



## GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 16, 2024

### Judicial Building Assembly Room

Work Session - 5:00 PM

Regular Session - 6:00 PM

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**PRESENT:** Commissioners M.L. “Bud” Owens, Chair, Kevin Cunningham, Vice-Chair, Chad Steward, Randy Abernathy, and Kurt Sutherland; County Administrator and Attorney Jim Ledbetter, County Clerk Hollis Barton, Executive Assistant Keith King; Sue Henson, Kirstin Reece, Doug Ralston, Heath Derryberry, Steve Parris, Blake Silvers, Brandi Owzczarz

#### WORK SESSION

Mr. Ledbetter gave an overview of the agenda. Animal Control Director Sue Henson and Kirstin Reece addressed the Commission regarding the Animal Control website and Facebook page updates. Mr. Ledbetter and Greg Hasty then addressed the Commission regarding potential Fire Code amendments for highly hazardous materials.

#### REGULAR SESSION

- I. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** - Commissioner Abernathy and Commissioner Sutherland
- II. **Call To Order** - Chair Owens called the meeting to order.
- III. **Approval of the Agenda** - Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of item I under New Business, seconded by Vice-Chair Cunningham. The motion carried 5-0.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** - Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy. The motion carried 5-0.
  - A. **Adopt minutes of Work, Executive, and Regular Session of December 19, 2023**
- V. **Special Recognition** - Commissioner Steward read the names of the employees and years of service; Chair Owens drew Zevan Gilbert as the recipient of the additional Vacation day.
  - A. **January Employees Years of Service**
    1. Michael Lackey, *Code Enforcement*, 7 years
    2. Hollis Barton, *County Clerk*, 1 year
    3. Jaylen Lay, *District Attorney's Office*, 2 years

4. Angela Gillman, *E911*, 24 years
5. Gary Dobson, *E911*, 14 years
6. Zevan Gilbert, *Fire & Rescue*, 23 years
7. Matthew Lessis, *Fire & Rescue*, 3 years
8. David Jared Smith, *Fire & Rescue*, 3 years
9. Louis Bingiel, *Fire & Rescue*, 1 year
10. James Dalton, *Fire & Rescue*, 1 year
11. Trevor Henderson, *Fire & Rescue*, 1 year
12. Atticus Peppers, *Fire & Rescue*, 1 year
13. David Gibson, *Human Resources*, 35 years
14. Don Holley, *Human Resources*, 12 years
15. Andy Humphrys, *IT*, 4 years
16. Karen Marroquin, *Juvenile Court*, 1 year
17. Erin Prine, *Magistrate Court*, 7 years
18. Sonya Edwards, *Probate Court*, 19 years
19. Loyd Gibbs, *Public Works*, 1 year
20. Craig Sparks, *Parks and Recreation*, 11 years
21. William Kuhlman, *Sheriff's Office*, 26 years
22. Tera Wilson, *Sheriff's Office*, 23 years
23. Tracy Manis, *Sheriff's Office*, 18 years
24. Robert Paris, *Sheriff's Office*, 15 years
25. Pat Bedford, *Sheriff's Office*, 15 years
26. Corey Childers, *Sheriff's Office*, 11 years
27. Theresa Swaim, *Sheriff's Office*, 7 years
28. Garrett Saylor, *Sheriff's Office*, 4 years
29. Wilson Giorgione, *Sheriff's Office*, 1 year
30. Benjamin Bray, *Sheriff's Office*, 1 year
31. Ann Payne, *Tax Commissioner's Office*, 47 years

## **VI. Administrator's Report**

Mr. Ledbetter presented the report to the Commission.

## **VII. Commissioner's Report**

### **A. Vice-Chair Cunningham**

Stated no report, outside of a planning meeting held with Administration.

### **B. Commissioner Steward**

Stated he had no report, and was not able to attend the most recent Resaca Council meeting.

### C. Chair Owens

Chair Owens stated he hoped everyone in attendance had a good holiday season and thanked everyone for coming. Stated he had several phone calls regarding some input and questions; attending the weekly ACCG policy council meetings for the purpose of staying up to date with the current Legislative Session with County Commissioners across the state and gave updates from it. Stated he had the opportunity to attend another County Commission meeting in state as well as a pre-session meeting with Senators at the Capitol on the fourth of this month. Stated for upcoming , the Leadership Calhoun-Gordon County was this upcoming weekend for their new Leadership class, which had several Gordon County participants this year; Northwest Georgia Regional Commission meeting would be held on the 18th in Rome as well as the Council of Chief Elected Officers; Development Authority will be meeting on the 23rd; and Regional EMS Council will be meeting the 25th.

### D. Commissioner Abernathy

Stated he spoke with Parks and Recreation Director Craig Sparks and gave him an update on the department and upcoming events; also spoke with Senior Center Director Ann Bradford.

### E. Commissioner Sutherland

Stated outside of a few phone calls regarding various roads and that he did hear some good news on the County assisting with paving the Gordon Central High School parking lot.

