

**COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021
9:30 O'CLOCK A.M.
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM**

Coffee County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at 9:30 o'clock a.m. with the following present: Chairman Oscar Paulk, Commissioners Jimmy Kitchens, Ted O'Steen and Johnny Wayne Jowers. Also, present were County Attorney Tony Rowell, County Administrator Wesley Vickers, and County Clerk Tracie Vickers. Vice-Chairman AJ Dovers was absent. Also, present were Agency Directors/Department Heads, the media, and members of the public.

Chairman Paulk called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Chairman Paulk asked County Attorney Tony Rowell to give the invocation. Everyone participated in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The Commission recognized Mr. Veoliver Curry, a GFL employee, for the great job he does on his daily route with GFL. He exemplifies excellent customer service, and the Commission appreciates his hard work.

Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the pre-meeting work session and the regular meeting held on June 7, 2021, and the Executive Session held on June 7, 2021. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve Board Appointments expiring June 30, 2021. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion for the following appointments:

Library Board – Amanda Wildes – 7-1-2021 to 6-30-2024
Unison Behavioral Health - Shane Edmisten – 7-1-2021 to 6-30-2024
Planning and Zoning- Tim Thomason – 7-1-2021 to 6-30-2025
Tax Assessors Board – Post #2 – Charles Cross – 7-1-2021 to 6-30-2025
Tax Assessors Board – Post #4 – William Greene – 7-1-2021 to 6-30-2025
GA Forestry Board – Stan Carver -7-1-2021 to 6-30-2026
Southeast Georgia EMS – Morris Smith, Jr. – 7-1-2021 to 6-30-2024

The Concerted Services Board appointment and the Economic Development Authority Board appointment will be made at the August meeting.

Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously approved.

County Administrator Wesley Vickers discussed the proposed City of Douglas Enterprise Zone. Mr. Vickers stated the County would be able to approve tax abatements, when necessary, according to employment and investment to infrastructure. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve or reject the Resolution authorizing the City of Douglas to designate a portion of the City of Douglas as an Enterprise Zone. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the City of Douglas request to designate a portion of the City of Douglas as an Enterprise Zone. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated the annual GIS agreement with Southern Georgia Regional Commission is for addressing and mapping for the E-911 center. This contract is for \$2,000.00 annually. This is ready for approval today. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve or reject the GIS agreement between Coffee County and Southern Georgia Regional Commission for the period beginning July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve the agreement for GIS services. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated the Indigent Defense contract for Juvenile Court was discussed in the pre-meeting work session. The County has received a letter from Judge Ross recommending this contract be extended with Attorney Chad White. He has been doing this work for several years. This contract is from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve or reject the agreement for Indigent Defense Representation in Juvenile Court for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated that Mr. Bryan Rumker has been providing Indigent Defense Services for State Court for several years. This agreement is ready for approval today. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve or reject the agreement for Indigent Defense Representation in State Court for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Wesley Vickers stated that Mr. Stanley Evans has made application for a Road Closure for Trooper Lane. Mr. Vickers stated letters have been sent to property owners and proper notices have been given. This is proper for a public hearing today. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to enter into a public hearing. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to enter a public hearing. Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed. Mr. Stanley Evans, 320 Trooper Lane, stated this road serves his family, Stanley Burke Lott and the Mike Thomas family. Mr. Evans asked to make this approval today contingent upon the Evan's family obtaining ownership of the road from other stated landowners. Mr. Evans plans to acquire 20 feet of road from both of those families and understands the Evans family would be responsible for road maintenance. Attorney Rowell clarified that Mr. Evans is requesting to approve the road closure subject to the availability of the necessary right of way deeds and that it would not be effective until such time as this information is made available to the County for our records. Mr. Evans affirmed that. Attorney Rowell stated he recommends that the vote today would need to be stated when those documents are provided in the final meeting, then the Commission would vote to approve then ratify. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve or reject the Resolution for Road Abandonment for Trooper Lane beginning at its intersection with Lott Road for Approximately 1645 feet until its dead-end contingent upon the final deeds being conveyed and bringing the deeds back to the County. Commissioner O'Steen made the motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated the County has been awarded \$1,978,164.00 for the CDBG-MIT grant for Riverbend Road. The approval of this agreement between the Department of Community Affairs and Coffee County is necessary to initiate the grant process. The motion today needs to approve for the Chairman to sign all documents for this grant. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve the CDBG-MTIGATION Grant Agreement between Department of Community Affairs and Coffee County. Commissioner Jowers made the motion to approve the agreement and give the Chairman authorization to sign all necessary documents related to this grant. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated that Mr. Charles "Chuck" Jones presently operates the Alapaha Animal Control for the County and the City of Douglas. This contract would be for animal control service in the unincorporated areas of the County. This service would be for Monday through Friday, except for animal bite cases or emergencies. This contract would be through June 30, 2022. Mr. Jones will provide the vehicle. This contract is for \$40,000.00 annually. This contract is ready for approval today. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve or reject the Animal Control Agreement with Chuck Jones D/B/A Alapaha Animal Control. Commissioner O'Steen made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated this is a non-binding agreement Memorandum of Understanding for the Coffee Aviation Initiative. Mr. Vickers stated this partnership would be good for the Community. This would be a partnership between the City of Douglas, EDA, South Georgia State College, Wiregrass Technical College, and the Board of Education. This is ready for approval today. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve the non-binding Memorandum of Understanding for the Coffee Aviation Initiative. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Wesley Vickers reviewed the mid-year budget amendments. Mr. Vickers stated there is a \$442,000.00 increase to the General Fund expenditures and the General Fund revenues by \$442,000.00. Most of the increase is due to recently made pay raises for all employees. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve or reject mid -year General Fund budget amendments. Commissioner O'Steen made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman Paulk asked for any comments from the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:57 a.m. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Clerk

Chairman