EFFINGHAM CO. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2024

The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. Wesley Corbitt, Mr. Forrest Floyd, Mr. Roger Burdette, Mr. Jamie Deloach, and Mr. Phil Kieffer met in a Work Session at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 in the Commissioners Meeting Chambers at the Effingham County Administrative Complex located at 804 South Laurel Street Springfield, Georgia 31329.

STAFF PARTICIPATION

Mr. Tim Callanan – County Manager, Ms. Stephanie Johnson – County Clerk, Ms. Tasheena Shiggs – Deputy County Clerk, Mr. Steve Candler – Development Services Director, Mrs. Sarah Mausolf – HR & Risk Management Director, Ms. Alison Bruton – Procurement and Capital Projects Manager, and Ms. Maraya Durham – IT Specialist, Mr. Ashley Kessler – Building Official, Ms. Kimberly Barlett – Planner I and Ms. Samantha Easton – Planner II.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Edwin Terella and David McPherson.

I- CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Corbitt called the session to order at 4:03pm

II – WORK SESSION

1. **Discussion of Part II - Official Code, Appendix C - Zoning Ordinance, Article VI, 6.2 Yards of the Effingham County Code of Ordinances**
2. **Discussion of Part II - Official Code, Chapter 14 - Buildings and Building Regulations, Article II - Construction Codes of the Effingham County Code of Ordinances.**
3. **Discussion of Part II - Official Code, Chapter 58 - Roads, Article II - County Addressing System of the Effingham County Code of Ordinances.**
4. **Discussion of Part II - Official Code, Chapter 14 - Buildings and Building Regulations, Article II - Construction Codes, Division 2 - Section 14-56 Permits of the Effingham County Code of Ordinances.**
5. **Discussion of the Official Code of Georgia Rules and Regulations for Body Art**

HR and Risk Management Director Mausolf opens the discussion by stating that there was an incident recently with an employee who lost a spouse. Several of her colleagues offered to donate leave on her behalf. The Board was asked to consider

amending the leave donation policy to include the death of a spouse as a reason to donate leave. The company's policy is to give employees three (3) days of bereavement leave. Chairman Corbitt stated there needs to be some limitations on this. In the event that all of the special personal leave time is not used, the employee will be compensated for the unused time, and will continue to accrue time for the duration of employment with the county. The Sheriff's Office does not have a maximum leave time. Chairman Corbitt stated that personal leave and bereavement leave are both available and would propose extending bereavement leave to five (5) days, to give the employees at least that week to deal with these experiences, plus five (5) additional donated leave days, giving the employee two (2) weeks off.

County Manager Callanan begins discussion of the next item on the agenda. There are several items on the agenda related to changes to the zoning code.

Department of Public Health (DPH) discussed item number five (5) on the agenda, a change in state law regarding body art. Environmental Health County Manager Steven Andrews explained the body art rules and regulations that were passed by the state. He also discussed proposed fees, which have already been adopted by the Board of Health on February 28, 2024. District Environmental Health Manager for the Coastal Health District, Brant Phelps requested that Effingham County Board of Health adopt the state-wide body art rule as a local ordinance and set fees so they can enforce it and use the local magistrate court in the event of any legal proceedings. This system works by first obtaining a permit for any facility, then certifying the artist through the state office.

Development Services Director Candler began discussing item number one on the agenda. Zoning ordinance, Appendix C, Article 6, Section 6.2, refers to yards, setbacks, and other matters inside yards. According to Section 6.22, any wall or fence that is six feet or less in height may be erected within the yard limits of any yard, a minimum of one foot from the property line. Generally, patios must be set within the rear yard and not more than two accessory structures can be built on lots less than one acre.

Building Official Kessler explained the adopted chapter would cover policies that have been practiced in Effingham for many years, including duties and powers of the building official, permit requirements, and certificate of occupancy. In the state process, every other chapter except this one was removed and allowed to remain as a guide for local governments.

Planner I, Barlett explained that the new addressing ordinance establishes a physical address system for 911 addresses and street names. Using the GIS database, addresses will provide the best information for emergency services, mail delivery, utilities, and other delivery services. Street names will be approved, and addresses assigned by the county. A building permit will not be issued for any house structure until the owner has applied for a 911 address. This ordinance defines the general principles of assigning street names and street types with descriptions. It has also been sent to emergency service leadership for review, and will be

presented at the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

Development Services Director Candler explained a site plan ordinance for non-residential land was drafted. The ordinance takes care of site plans and preliminary plats for subdivisions, but it does not have a site plan process for industrial and commercial rezoning, unless specified that they submit a site plan as a condition for rezoning. When the site plan is approved, there is more confidence in rezoning, since it indicates that the next step in the process is the site plan approval, which will occur again. Delineation takes place before the site plan. Some might do it simultaneously with the rezoning process, depending on the simplicity of the site plan, but it takes the place of a sketch plan.

The drafted chicken ordinance was elaborated on by Planner II Easton after Commissioner Floyd reported the uproar from constituents via a Facebook page and a petition. The chicken ordinance that was adopted back in November allowed four (4) hens and R-1 zonings that previously were not permitted to keep. A backyard hen permit was created, and a $20 fee was removed because it wasn't voted on during the schedule of fees approval in July. The maximum number per acre has been removed for AR-1 and AR-2, as it has been clarified a bit more. The ordinance reduced the 200 feet that was previously required to 150 feet, modifying an existing ordinance that had already been implemented.

Edwin Terella and David McPherson expressed their opinions regarding the chicken ordinance.

The ability to cause a nuisance is greater on smaller lots. In accordance with the ordinance, hens and roosters may be kept in R-1 under certain conditions, but roosters remain prohibited in AR-1.

III – ADJOURNMENT

At 4:58 pm, being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Wesley M. Corbitt, Chairman

S. Johnson

Stephanie D. Johnson, County Clerk