognio requested that the language for those meetings also be changed to reflect the generic meeting time.

Vice Chairman Ognio moved to approve Ordinance 2017-09 to amend the time to set forth for notice given to the public pertaining to the hearings conducted by the Board of Commissioners for consideration alcoholic beverage permits with the generic meeting time. Commissioner Oddo seconded. The motion passed 5-0. A copy of the request identified as "Attachment 8", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

12. Consideration to adopt Ordinance 2017-10 to amend the terms of the remaining offices and reduce the number of members necessary to achieve a quorum of the Public Arts Committee.

Mr. Davenport briefed the Board that at the retreat the Board requested that this committee be reduced from an eleven-member committee to a seven-member committee. He stated that Table 2 of the Ordinance showed the staggering of the seats. That was accomplished by extending Donna Thompson's seat to expire 2019 instead of 2018. He stated that Mrs. Thompson agreed to serve that term. He continued that there were changes to be addressed on Table 2 that included:

1. Robert Sibaja should read Roger Sibaja.
2. Table 2 was renumbered to show 1-7.
3. Table 1 was revised to remove the word "vacant".

Commissioner Brown stated that there was an applicant that would come before the Board for a recommendation in the upcoming Board meeting to fill the one vacant seat.

Commissioner Brown moved to adopt Ordinance 2017-10 to amend the terms of the remaining offices and reduce the number of members necessary to achieve a quorum of the Public Arts Committee and to include the changes as presented. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 5-0. A copy of the request identified as "Attachment 9", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

13. Consideration of the County Attorney's recommendation to approve the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Debbie Hollis for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the amount of \$254.28.

Mr. Davenport briefed the Board that this tax refund request submitted by Debbie Hollis was related to a foreclosure proceeding that occurred in Superior Court. The foreclosure caused the tax assessor to remove an exemption, the order from the judge cause the exemption to be put back in place and it could not be done retroactively so the tax payer made the request.

Ms. Hollis was not present.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the disposition of tax refunds, as requested by Debbie Hollis for tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the amount of \$254.28. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 5-0. A copy of the request identified as "Attachment 10", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

Balloons Over Fayette: Mr. Rapson announced that the Balloons Over Fayette will be held on June 17 and that volunteers are needed to work the ticket booth and to work the parking lot.

NASA Astronaut: Monday, June 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. we will Skype with a NASA Astronaut. Library Director Chris Snell and Librarian Gina Martin are spearheading the efforts.

New Board meeting time: Reiterated that the Board of Commissioners' new meeting time is 6:30 p.m. starting July 13.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Notice of Executive Session: County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that there was one item of threatening litigation, one personnel item and for the review of the Executive Session minutes for May 25, 2017.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Vice Chairman Ognio:

Antique Truck Show: Vice Chairman Ognio stated that on June 18, 2017 it is the 8th Annual Antique Truck Show at Inman.

D-Day: June 6 was the anniversary of D-Day.

Commissioner Oddo:

D-Day: Commissioner Oddo also reminded that June 6 marked the anniversary of D-Day.

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, accommodations are available for those who are hearing impaired and in need of a wheelchair. The Board of Commissioners Agenda and written material for each item is available on-line through the County's website at www.fayettecountyga.gov. This meeting will be telecast on Comcast Cable Channel 23 and on the internet at www.livestream.com.

Fayetteville Fire Marshal: Extended condolences on behalf of the County to the family of the City of Fayetteville Fire Marshal Marty Mundok and to the City of Fayetteville.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

One item of Threatening Litigation, One Personnel item and Review of the May 25, 2017 Executive Session Minutes: Commissioner Brown moved to go into Executive Session. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 9:11 p.m. and returned to Official Session at 9:42 p.m.

Return to Official Session and Approval to Sign the Executive Session Affidavit: Vice Chairman Ognio moved to return to Official Session and for the Chairman to sign the Executive Session Affidavit. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. A copy of the Executive Session Affidavit identified as "Attachment 11", follows these minutes and is made a part thereof.

Approval of the May 25, 2017 Executive Session Minutes: Vice Chairman Ognio moved to approve the May 25, 2017 Executive Session Minutes. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn the June 6, 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Rousseau seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

The June 6, 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Tameca P. White, County Clerk

Eric K. Maxwell, 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 June 2017. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

Tameca P. White, County Clerk