

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
VOTING SESSION MINUTES – NOVEMBER 5, 2020
DAWSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM
25 JUSTICE WAY, DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA 30534
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 4:00 PM WORK SESSION**

ROLL CALL: Those present were Chairman Billy Thurmond; Commissioner Sharon Fausett, District 1; Commissioner Chris Gaines, District 2; Commissioner Tim Satterfield, District 3; Commissioner Julie Hughes Nix, District 4; County Manager David Headley; County Attorney Angela Davis; County Clerk Kristen Cloud; and interested citizens of Dawson County.

Chairman Thurmond announced that a scheduled opening presentation would occur later during the meeting.

INVOCATION: Chairman Thurmond

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Thurmond

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Thurmond announced that county offices would be closed November 11, 2020, in observance of Veterans Day.

Commissioner Gaines thanked county departments, including Public Works, the Sheriff's Office and Emergency Services, that worked to clean and clear roads following the recent storm that resulted from Hurricane Zeta.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Work Session held on October 15, 2020. Nix/Satterfield

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Voting Session held on October 15, 2020. Fausett/Gaines

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the agenda with the following change:

- Addition of No. 3 under New Business:
 - FY 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant

Gaines/Satterfield

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

PUBLIC HEARING:

Abandonment of Edna Noblin Road (1st of 1 hearing)

Chairman Thurmond recused himself from the public hearing and turned the public hearing over to Vice Chairman Gaines.

Public Works Director David McKee provided a brief history of Edna Noblin Road and said there are several property owners on both sides of the road. McKee said the area has become a “dumping ground” over the past several years. There is a ride-in ride-out access point off of Highway 400, said McKee, adding that the county was approached several weeks ago about gating the road to stop the “ability for folks to go down there and dump trash.” McKee said the county cannot gate a public road. “The process to allow that would be to abandon it, and then the private property owners could gate the road to prevent the public from going back there to dump,” he said. McKee added, “Essentially, if the board does elect to abandon this road following the hearing from the public, the right of way would stay essentially as a private right of way but an ingress/egress so that all parties there, if they wanted to sell back 5 or 6 acres of the 14 acres on the north side of that road, they could do so and their legal access would be there so this would not landlock any portion of that property.” McKee said if the road is abandoned and gated, Public Works would clean the trash and debris that currently is there.

Vice Chairman Gaines opened the hearing by asking if there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the Abandonment of Edna Noblin Road.

The following spoke on the Abandonment of Edna Noblin Road:

- Roy Roberts said he was attending the meeting with his brothers, Jim and Bob. “We own five lots on the north side of Edna Noblin. We are particularly concerned about the change in character of the road because, while we have it for sale as a whole, we also have it for sale as lots.” Roberts expressed concern about the abandonment process and the potential for being left with landlocked lots. Roberts said he is not happy about the dumping or the prospect of building gates to “protect the road from criminal activity.” He added, “At this point in time, we would thoroughly object to the abandonment of the road.”
- David Gee said he has lived on Henry Grady Highway since 1978. He provided a history of the road. Gee said, “All we’re asking is that we can put a gate up there to try to curb the activity ... We’re not trying to get it where [Roy Roberts] cannot access his property or do anything detrimental to his property.” Gee said he has taken steps to curtail the illegal activity and “foolishness,” but these steps have been unsuccessful.

Vice Chairman Gaines asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak on the Abandonment of Edna Noblin Road and, hearing none, closed the hearing.

Motion passed 4-0 to table the Abandonment of Edna Noblin Road. Fausett/Nix

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ZA 20-14 - Miles, Hansford & Tallant requests to rezone TMP 115-001 from RA (Residential Agriculture) to CIR (Commercial Industrial Restricted) for the purpose of constructing an office space with a warehouse (Carlisle Road). (Tabled from the October 15, 2020, Voting Session, at which time a public hearing was held.)

Planning & Development Zoning Specialist Harmony Gee said the applicant intends to develop an office warehouse space approximately 94,000 square feet in size. She said the western portion of the property is zoned CIR, which allows the proposed use.

Ethan Underwood of Miles, Hansford & Tallant said LiteFighter is a veteran-owned business that serves veterans. “This is a perfect location,” said Underwood. “They’re excited about the positive business climate in Dawson County.” The proposal is for office warehouses, he said. “We heard from one neighbor to the east of us and they said they just wanted to make sure that their buffer is going to be preserved,” he added. “We presented that to the Planning Commission and they asked for a condition for a 35-foot undisturbed buffer on the east side. We agreed to that...” Underwood read aloud the following stipulations from the Planning Commission: a 50-foot rear setback and a 35-foot undisturbed buffer along the eastern boundary.

Peter Burkes, chief financial officer of LiteFighter Systems in Roswell, Georgia, said LiteFighter is a service-disabled veteran-owned small business. He said Jonathan Turner, LiteFighter’s director of business development, also was present. “We’re a company that essentially sells to the U.S. Army, we sell to the National Guard, we sell to the Marine Corps and the Air Force, and anything to support our troops, and we also have commercial sales.” Burkes said the company would employ about 20 people at the onset with a goal to employ about 50 additional people in Dawson County.

Motion passed 4-0 to approve ZA 20-14. Nix/Gaines

OPENING PRESENTATION:

Proclamation Recognizing Dr. Larry Anderson

Chairman Thurmond read aloud a Proclamation Recognizing Dr. Larry Anderson.

Motion passed 4-0 to approve a Proclamation Recognizing Dr. Larry Anderson. Gaines/Satterfield

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration of Special Event Business License Application - Because Coffee Event

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Special Event Business License Application – Because Coffee Event. Gaines/Fausett

Consideration of Board Appointment:

- *Planning Commission (District 1 Alternate)*
 - *Seth Stowers- appointment (January 2021 through December 2021)*

Motion passed 4-0 to appoint Seth Stowers to the Planning Commission as the District 1 Alternate for a term of January 2021 through December 2021. Fausett/Satterfield

Consideration of FY 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the FY 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant. Satterfield/Gaines

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion passed 4-0 to enter into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Satterfield/Gaines

Motion passed 4-0 to come out of Executive Session. Nix/Fausett

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Billy Thurmond, Chairman

Kristen Cloud, County Clerk