

**MINUTES**

**Troup County Board of Commissioners**

**October 19, 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:**

David Woody, TV 33  
Judy Murphy, Troup County News  
Matthew Strother, Valley News

**Staff Present:**

Mike Dobbs, County Manager  
Tod Tentler, Assistant County Manager / Parks & Recreation Director  
Cheryl May, Accounting Clerk  
Stewart Mills, Finance Officer / County Clerk  
Harold Edmondson, Building & Zoning Official  
James Emery, County Engineer  
Nancy Seegar, County Planner

**Others Present:**

Bill & Ellen Gilmore, Concerned Citizens  
Tommy Callaway, Concerned Citizen  
Nancy Green, Concerned Citizen  
Steve Stark, Concerned Citizen  
Mr. Gerald Sweet, Rezoning Applicant  
Carey Bragg, Concerned Citizen  
Denise Dixon, Concerned Citizen  
Mark Webb, Proclamation Recipient  
Inez Bryant, Concerned Citizen  
Ken Regan, Concerned Citizen  
Yvonne Atcherson, Concerned Citizen

**OPENING:**

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance.

**Invocation - Reverend J.R. Ware - Welcome Baptist Church**

Reverend J.R. Ware of Welcome 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 English made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.  
Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the  
September 21, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.  
Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

**PEOPLE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

- None.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS:**

**Proclamation for Boy Scouts of America (2011-02)**

Chairman Richard Wolfe presented a proclamation to Mr. Mark Webb, who  
accepted it on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts of  
America was established in 1910 to teach patriotism, courage, self  
reliance and kindred values. It is the largest youth service  
organization in America, with nearly 3 million members learning  
responsible citizenship, character development in a wide range of  
outdoor activities, educational programs and career oriented programs  
in partnership with community organizations. The Boy Scouts of America  
will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010. The Troup County Board of  
Commissioners proclaims October 19, 2010 as the 100 Years of Scouting  
Day in honor of the Boy Scouts of America.

**Consideration of Amending the Hotel/ Motel Excise Tax (2011-05)**

County Manager Mike Dobbs presented the proposed amendment to the  
hotel-motel tax, currently at 5 percent, which would go to 8 percent  
effective January 1, 2011 under a resolution authorized by local  
legislation in this year's General Assembly. Three percent will  
continue to go to the respective governments and two percent to the  
LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce to promote tourism. The  
additional 3 percent would go to the Chamber of Commerce with 1.5  
percent used to augment their tourism promotion efforts and the other  
1.5 percent would be used for special projects such as an amphitheater

and other renovations at Boyd Park in LaGrange or a "Celebration Center" at Pyne Road Park for large events such as concerts, rodeos, and fishing tournaments. The tax currently generates an estimated \$100,000 annually in the unincorporated area. Commissioner English made a motion to adopt the resolution for the hotel/motel tax increase. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

**Consideration of Parks & Recreation By-Laws Change**

Assistant County Manager Tod Tentler presented a proposed by-laws change to the Parks & Recreation Commission. The number of members of the Parks & Recreation Commission would increase from seven to eleven effective January 1, 2011. Each new member would have to have a child enrolled in recreation programs, whereas currently only one member fits the profile. Commissioner Jones stated having parents on the board will provide more insight on opportunities to upgrade parks and recreation programs. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the by-laws change to Parks & Recreation. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

**Consideration of Amendment to Purchasing Ordinance Relating to Surplus and Unserviceable Property (11-01)**

County Manager Mike Dobbs presented a proposed amendment to the ordinance to allow the County Purchasing Department to sell surplus and unserviceable property online at websites such as GovDeals.com. Chairman Wolfe commented he would like the commissioners to receive a listing of items to be sold on-line and questioned if there were any fees for selling. Mr. Dobbs commented 1% fee is charged but only if the item is sold. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the amendment to the purchasing ordinance. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Commissioner English made a motion to go out of regular meeting and into public hearings. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

**Rezoning:**

Building & Zoning Director Harold Edmondson reminded the commissioners of the six zoning standards.

**2nd Reading - Board of Commissioners Vote Necessary**

**Gerald Sweet-General Commercial to Multi-Family  
6.1 Acre Parcel Fronting at 455 Cooley Road**

Building & Zoning Official Harold Edmondson presented the application of Mr. Gerald Sweet to rezone 6.1 +/- acre parcel located at 455 Cooley Road from General Commercial to Multi-Family for the purpose of constructing at least two four-unit apartment buildings. Neighbors signed a petition and expressed concerns about traffic, a decline in property values and disruption of their "quiet and peaceful" neighborhood. Chairman Wolfe asked if there was anyone who would like to speak in favor of the rezoning. Mr. Sweet spoke in favor of the rezoning, stating he was in favor of investment whether it's a business or apartments. Chairman Wolfe if there was anyone who would like to speak against the rezoning. Ms. Carrie Bragg and Ms. Denise Dixon expressed their concerns about the traffic and congestion. Ms. Bragg had records of accidents at the intersection of Cooley and South Davis Road. Mr. Edmondson commented that soil compaction testing had been accomplished and the Health Department in a letter from Mr. Winston Turner has some concerns about the ability of the soil to percolate sufficiently to support 8 apartment units on septic systems. Mr. Jason Bassett questioned if the county would widen the road to make it safer for residents. Commissioner Davis made a motion to deny the rezoning from General Commercial to Multi-Family. Commissioner Jones seconded. Commissioner Smith commented the rezoning had been recommended conditionally by the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission (BOZAPC) and county staff. Commissioners Davis, Jones and English voted in favor of the motion to deny. Commissioner Smith voted against the motion. The motion to deny the rezoning passed on a 3-to-1 vote.

**Subdivisions:**

- None.

**Other:**

**2nd Reading - Board of Commissioners Vote Necessary**

**Consideration of Tower Ordinance Revision (11-02)**

Building & Zoning Harold Edmondson reported the wireless communications tower ordinance was being updated for text revisions and to ensure compliance with state law. Chairman Wolfe asked how many towers are currently in Troup County. Mr. Dobbs commented Ms. Dana Eaton of the Property Appraisal Office will be giving an update at the November meeting. Chairman Wolfe asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of or against the tower ordinance revision. No one responded. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the revision to the tower ordinance. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

**1<sup>ST</sup> Reading - Board of Commissioners Vote Necessary**

**Consideration of De-Annexation of Right of Way Previously Annexed by the City of LaGrange (2011-06)**

County Manager Mike Dobbs summarized the proposed resolution to de-annex rights-of-way on I-85 and Hamilton Road previously annexed by the City of LaGrange. This would allow the City of LaGrange to annex 309.79 acres of land nearby without creating an island of incorporated city land surrounded by unincorporated area. Chairman Wolfe asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of or in opposition to the proposed resolution. No one responded. Commissioner English made a motion to approve the resolution to de-annex rights of way previously annexed by the City of LaGrange. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- None.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTER/BOARD APPOINTMENT:**

Commissioner English made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matter/board appointment. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

**MEETING REOPENED:**

Following the Executive Session, Commissioner English made a motion to reconvene in regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous. Chairman Wolfe announced that no action was required on the personnel matter/ board appointment.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stewart P. Mills, Clerk