

MINUTES

Troup County Board of Commissioners

February 2, 2010

Troup County Government Center Building

Troup County Board of Commissioners Chairman Richard Wolfe called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Richard Wolfe, Chairman
Ken Smith, Vice-Chairman
Morris Jones, Commissioner
Buck Davis, Commissioner
Richard English, Commissioner

News Media Present:

Joel Martin, LaGrange Daily News
Judy Murphy, Troup County News
Matthew Strother, Valley News
David Woody, TV 33
Annie McCallum, Columbus Ledger

Staff Present:

Mike Dobbs, County Manager
Tod Tentler, Assistant County Manager/ Parks & Recreation Director
Stewart Mills, Finance Officer / County Clerk
Jerry Willis, County Attorney
Cheryl May, Accounting Clerk
Valerie West, Executive Assistant to Board of Commissioners
Dennis Knight, EMA Director

Others Present:

Bill & Ellen Gilmore, Concerned Citizens
Nancy Green, Concerned Citizen
Connie Stothard, Surveyor
Paul Perrotti, West Georgia Health System
Jerry Fulks, West Georgia Health System

OPENING:

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance.

Invocation - Dr. Clarence Sams - First Baptist Church:

Dr. Clarence Sams of First Baptist Church was recognized by Chairman Wolfe and asked to pronounce the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Commissioner Davis led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA / MINUTES:

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner English made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

PEOPLE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

- None.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Update Presentation on the West Georgia Health System Building Construction:

Mr. Jerry Fulks, President/CEO of the West Georgia Health System (WGHS), presented an overview of the hospital and its current expansion. Mr. Fulks indicated the \$70M South Tower project was on schedule and spending was on budget. Ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremonies are scheduled for May 14th. Mr. Paul Perrotti, Vice President/CFO, presented a financial analysis of WGHS. Although most financial indicators are positive there is growing concern about the rapid rise in indigent care costs which exceed \$30M annually.

Appointment to Three Rivers Regional Commission:

County Manager Mike Dobbs noted the commissioners previously discussed an appointment to the Three Rivers Regional Commission. Commissioner English was the proposed candidate to succeed Commissioner Buck Davis. Commissioner Davis made a motion to appoint Mr. English to the Three Rivers Regional Commission. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

Consideration of Increasing the Hotel/ Motel Tax to 8% to Better Support Local Tourism:

County Manager Mike Dobbs discussed increasing the hotel/motel tax in the unincorporated area to 8%--a 3% increase from the current 5% rate. The rate increase would raise an additional \$75K/year in revenues which would be used to better support local tourism. Commissioner Davis made a motion to request a member of Troup County's local delegation to the General Assembly introduce local legislation to authorize a 3% increase in the hotel/motel taxes raising the rate from the current 5% to a new rate of 8%. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Commissioner English made a motion to go into public hearings.

Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous. Chairman Wolfe announced that during the public hearings, comments from those in attendance were welcomed.

REZONING:

- None.

Subdivisions:

- None.

OTHER:

1st Hearing - Board of Commissioners Vote Necessary

Consideration of Adoption of Emergency Management Ordinance:

Mr. Dennis Knight, EMA Director, presented a proposed emergency management ordinance for use by local governments during times of disaster. Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt the emergency management ordinance. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

1st Hearing - Board of Commissioners Vote Necessary

Stephens General Merchandise - Application for Wine & Malt Beverage License

Applicant: Aileen Spence

Location: 3723 Whitesville Road, LaGrange

County Manager Mike Dobbs presented the application by Mrs. Aileen Spence to sell wine & malt beverages at 3723 Whitesville Road. Ms. Spence' application has been reviewed and signed by Sheriff Donny Turner certifying a GCIC background check has been completed and no criminal activity in the last five years has been found. Chairman Wolfe asked if there was anyone who would like to speak for or against the wine & malt beverage license. No one responded. Commissioner English made a motion to approve the wine & malt beverage license. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- None.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER:

Commissioner Davis made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

MEETING REOPENED:

At the end of Executive Session, Commissioner Jones made a motion to reconvene in public meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous. County Attorney Jerry Willis announced that during Executive Session, the commissioners had discussed a personnel matter and no action was required at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: _____
Stewart P. Mills, Clerk