EFFINGHAM CO. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
December 03, 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, December 3, 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, Ms. Marie Todd – Executive Assistant, Mr. Steve Candler – Development Services Director, Mrs. Sarah Mausolf – HR & Risk Management Director, Ms. Kim Barlett – Planner I, Mrs. Samantha Easton – Planner II, Ms. Elizabeth Sapp - Planning Analyst, Mr. Ashley Kessler – Building Official and Ms. Maraya Durham – IT Specialist.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None.

I- CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Corbitt called the session to order at 4:21pm

II – WORK SESSION

WORK SESSION TOPICS

DISCUSSION OF ITEMS RELATED TO HUMAN RESOURCES (1):

HR and Risk management Director Mausolf discussed two issues. First responder departments have proposed increases in pay for the following six major holidays: New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Employees in full-time positions receive eight hours of holiday pay, even if they are not on shift. This would assist with retention and recruitment. When employees work, they should receive time and half pay. The union is proposing to pay employees two and a half times their regular wages for holidays, instead of double pay for holidays if the company is closed.

It has been suggested to offer something comparable to a gap insurance plan to our long-serving employees until they reach a qualifying age, so they can receive insurance protection.

DISCUSSION OF THE TREE AND ROAD AT JENNIFER CIRCLE (2):

County Engineer Hulme initiated the conversation by stating that the Board of Commissioners approved maintenance on a tree adjacent to Jennifer Circle, but the

roots are undermining the road. In the workshop, the topic of removing the asphalt around the tree was discussed as well as preserving it. In order to preserve the tree, the county is considering deeding the right-of-way to the adjoining property owners, however these two homeowners would be responsible for maintaining the tree. Staff will be developing a program to protect county-owned oak trees. This program may lead to another project that requires a budget and a plan.

DISCUSSION ON CHANGES TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT LOCAL DESIGN MANUAL (3):

County Engineer Hulme explained that culverts and ditches along roads should be designed to last for fifty (50) years on collector roads and for twenty-five (25) years on neighborhood roads. Consequently, pipe sizes will be increased to accommodate larger storm events. GDOT has a one-foot freeboard standard but is looking to be more flexible and create just one foot of freeboard from the top of the asphalt pavement. This would assist with ditch sizes, etc. All roads, including dirt roads, will have a deeper, wider ditch, and the storm event limit would be increased to 25 years. If an arterial road were to be designed, it would have to meet the new standards, but the new standards primarily apply to neighborhood roads. The increase is minor, but it is believed to have a significant impact on the neighborhood. The upstream side of the pipes should have a riprap heading around it if it is 36 inches or larger, as well as lowering the capacity in parking lots from half a foot to three inches.

DISCUSSION OF SERVICE ANIMALS (4):

Planner II Easton explained upon conducting some research on service animals, the code enforcement officer discovered that despite their legal rights, service animals must still adhere to zoning regulations. Service animals are more closely related to assistance animals than emotional support animals, and assistance animals do not require special training to assist people with blindness or deafness.

The Board decided not to change the ordinances to allow service animals, since only dogs are legally recognized as service animals by HUD and ADA.

DISCUSSION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE SIGNS, BILLBOARDS, AND INTERSTATE SIGNS ORDINANCE (5):

Planning Analyst Sapp discussed a possible revised sign ordinance that includes definitions, visuals, and defines what types of signs are allowed and not allowed, including temporary signs for community events, temporary signs for subdivisions, and temporary signs for businesses. Permits are available for political signs, temporary signs, and business events. However, existing signs that do not comply are not permitted.

DISCUSSION ON GDOT LOCAL ADMINISTERED PROJECT CERTIFICATION (6):

County Engineer Hulme explained that he has obtained certification as a local administered project administrator, which means the county can use federal funds for roadway projects. A packet must be submitted and adhere to their procedures to comply with federal regulations.

County Manager Callanan explained it is important to note that many collectors and arterial roads are eligible for federal funding as part of the MPO's transportation improvement plan. By following these guidelines, some federal funding can be obtained immediately for roads that would have been built regardless.

~~**DISCUSSION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, PART II, APPENDIX C, ARTICLE V - TABLE OF PERMITTED USES (7):**~~

III – ADJOURNMENT

At 5:11pm, being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

R L Burdette

Roger Burdette, Vice Chairman

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 7, 2025

S. Johnson

Stephanie D. Johnson, County Clerk