

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on **Thursday, March 8, 2018, at 6:00pm** in the courtroom. Those present were Chairman Walker T. Norman; Commissioner Virginia T. Williams, District One; Commissioner Larry Collins, District Two; Commissioner Cooper Cliatt, District Three; Commissioner H. Lamar Wade, District Four; Mr. Ben Jackson, County Attorney; Mrs. Traci Bussey, Finance Director and Ms. Sherry E. McKellar, County Clerk.

1.

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Norman called the meeting to order.

2.

Invocation

Rev. John Belangia of Faith Community Church opened the meeting with prayer.

3.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Following the invocation Commissioner Williams lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

5.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

6.

Departmental Reports

A. Office of Emergency Services Department

Director Broom presented his monthly report. OES responded to 170 calls and the average response time was 9.2 minutes. E-Bill Gross billing for February was \$67,041 with total revenues of \$29,707. OES is working on Quarterly Work Plan for GEMA, developing the EOC exercise for 2018 and the staff received training for "Stop the Bleed" program in partnership with the Georgia Trauma Commission. The OES personnel will train school staff in dangerous hemorrhage control and provide kits from the state.

B. Recreation Department

Director Glaze presented his monthly report. March Madness Tournament is March 9th & 10th and will conclude the basketball season for 2018. Opening day for Little League is set for March 24th with 180 kids participating in 15 teams.

C. Finance Department

Director Bussey presented the Finance report. Included with the monthly financial statements was a FY 2018 Payroll vs. Budget Report.

D. Public Works Department

Director Seymour presented his monthly report. They serviced 2,064 water customers; installed two (2) service connections; repaired eight (8) leaks on system; continued maintenance on hydrants, valves and meters; preformed locates for utilities; and maintaining Savannah Bay water system and Pointe Shores water system.

E. Planning and Zoning Department

Director Seymour presented his monthly reports. They issued five (5) new and 15 renewal business licenses; issued 55 building permits and performed 119 building inspections, 143 on-site evaluations; 10 plan reviews; eight (8) solid waste activities; 19 code violations site visits and issued 14 notices of violation and two (2) citations.

F. Development Authority

Director John Stone is working with Jimtex/Martex to bring another business into the facility and should have a decision by the end of the month. He stated it is between Lincoln County and a site in North Carolina.

He is working with UGA on the Aquaculture Project and has applied for a grant to help pay toward the County Extension Agent.

The Signage Project, the Welcome to Georgia sign is up at Hwy 378, I-20 and other tourist signs are to be up later this month.

7.

LC Paws

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted to grant a Temporary Alcohol Permit with \$50 fee to LC Paws for the Georgia Grill & Chill scheduled for September 22, 2018. Commissioner Wade abstained from voting. Debra Poland of LC Paws came before the Board in September 2017 and is back, as instructed, to ask for the temporary permit for the upcoming fundraiser.

8.

The Wall That Heals

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board voted unanimously to give Ernie Guthrie up to \$2000 from the hotel/Motel account for The Wall That Heals. Ernie Guthrie, a resident of Lincoln County, is a combat vet from the Vietnam War and saw the Wall while on vacation, when he returned home he sent in a application to have the Wall come to Lincolnton. It will be here from April 26th thru April 29th at the Curry Colvin Recreation Complex. The cost to bring it here was \$8000 plus an additional \$3000 he has spent on advertising. He still needs signage to direct visitors to the Recreation Complex. On Wednesday, April 25th around 9am the Wall will arrive in Thomson, GA and will be escorted via parade from the other side of Thomson into Lincolnton and on to the Recreation Complex. The Elementary, Middle and High School students will greet the Wall as it comes by their locations. The Wall is 375 ft and will start going up around noon that day and will be open 24 hours four (4) days starting at 8am on Thursday, April 26th. A formal ceremony will take place Thursday evening. The Mobile Education Center will also be here with the Wall.

Chairman Norman thanked Mr. Guthrie for all his hard working bringing The Wall That Heals to Lincoln County.

9.

Maintenance at Food Pantry

Commissioner Williams informed the Board that the Food Pantry is in bad need of maintenance and repairs. The roof and exterior both need work. The County just recently took possession of this facility from the state.

Chairman Norman shared that he has spoken to Denise Hamrick with Georgia Power about a program to help communities in areas that need work done and see if they will help with funding and labor. He then thanked Commissioner Williams for helping at the Food Pantry and bringing these needs to the Boards attention.

10.

Records Retention

Commissioner Collins is heading up the Records Retention Project for the County. There are records of historical significance that are in crisis, this will save them from being destroyed. County records are currently stored in multiple locations and now they will be scanned and stored in one location which will allow for easier access to county records.

Chairman Norman thanked Commissioner Collins, Director Seymour, Director Dockery and Librarian Morris Bradley for helping on this project. He thanked Director Dawkins and Librarian Jennifer Wood for finding and applying for a grant that we hope will help fund this project.

11.

Create Fire Services Advisory Board – 2nd Reading

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 57 -Lincoln County Fire Services Advisory Board. The second reading of Ordinance 57 by Attorney Jackson was suspended with a unanimous consent of the Board and no objection from those present.

12.

Road Paving Bids

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to accept the low bidder, C & H Paving at \$459,691.84. On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to approve the funds for the paving to come from LMIG at \$329,528.02 and \$130,163.82 from T-SFLOST.

Director Seymour informed the Board that he received five (5) bids for RPF-17-001 at the Bid Opening Tuesday, March 6th at 2pm. C & H Paving was the low bidder. This will resurface all of Ashmore Barden Road and all of the County section of Rowland York Road.

13.

Spratlin Hardware Request

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board voted unanimously for the county to no longer sale driveway pipes to the general public. Marcus Spratlin of Spratlin Hardware had requested the County to not compete with existing businesses on the sale of driveway pipes.

14.

Fort Gordon Alliance

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to continue membership in the Fort Gordon Alliance. Chairman Norman stated the county joined last year and the Development Authority paid half the \$5000 fee and would do so again this year.

15.

Service Delivery Strategy Extension

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign the Service Delivery Strategy Extension. Chairman Norman stated that we signed to try to prevent the County from becoming non-compliant. The City did not sign at the City Council meeting Tuesday night, on the advice of Council, due to litigation. We are not in litigation about the SDS, only the Water Service Agreement and the amount the City charges the County for the water at the meter at Saddlebrook. The water meter at Saddlebrook is owned by the County for County customers

and the City charges the county retail price for the water going thru that meter but they charge wholesale price for all the other County meters. In January and February, the County adjusted the invoices and paid the same for that meter as all the others, which short paid them by \$153.01. The City sent the county a letter requesting the \$153.01 or they would shut the water off at the Saddlebrook meter.

The Water Agreement states that if there is a disagreement between the parties they are each to hire an Arbitrator and those two would select a third arbitrator to settle the disagreement. The county selected an arbitrator six (6) weeks ago. The City has yet to appoint one. The City and County have meet on numerous occasions but to no avail.


In regards to the SDS, the City wants to move out into the unincorporated areas of the County which are potential County water customers. The County cannot approve this change as it takes away potential water customers and offers nothing to the County.

Due to now being a non-compliant government, we cannot receive money from the state nor can we receive the CDBG grant that we have applied for the Senior Citizens Center to move them to the gymnasium at the Recreation Complex. If the City had signed the extension, we would not be out of compliance.

16.

Adjourn

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.



Walker T. Norman, Chairman

Attest:



Sherry E. McKellar, County Clerk