

MINUTES

Troup County Board of Commissioners

August 4, 2009

Troup County Government Center

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

Board Members Present:

Richard Wolfe, Chairman
Morris Jones, Commissioner
Ken Smith, Commissioner
Buck Davis, Commissioner

News Media Present:

Trey Wood, Valley News
Judy Murphy, Troup County News
Joel Martin, LaGrange Daily News
David Woody, TV-33

Staff Present:

Mike Dobbs, County Manager
Jerry Willis, County Attorney
Tod Tentler, Parks & Rec Director, Assistant County Manager
Stewart Mills, Finance Officer / County Clerk
Cheryl May, Accounting Clerk
James Emery, County Engineer
Nancy Seegar, County Planner
Scott Turk, Zoning Administrator
Dana Eaton, Chief Appraiser
Valerie West, Executive Assistant
Michelle Bowman, Juvenile Court Administration
Don Howell, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

Others Present:

Gloria Livingston, Concerned Citizen
Wayne Bartley, Chairman, Board of Assessors
Alfred Elder, Concerned Citizen
Mel Jastram, Concerned Citizen
Bill & Ellen Gilmore, Concerned Citizens
Nancy Green, Concerned Citizen
Melinda Adams, Rezoning Applicant
Donald Gordon, Concerned Citizen

OPENING:

All in attendance were welcomed by Chairman Richard Wolfe.

Invocation - Reverend Jerome Shipman - New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church:

Reverend Jerome Shipman of New Macedonia Missionary 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 Jones seconded. Unanimous.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2009 regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

PEOPLE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

- None.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Recognition of Troup County Parks & Recreation Swim Team and Softball/Baseball Teams:

Assistant County Manager Tod Tentler and Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Don Howell recognized the outstanding recent athletic achievements of youths involved in Troup County Parks & Recreation Programs. Over 3,500 kids participated this summer in baseball, softball and swimming. The 9/10 yr. olds girls' softball team won state championship. The 11/12 yr. olds and 13/14 yr. olds girls' softball teams were state runner-ups. The 11/12 yr. olds from Hogansville won 3rd place in state. The swim team had 16 girls that qualified for state and 13 came back with medals. The Dixie Youth Baseball 9/10 yr. olds, 11/12 yr. olds, 13 yr olds and 14 yr. olds all won state championships and all of them represented Troup County in the World Series. Mr. Tentler gave a special thanks to all coaches, volunteers and staff for their outstanding leadership and to the young people for their outstanding participation and achievements.

Employee Service Awards for 2nd Quarter of 2009:

Chairman Wolfe recognized the following individuals during the employee service award ceremony:

- Twenty Years of Service

Sergeant Ricky Ward, Marshal's Department

- Fifteen Years of Service

Firefighter Keith Bonner, Fire Department

* Shop Foreman Lee Brooks, County Shop

* Technician Ann Brown, Purchasing

Deputy Haywood Cliett, Sheriff's Department

Senior Deputy Building Official Harold Edmondson, Building & Zoning

* Firefighter/EMT/Assistant Fire Marshal Kevin Norred, Fire Department

- Ten Years of Service

Correctional Officer Timothy Lee Huguley, Correctional Institute

- Five Years of Service

* Investigator Jeffrey Brian Duran, Sheriff's Department

County Engineer James Emery, Jr., County Engineer

* Indicates employees unable to attend the awards presentation.

Chairman Wolfe thanked each of the honorees for their years of dedicated service to Troup County.

Appointment to Keep Troup Beautiful Board of Directors:

County Manager Mike Dobbs announced Ms. Mary Ann Williams resigned from Keep Troup Beautiful Board of Directors. Ms. Ernestine Mitchell has expressed interest in being appointed to Keep Troup Beautiful.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to appoint Ms. Mitchell to Keep Troup Beautiful Board of Directors. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

Consideration of Juvenile Court Vacant Position:

County Manager Mike Dobbs announced Juvenile Court has a budgeted, vacant position and Juvenile Court Judge Michael Key and Juvenile Court Administrator Brenda Royster have requested the hiring freeze be lifted to allow hiring a replacement. Chairman Wolfe asked if Juvenile Court FY 2010 budget had achieved the mandated 5% reduction. Mr. Dobbs answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Davis made a motion to lift the hiring freeze in Juvenile Court to permit the vacant position to be filled. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