## VIII. Public Hearing

Mr. Ledbetter gave an overview of the procedures of the Public Hearing. Chair Owens then asked for a motion to enter into Public Hearing. Vice-Chair Cunningham made a motion to enter into Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Sutherland. The motion carried 5-0.

- A. Application Z23-40 requesting rezoning from Agricultural (A-1) to Low Density Residential (R-1) located at 3068 Boone Ford Rd SE, Calhoun, 30701; Gordon County Tax Parcel 077-084A. The Planning Staff recommended approval with stipulations it meets all Environmental Health requirements regarding a septic system. The Planning Commission voted 5-0 to approve. - Mr. Ledbetter presented the item to the Commission. Mr. Ledbetter asked the applicant if he would like to speak.**

**Ronald Townsend, 3056 Boone Ford Rd, Calhoun:** Mr. Townsend gave the Commission an overview of the history of the property and their involvement and intentions, and that he was available for any questions.

Seeing no one to speak in favor or opposition, Chair Owens asked for a motion. Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy. The motion carried 5-0.

- B. Application Z23-41 requesting rezoning from Agricultural (A-1) to Residential Agricultural (RA-1) located at Russell Hill Rd NW, Sugar Valley, 30746; Gordon County Tax Parcel 020-001 (Split). The Planning Staff recommended approval with stipulations it meets all Environmental Health requirements. The Planning Commission voted 5-0 to approve. - Mr. Ledbetter presented the item to the Commission. Mr. Ledbetter then asked the applicant if they would like to speak.**

**Adam Brush, 31 Rosebrook Circle, White:** Mr. Brush introduced himself. Mr. Ledbetter then stated there was a 6.49 acre tract and that it looked like Mr. Brush was seeking to subdivide it into two (2) tracts. Mr. Brush stated that was correct. Mr. Ledbetter then asked Mr. Brush if he had obtained any further evaluations on the soil or setbacks through septic. Mr. Brush stated that it had just come in as he was on his way to the meeting, and that he had a level-3 soil test for each lot, and that they are each Class A. Mr. Ledbetter stated he had no further questions.

Seeing no one to speak in favor or opposition, Chair Owens called for a motion. Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy. The motion carried 5-0.

Chair Owens then asked for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Commissioner Steward made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing, seconded by Vice-Chair Cunningha. The motion carried 5-0.

## **IX. Unfinished Business**

### **X. New Business**

- A. Commission Committee Appointments** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Vice-Chair Cunningham made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Sutherland. The motion carried 5-0.

#### **1. Chair Owens**

- a) Public Safety Committee
- b) Development Authority
- c) Gordon-Floyd Development Authority
- d) Public Facilities Authority
- e) Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
- f) Region I Emergency Medical Services Council
- g) Council of Elected Chiefs

**2. Vice-Chair Cunningham**

- a) General Administration Committee
- b) Public Safety Committee, *Alternate*
- c) Historical Society

**3. Commissioner Steward**

- a) General Administration Committee, *Alternate*
- b) Board of Health

**4. Commissioner Abernathy**

- a) Quality of Life Committee
- b) Public Works and Facilities Committee, *Alternate*
- c) Highland Rivers Advisory Board

**5. Commissioner Sutherland**

- a) Public Works Committee
- b) Quality of Life Committee, *Alternate*

**B. Consideration to adopt Resolution establishing Qualifying Fees for each County office to be filled in the upcoming general primary, nonpartisan election, or general election.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Sutherland. The motion carried 5-0.

**C. Consideration to adopt Resolution extending Moratorium regarding Highly Hazardous materials for a period of sixty (60) days.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Vice-Chair Cunningham made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy. The motion carried 5-0.

**D. Consider request from County Clerk to approve Change of Ownership for Malt Beverage, Wine, and Liquor License for package beer to Yarab Investment Inc. dba Citgo Food Mart (1020) located at 788 Belwood Road, Calhoun, Georgia. The application has been paid in full and approved by the necessary parties.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Sutherland. The motion carried 4-1, with Vice-Chair Cunningham being the nay vote.

**E. Consideration of request from the Sheriff's Office to deem certain items as surplus.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chair Cunningham. The motion carried 5-0.

**F. Consider request from Buildings and Grounds to approve construction agreement with Georgia Power for the Evidence Building.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chair Cunningham. The motion carried 5-0.

**G. Consider request from Emergency Management to approve Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Vice-Chair Cunningham made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Steward. The motion carried 5-0.

**H. Consider request from Public Works to approve 2024 - 2025 LMIG Paving List.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission. Mr. Ledbetter stated this. Vice-Chair Cunningham made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Steward. The motion carried 5-0.

**I. Consider appointment for a one-year term to the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission. This term will begin immediately and will expire December 31, 2024.** - Chair Owens presented the item to the Commission, with a recommendation to appoint Bo Nicholson. Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to appoint Mr. Nicholson, seconded by Commissioner Steward. The motion carried 5-0.

**XI. Public Participation**

**XII. Adjourn**

Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Steward. The motion carried 5-0.