

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on **Thursday, September 13, 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; Mrs. Penny Arnett, Finance Director and Ms. Sherry E. McKellar, County Clerk. Absent: Mr. Ben Jackson, County Attorney.

1.

**Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Norman called the meeting to order.

2.

**Invocation**

Director John Stone, Lincoln County Development Authority, opened the meeting with prayer.

3.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Following the invocation Commissioner Cliatt 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**

Chairman Norman added Chairman's Comments as Item 13 A. On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board approved the agenda as amended.

6.

**Departmental Reports**

**A. Office of Emergency Services Department**

Director Broom presented his monthly report. OES responded to 151 calls and the average response time was 9.1 minutes. E-Bill Gross billing for August was \$51,490 with total revenues of \$30,564. OES has been busy monitoring Hurricane Florence, working on the PDHMG Grant and the contract with CSRA-RC for project development. They have completed the ambulance service license renewals.

**B. Recreation Department**

Director Glaze was absent as he was at the Recreation Department for events. He had previously submitted his report. Soccer season starts September 18 and ends October 11. Family Connection will be moving into the old office building October 1 and Augusta Tech will be moving into the gymnasium classroom September 17 for GED classes Monday-Thursday, 8am-12pm.

**C. Finance Department**

Chairman Norman welcomed Director Arnett to her first Board of Commissioners meeting and informed everyone that she had just started Monday, September 10. The Board received the Financial Statements from Wright & Wright at 5pm today so they had not had time to review them.

**D. Public Works Department**

Director Seymour presented his monthly reports. They serviced 2,025 water/sewer customers; installed three (3) service connections; repaired four (4) 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. They issued three (3) new and one (1) renewal business licenses; issued 69 building permits and performed 171 building inspections, 45 on-site evaluations; seven (7) plan reviews; two (2) solid waste activity; eight (8) code violations site visits and issued two (2) notices of violation and no citations.

7.

**Public Hearing**

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted to go into Public Hearing.

**A. Applicant: Booker T. Elam, Jr.**

**Rezoning Request: Map 37 / Parcel 65**

The Planning & Zoning Board recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve Booker T. Elam, Jr. request for rezoning on Map 37 / Parcel 65 located on Chip Mill Road from A-1 to C-1 to use for truck parking and maintenance with conditions. On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to send the request back to the Zoning Board for further study. This was after much discussion, where several residents, Ben Parks, Stanley Key and Robert Hearst, opposed the re-zoning,

On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted to come out of Public Hearing.

8.

**Renewal of County Maintained Boat Ramps**

On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to renew License No. DACW21-3-15-2043 with the Corps of Engineers to continue use, maintenance and operation of nine boats ramps at J. Strom Thurmond Lake Project in Lincoln County.

9.

**Speed Limit Changes for Chamberlain Ferry Road and Double Branches Road**

On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to leave the speed limit at 45mph on Chamberlain Ferry Road and reduce the speed limit on Double Branches Road from 55mph to 45mph based on the width of the road, steep curves, hills and blind driveways. Speed limits will reduce to 35mph at the Martins Crossroads intersections and Ashmore Barden intersection.

10.

**Water Bills at Serenity Point**

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board voted unanimously to approve giving the Chairman the authority to have the County Attorney file a suit in Magistrate Court for the property owner to pay the outstanding fees and to place a lien on each property that the fees are not being paid.

11.

**E-Billing Rate Adjustments**

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the ambulance rate adjustments presented by Director Broom and proposed by E-Billing. These rate adjustments are based on pricing in the CSRA.

12.

**9-1-1 Updated Resolutions / HB751**

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board voted unanimously to repeal the current 9-1-1 Resolutions as of December 31, 2018 and replace with the new 9-1-1 Resolutions effective January 1, 2019. Clerk McKellar explained that the new resolutions are required due to HB751 that created the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority, which will now collect these fees then remit to local governments by the Department of Revenue.

13.

**Library Board Appointment**

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment Mrs. Jackie Cliatt, to fill the unexpired term of Nancy McGill, on the Library Board to serve on behalf of District Three.

13 A.

**Chairman's Comments**

Chairman Norman at this time gave an update on the lawsuit with the City.

He explained that it is a serious matter that has been going on since around November last year. It includes the water rates at Saddlebrook where the City charges retail rates and not wholesale; the water funds Joint Water Account - as costs need to be clearer; and Sewer costs issues. The most recent issue is the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement. The law says we (City & County) have to agree on the maps for the SDS. Judge Overstreet ordered mediation of which there have been two and NO agreement was reached. This has made the City and the County Non-Compliant with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Being Non-Compliant means we cannot receive any State or Federal funding, neither grants nor loans. The Georgia Constitution states the County is the County and the City is the City. We have drawn many maps, hours have been spent but no agreement was made. The maps are available in Director Seymour's office for viewing. We have done all we can do, we have offered several areas of the county and no agreement was made. To date we have spent nearly \$20,000 on attorney and engineering fees and the results are nothing. Chairman Norman and Director Seymour met with the attorneys again Wednesday, September 12 to discuss water and sewer rates and a court date is set for sometime in November. Attorney Jackson asked Judge Overstreet to have us go back into mediation but the City says no, they want to go to court. We received the first round of discovery questions, have answered and sent our questions to them. Once this is done, the Judge will make a decision.

Chairman Norman stated with all this going on, maybe it is time for the City, the County and its leaders to consider consolidation.

14.

**Adjourn**

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

  
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Walker T. Norman, Chairman

Attest:

  
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Sherry E. McKellar, County Clerk