

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on **Thursday, December 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; Mr. Ben Jackson, County Attorney and Ms. Sherry E. McKellar, County Clerk.

1.

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Norman called the meeting to order.

2.

Invocation

Pastor Lisa Powell of St. Paul United Methodist 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 Collins, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

5.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board approved the agenda as amended by Chairman Norman who added Director John Stone to the agenda after Departmental Reports.

6.

Departmental Reports

A. Office of Emergency Services Department

Director Broom presented his monthly report. OES responded to 127 calls and the average response time was 8.9 minutes. E-Bill Gross billing for October was \$65,313 with total revenues of \$19,918. OES will conduct an EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) Course starting in January.

B. Recreation Department

Director Glaze reported that basketball registration has ended. He then explained that the Recreation Advisory Board is asking the Board of Commissioners to close the swimming pool at the recreation department due to lack of lifeguards. The pool was not used at all this year. They are requesting a splash pad be installed to replace the pool.

C. Finance Department

Director Arnett presented her monthly report.

D. Public Works Department

Director Seymour presented his monthly reports. They serviced 2,075 water/sewer customers; installed one (1) service connections; repaired three (3) 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 two (2) new and 11 renewal business licenses; issued 54 building permits and performed 84 building inspections,

nine (9) on-site evaluations; eight (8) plan reviews; 11 solid waste activity; two (2) code violations site visits and issued two (2) notices of violation and one (1) citation.

Commissioner Wade inquired about the status of the water project at Montego Point. Director Seymour replied that it is still in design and we hope to go to bid in early spring.

Commissioner Cliatt inquired if the speed limits on Ashmore-Barden Road can be added to the agenda in January. He would like to see them reduced from 55mph to 45mph. Chairman Norman instructed Clerk McKellar to see that it is added in January.

At this time Director John Stone shared with the Board that Mark Dupuie of Apex Marine out of St. Louis, Michigan has signed agreements to purchase the U.S. Army Corps of engineers lease on Soap Creek Marina and Lodge from Soap Creek, LLC, and enter a lease-purchase agreement on the 35,000 square foot former Top Grill manufacturing facility with the Lincoln County Development Authority as a southeastern hub for the company's operations. The combined projects are estimated to provide up to 15 jobs in the first year and as many as 45 jobs within three years. Apex Marine manufactures a diverse line of pontoon boats, from specialty fishing versions to solar powered units. The company plans a complete renovation of the marina to include reopening the restaurant with traditional Soap Creek fare, cabin renovations and additions, a full fleet of pontoon rentals and boat services and repairs.

7.

Business Proposal / Cherokee Park

Director Seymour presented a business proposal from Kermit Laney, Georgia's Freshwater Campgrounds, to sub-lease Cherokee Park from the County. Mr. Laney currently sub-leases the campgrounds, Broad River, Clay Hill and Hester's Ferry, from the County.

8.

Update Sub-Lease for Campgrounds

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign the updated 10-year Sub-Lease to Kermit Laney of Georgia Freshwater Campgrounds to run concurrent with our lease with the Corps of Engineers.

9.

Sublease for Cherokee Park

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the County Attorney to draw-up a Sub-Lease for Cherokee Park with Kermit Laney for Georgia Freshwater Parks starting April 1, 2019 ending April 1, 2025. Mr. Laney thanked the Board and stated that his first priority will be to install a full-time host at the park. The Park Host will maintain the facility as well as collecting revenues.

10.

Safety Coordinator Resolution

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign the resolution appointing Director Casey Broom as the Safety Coordinator for Lincoln County.

11.

IPAWS Addendum - CodeRed

On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign the IPAWS Addendum to the CodeRed System. This addendum is at NO cost to the County and will allow public alerts to go out to all data devices within our service area whether they are signed up for CodeRed or not.

12.

Renovations to Old EMS Building

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve a budget of \$126,000 to renovate the former EMS building for use as Probate/Magistrate Court. Judge Moss requested the renovations at the Work Session December 6 as the space in the current Probate/Magistrate Court offices are too small and there is no privacy. Director Seymour explained that the renovations will be done in-house. Chairman Norman then asked Attorney Jackson to look into what is required to legally move Probate to the new location.

13.

2019 Alcohol License Renewals

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2019 Alcohol Beverage License renewal for Mr. Harvey Elam, Commander American Legion Post 597 for a Class C – Liquor, Beer & Wine on premises license.

On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted to approve the 2019 Alcohol Beverage License renewal for Mr. Jason Raiford, Owner of Cliatt Crossing for a Class A – Beer & Wine off premises license. Commissioner Cliatt abstained from this vote as he is the owner of the property.

14.

Budget Adjustments

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to approve a budget adjustment recommendation from Director Arnett to remove a grant that Family Connection did not receive.

15.

Recreation Authority

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board voted unanimously to ask Senator Anderson and Representative Tom McCall to abolish the Lincoln County Recreation Authority. Chairman Norman explained that this is an inactive Board that was created by a local legislation in 1997 for a proposed Conference Center/Hotel/Golf Course at Elijah Clark State Park that never happened.

Chairman's Comments:

Chairman Norman informed those present and those listening on-line, that late last year there was a meeting with GDOT at Cliatt Crossing for the purpose of discussing the many accidents at that intersection. Both roads at this intersection are State Highways so there is little the County can do other than try to get DOT to do something. They (DOT) will not put up red-lights at this intersection due to low traffic volume. They recommend a traffic-circle/round-about which will cost over \$1 million to install and is five years out to get one using state funds unless the County will participate in the cost. Chairman stated that he will ask the County at a later date to provide \$100,000 from TSPLOST toward the cost. If we wait for federal funds, the wait would be eight years. He then stated that Senator Anderson had been to visit this week, they had discussed this issue, and Senator Anderson supports getting the traffic circle.

16.

Recognition of Commissioner Williams

At this time, Chairman Norman stated that this was the last official Regular Board meeting for Commissioner Virginia Williams. He told her he has enjoyed working with her, the many visit to his office, and how she has represented her district and the county. He wishes her the very best life has to offer.

Commissioner Collins told her that he too has enjoyed working with her these last four years. He agreed with the Chairman that she has definitely taken care of District One and the County as a whole, which is what they are all supposed to do. He wished her all the best things in life and will miss seeing her sitting beside him each month.

Commissioner Cliatt remembered working with the Board of Elections. He has always enjoyed working with her as she is so approachable and always listens. He too will miss her.

Commissioner Wade stated that it has been a honor and pleasure working with her these last two years. He appreciates the fact that she is so knowledgeable and kept him straight at the Work Sessions.

Commissioner Williams stated she hates to leave. She has gotten used to sitting next to Commissioner Collins; she will miss them all and has enjoyed her time on the Board. But, she was with the County as Elections Director and left in 2007 to go home and sit down and read her books. She returned in 2014 to serve District One. She is going home again but who knows, she may come back. Until that time she will continue to work for Lincoln County.

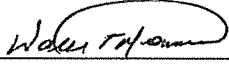
Chairman Norman then presented Commissioner Williams with a plaque in recognition and appreciation for her four years of dedicated service and vision as a member of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Norman then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

17.


Adjourn

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.



Walker T. Norman, Chairman

Attest:



Sherry E. McKellar, County Clerk