Update of Property Appraisal Department:

Chief Appraiser Dana Eaton announced the WinGAP software has been implemented and staff and Board of Assessors are very pleased with the

results. The property appraisal staff is out doing field work initially in the Hogansville area. For ease of identification staff members are wearing green reflective vests and photo ID badges and driving vehicles marked with county decals. If the homeowner is around, they will be asking brief questions to verify property data. If not they will leave a door-hanger questionnaire that can be returned to the property appraisal office. Zoning Administrator Scott Turk then demonstrated the new county website available to the public to search for real property information by owner's name, address or parcel number. Property values listed on the website match values listed on tax bills. The county has contracted with Binarybus of Atlanta to host and maintain the website.

Chairman Wolfe and County Manager Dobbs congratulated the staff and Board of the Assessors for significant progress made in the property appraisal program.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Commissioner Jones made a motion to go into public hearings.

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

REZONING:

Zoning Administrator Scott Turk reminded the commissioners of the six standards for evaluating rezoning applications.

2nd Review - Board of Commissioners Vote Necessary:

**Melinda Adams - Agricultural to Manufactured Home Park
.905 Acre Parcel Fronting on 247 S. Glenn Road:**

Zoning Administrator Scott Turk presented the application by Ms. Melinda Adams to rezone a .905 acre parcel fronting on 247 S. Glenn Road from Agricultural to Manufactured Home Park for expansion of existing manufactured home park. Zoning Administrator Turk informed the Commissioners the applicant had a related variance request from current standards approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals/Planning Commission

pending approval of the rezoning request. Chairman Wolfe asked if anyone in attendance who would like to speak for or against the rezoning application. Ms. Melinda Adams, rezoning applicant, spoke in favor of the request citing her efforts to improve the home park by adding the requested parcel. She states that the home park has many long-time residents reflecting the stability and desirability of living in the park. Mr. Donald Gordon also spoke in favor of the rezoning stating it is a nice park that creates a favorable neighborhood environment. Mr. Gordon indicated Mr. Thomas Cotton's objections he stated in the last meeting were unfounded since Mr. Cotton himself has two occupied trailers on his own lot. Ms. Nancy Green spoke against the rezoning mentioning that trailer parks attract undesirable tenants. She indicated that she was told there are five sex offenders living in three Troup County trailer home parks. Mr. Turk mentioned there were no negative inputs about the rezoning from any Troup County public safety agencies. Commissioner Davis made a motion to continue the matter for two weeks since the hearings have yielded two public comments for and two against the rezoning. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Unanimous. Chairman Wolfe assigned Commissioners Davis and Jones to a committee to further investigate the matter and report their findings at the next meeting.

2nd Review - Board of Commissioners Vote Necessary:

Scott Livingston - Single Family Medium Density to General Commercial 1.058 Acre Parcel Fronting at 706 Old West Point Road:

Zoning Administrator Scott Turk presented the application by Mr. Scott Livingston to rezone a 1.058 acre parcel fronting at 706 Old West Point Road from Single Family Medium Density to General Commercial for an auto parts store. Chairman Wolfe asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the rezoning application. No one responded. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the rezoning application. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

Subdivisions:

- None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- None.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- None

OTHER:

Consideration of Abandoning Portion of Rice Road (Resolution 2010-04):

County Engineer James Emery presented a resolution to abandon a portion of Rice Road. That portion of Rice Road is unused by the public and serves no substantial public purpose. The abandonment of the same will not impair, impede nor inconvenience access of any property owner in that portion of the roadway and will be a private road for access purposes. Furthermore, the abandonment would benefit the county by placing the road back on the digest for property tax revenue purposes. Also, it would remove that portion of road from county responsibility to maintain. The proposed abandonment has been properly advertised. Chairman Wolfe asked if anyone would like to comment for or against the proposed abandonment of the portion of Rice Road. No one responded. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve abandoning a portion of Rice Road. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous. Commissioner Davis made a motion to exit public hearings and go back into regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: _____
Stewart P. Mills, Clerk