



**BALDWIN COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING**

**May 21, 2024
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Henry Craig
Emily Davis
Sammy Hall

OTHERS PRESENT

Carlos Tobar
Brandon Palmer
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Westmoreland called May 21, 2024 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was delivered by Commissioner Sammy Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Kendrick Butts. Commissioner Henry Craig reminded everyone of Memorial Day and asked all to remember those who served.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2024 Work Session, May 7, 2024 Regular Meeting, and May 7, 2024 Executive Session. Vice Chairman Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Alcoholic Beverage License

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented an alcoholic beverage license for retail beer and/or wine by the drink for Wings, Rings and Things located at 3015 North Columbia Street. He stated legal requirements have been met for the application process.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the alcoholic beverage license as presented for Wings, Rings and Things. Vice Chairman Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rural Housing Initiative

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to reject all proposals that have been submitted and to allow amendments to be made with proposals be resubmitted no later than June 7th, with a Called Meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, June 10, 2024. Commissioner

Henry Craig seconded the motion. Commissioner Emily Davis said that 9:00 a.m. is not a good time for people to be able to attend if they work. She suggested the Called Meeting be held on June 10, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Sammy Hall amended his motion to state that a Called Meeting would be held June 10, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Henry Craig accepted the amendment.

Chairman John Westmoreland called for a vote on the motion and it passed unanimously.

Authorization for Submission of a Department of Energy Grant Application

County Manager Carlos Tobar reported staff has requested that Georgia Power prepare a proposal for budgeting purposes for sports lighting at the baseball/softball fields at Walter B. Williams Park, and the proposal is attached to the County Manager's summary. He stated staff was made aware that the minimum grant request is \$900,000; therefore, staff will update the budget amount and energy savings to reflect an additional 19 poles at the baseball/softball fields at the old soccer field. Mr. Tobar reported the grant, if awarded, will fund 95% of the project with a required County match of \$45,000. He stated 18 million dollars are available nationwide with approximately 20 projects to be funded which means competition will be very tough.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to authorize submission of the Department of Energy Grant Application for lighting at Walter B. Williams Park. Vice Chairman Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ratification of Dyer Construction Contract for Aquatic Center

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented the Dyer Construction Contract for the Aquatic Center for Board ratification.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to approve contract with Dyer Construction for the Aquatic Center as presented. Vice Chairman Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the contract is on file in the Commissioners' Office.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the Board.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Tobar reported he had submitted a County Manager's report to the Board prior to tonight's meeting. He highlighted a few pending projects including numbering at the Courthouse still not complete; award of \$500,000 for the CHIP grant; pending FHA contract for the Oconee Heights project; continuing to work on getting generators; completion of the Urban Redevelopment Plan which is now available online; public hearing to be held on URP in June.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Edwin Atkins, 939 Walnut Street, Macon, addressed the Board regarding the site for the Aquatic Center. He asked if the contract with Dyer Construction for the project included requirements set forth by DNR for architectural discovery.

Ms. Alice West, 151 Coombs Avenue, Milledgeville, addressed the Board requesting information on the start date for the Oconee Heights project. She stated she put in an application for rehab assistance on her house and was told she made too much money. She asked what the amount was to qualify.

Mr. Tony Anderson, 123 McKinley Street, Milledgeville, addressed the Board regarding start date of the Oconee Heights project.

Mr. James Dean, 2439 Reeves Circle, Milledgeville, addressed the Board to express his opposition to the proposed housing development off Dunlap Road.

Mr. Vernon Miller, Sr., 2361 Hurt Street, Milledgeville, addressed the Board expressing his concern for increased traffic if the housing development is done at the proposed site. He stated the traffic is terrible on Dunlap Road already, and the proposed development will only make this problem worse. He asked that the entrance and exit not be off Dunlap if the project is done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:36 p.m. to discuss litigation and personnel. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to reopen the Regular Meeting at 7:23 p.m. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to amend the Agenda to add the adoption of a settlement agreement with DBHDD and Commissioner Kevin Tanner. Vice Chairman Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE / FISCAL MATTERS

Mutual Settlement Agreement and Fire Station Rental Agreement

Commissioner Henry Craig stated the County had filed a lawsuit to enforce an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State to receive payments for fire protection services to the Central State Hospital. Commissioner Craig made a motion to approve the Mutual Settlement Agreement and Fire Station Rental Agreement as presented. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Mutual Settlement Agreement and the Fire Station Rental Agreement is on file in the Commissioners' Office.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to direct County staff to earmark settlement funds for fire protection and emergency response purposes. Vice Chairman Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Commissioner Sammy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


John H. Westmoreland
Chairman


Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk