

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
VOTING SESSION MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 5, 2019  
DAWSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM  
25 JUSTICE WAY, DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA 30534  
6:00 PM**

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**ROLL CALL:** Those present were Chairman Thurmond; Commissioner Fausett, District 1; Commissioner Gaines, District 2; Commissioner Satterfield, District 3; Commissioner Nix, District 4; County Manager Headley; Interim County Attorney Davis; County Clerk Cloud; and interested citizens of Dawson County.

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

**INVOCATION:** Chairman Thurmond

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Thurmond

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Commissioner Gaines announced that this year's Shore Sweep would begin at 8 a.m. September 14, 2019, at War Hill Park and invited the public to participate.

Chairman Thurmond announced that a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Fire Station 8 would be held September 17, 2019, and invited the public to attend.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Work Session held on August 15, 2019. Satterfield/Gaines

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Voting Session held on August 15, 2019. Nix/Fausett

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting held on August 22, 2019. Fausett/Gaines

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

- Addition of No. 7 under New Business:
  - Association County Commissioners of Georgia 2019 Legislative Leadership Conference Voting Delegate

Gaines/Fausett

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ZONING:**

Chairman Thurmond announced that if anyone had contributed more than \$250 to the

commissioners or chairman in the past two years and wished to speak they would have to fill out a disclosure form, which would be made available to them. Under normal program, 10 minutes will be given to those who wish to speak in favor of or opposition to with some redirect, time permitting.

ZA 19-11 – Chestatee LLC requests to rezone TMP 104-063 from RSR (Residential Sub-Rural) to RA (Residential Agriculture).

Planning & Development Director Jameson Kinley said the applicant wishes to rezone 34.76 acres of a 49.72-acre tract in order to come into compliance and continue to operate a seasonal corn maze as has been done for the past 17 years. Kinley said the Planning Commission recommends approval of the application.

Applicant Fred Stowers, owner of the property, thanked the Board of Commissioners and the Planning Commission for giving him the “opportunity and method to regularize this according to the different interpretations given during the past few months.” Stowers said criminal activity has been “lodged against the property” within the past few weeks and “one way to try to minimize future activity is to put sunlight on it...” He said the Gober family is trying to operate Papa Pat’s Corn Maze on the property and has “been subject to at least three known acts of vandalism,” one of which he said involved the spraying of a “controlled chemical to try to kill most of the corn.” Stowers said he hopes the community continues to support the project and help the Gober family operate a “good local business.”

Chairman Thurmond opened the hearing by asking if there was anyone present who wished to speak either for or against the application and, hearing none, closed the hearing.

Motion passed 4-0 to approve ZA 19-11. Fausett/Satterfield

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Land Use Resolution Fee Schedule Update (2nd of 2 hearings; 1st hearing was held at the Dawson County Planning Commission Meeting on August 20, 2019)

Planning & Development Director Jameson Kinley said the last update to the county’s building permit fees occurred in 2001. He presented the board with two options: the first to increase the fees “quite a bit” and the second to increase the fees “even more.” Kinley said the goal for the update is to come more in line with the fees of surrounding counties.

Chairman Thurmond opened the hearing by asking if there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the Land Use Resolution Fee Schedule Update.

The following spoke on the Land Use Resolution Fee Schedule Update:

- Christie Moore, Dawsonville, Georgia - spoke on behalf of the Dawson County Chamber of Commerce. Moore thanked Planning & Development department staff for reaching out to the “people it impacts the most.” She said she understands the need for the fee increase and that the proposed fees seem reasonable. Moore requested the board consider that the majority of the revenue from the new fee structure, if approved, be invested in the Planning & Development department, particularly in the areas of code enforcement and planning.

Chairman Thurmond asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak on the Land Use Resolution Fee Schedule Update and, hearing none, closed the hearing.

Motion passed 4-0 to table the Land Use Resolution Fee Schedule Update until the September 19, 2019, Voting Session. Gaines/Fausett

Fire Prevention / Protection Ordinance (1st of 1 hearing)

Emergency Services Director Danny Thompson said that it was “determined through legal that we actually had an ordinance that needed to come back before you all – had some basic revisions but really, because of just a technicality and an oversight by a previous board, we somewhat repealed our own ordinance.” Thompson said there are many “moving parts” to the ordinance and “many players” involved, including Public Works, Planning & Development, the Fire Marshal’s Office and Etowah Water & Sewer Authority.

Chairman Thurmond opened the hearing by asking if there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the Fire Prevention / Protection Ordinance and, hearing none, closed the hearing.

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Fire Prevention / Protection Ordinance. Satterfield/Nix

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Consideration of Resolution to Adopt Fire and Emergency Services Fee Schedule

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Fire and Emergency Services Fee Schedule. Nix/Satterfield

Consideration to Move Forward with a Public Hearing for Proposed County Vape Shop Ordinance

Motion passed 4-0 to approve to Move Forward with a Public Hearing for the Proposed County Vape Shop Ordinance. Fausett/Satterfield

Consideration of Coroner's Office Request for Fee Adjustment

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Coroner's Office Request for a Fee Adjustment – increasing the pickup fee from \$100 to \$125 and the crime lab fee from \$160 to \$200; the morgue fee will remain \$100. Nix/Fausett

Consideration of Application for Parade and Assembly - Bootlegger Triathlon

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the Application for Parade and Assembly - Bootlegger Triathlon. Satterfield/Gaines

Consideration of Special Event Business License Application - Fausett Farms

Motion passed 3-0 to approve the Special Event Business License Application - Fausett Farms. Satterfield/Gaines- Commissioner Fausett abstained

Consideration of 2020 Holiday and Payroll Calendar

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the 2020 Holiday and Payroll Calendar. Nix/Gaines

Consideration of Association County Commissioners of Georgia 2019 Legislative Leadership Conference Voting Delegate

Motion passed 4-0 to approve the appointment of District 3 Commissioner Tim Satterfield as the Association County Commissioners of Georgia 2019 Legislative Leadership Conference Voting Delegate. Gaines/Fausett

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

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Billy Thurmond, Chairman

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Kristen Cloud, County Clerk