

**MINUTES**

**Troup County Board of Commissioners**

**Regular Meeting**

**December 3, 2013**

**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  
Richard English, Vice-Chairman  
Buck Davis, Commissioner  
Claude F. Foster III, Commissioner  
Morris Jones, Commissioner

**News Media Present:**

Wayne Clark, West Point News  
Tommy Camp, Troup County News  
Matt Strother, LaGrange Daily News

**Staff Present:**

Tod Tentler, County Manager  
Jerry Willis, County Attorney  
Valerie West, Executive Assistant  
Valerie Heard, Human Resources Director  
James Emery, County Engineer  
Cheryl May, Accounting/ Deputy Clerk  
Scott Turk, Finance Officer/ County Clerk  
Andy Harper, GIS Technician  
Jay Anderson, Senior Building Official  
Nancy Seegar, County Planner  
Dexter Wells, Divisions Manager  
Don Howell, Parks & Recreation Director  
Lynn Howard, Administrative Program Superintendant/ Payroll

**OPENING:**

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance.

**Invocation - Chaplain Jimmy Pruitt, Oakside Baptist Church:**

Chaplain Jimmy Pruitt of Oakside Baptist Church was recognized by Chairman Wolfe and asked to pronounce the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Commissioner Buck 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 final agenda.  
Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2013 work session and November 19, 2013 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

**PEOPLE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

- None.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS:**

**Proclamation Honoring Emily Sheffield:**

Chairman Wolfe presented a proclamation to Mrs. Emily Sheffield honoring her for dedication of her life to promoting the many benefits of maintaining physical health and well-being through exercise. Mrs. Sheffield moved to LaGrange in 1974 with her late husband of 61 years Ben Sheffield and their three children, she began hosting the "Exercise with Emily" show on television for many years and her many impressions of characters from Ray Steven's songs like "Willard McBane In It's me Margaret" and "Bubber the Alabama Shriner". Mrs. Sheffield is now in the race of her life, battling the effects of Alzheimer's and is doing so with the grace and determination that she has demonstrated throughout her life. Troup County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes the many contributions of Mrs. Emily Baird Sheffield and calls upon all citizens to honor her bravery by observing this date, December 2, 2013 as "Mrs. Emily Baird Sheffield Day" in Troup County Georgia.

**Employee Recognition-Lynn Howard, Parks & Recreation:**

Chairman Wolfe recognized Mrs. Lynn Howard for receiving the Administrative Support Award by the Georgia Parks & Recreation 4<sup>th</sup> District at their Annual Awards banquet held in Griffin, GA on October 23, 2013. This award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the administrative aspect of the recreation profession. Lynn wears many hats in the department. She works with budgets, budget reports, payroll, DNR & DOT grants, but also heads up the Troup Transit system. Chairman Wolfe also spoke highly of how she has raised a half-million dollars for the Relay for Life.

**City of LaGrange Annexation Request (West Point Road at Pegasus Parkway) :**

County Planner Nancy Seegar presented a letter from City of LaGrange for annexation request (West Point Road at Pegasus Parkway). The City of LaGrange is proposing to annex 8 parcels, three on Bradfield Drive, three parcels along West Point Road and four parcels along Pegasus Parkway. The proposed zoning of these parcels parallels the zoning in the unincorporated county, there are no county facilities on any of these properties and the annexation does not create any unincorporated islands. Ms. Seegar indicated that the annexation did include those parts of the rights-of-way where both sides have been annexed.

**Consideration of 911 Phone System Upgrade:**

E-911 Director Suzy Noles presented 911 phone system upgrades that would allow 911 the ability to receive texts, pictures and videos along with improved caller ID. Ms. Noles commented 79% to 85% of calls that come into 911 are cell-phone based and the number of landlines are dwindling down. The current system cannot accept text messages. The FCC is going to be pushing on doing this and for phone companies to provide the technology for us. The three major cell phone operators in the U.S. have collaborated on a solution that will be available in May 2014. This could help 911 know details right away like the severity of a wreck by someone sending a picture operators could then quickly disperse the picture to officers to look out for the vehicle. The county is looking at a deal that would cost \$424k but 911 would get multiple discounts and trade-in reimbursement of old equipment for a net cost of \$280,478. If the county doesn't contract for the system before the end of the year, the county would lose a \$34k discount. Total cost of upgrade is \$280,478 with 20% down and the balance to be paid after July 2014 (in FY15). Chairman Wolfe questioned if some more financial scenarios could be established before the next meeting. A Motorola representative spoke that this contract did not have to be signed by December 31<sup>st</sup> and would present some different ways either

through a purchase or lease. Commissioner Davis made a motion to table to next scheduled meeting, December 17, 2013. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

**Consideration of Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement for Town Square Tax Allocation District:**

County Manager Tod Tentler presented a Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement for Town Square Tax Allocation District. The (TAD) is for the planned Marriot Hotel in the former Mansour's building. The Marriott Hotel will consist of five-story, hundred rooms under the Marriot brand. Behind the hotel will be a two-hundred space parking deck for the hotel and public use. City Manager Tom Hall commented the developer for the project is seeking new market tax credits which have not been secured. With the TAD in place the developer is optimistic on secure financing for the estimated \$16 million project. Mr. Tentler responded no taxes are currently being collected on it because the city owns it but estimated taxes with its current millage and value of property the county would receive \$7,400 annually and the school system would receive twice that amount. Mr. Hall commented the project would also generate additional sales tax, hotel/motel taxes for the city, county and the school system. The Callaway Foundation who is funding the parking deck will be an estimated \$4 million. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement for Town Square Tax Allocation District. Commissioner Foster seconded.

Unanimous.

**Consideration of Amendment to SPLOST IV Intergovernmental Agreement:**

County Manager Tod Tentler explained that the Inter-governmental Agreement that was signed inadvertently included projects with priority 2, both for County projects and some of the Cities' projects. Mr. Tentler explained that he had previously met with the three cities' county managers and all were in agreement to make the necessary adjustments to make all projects of equal priority (being Priority 1).

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve amendment to SPLOST IV Intergovernmental Agreement. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Commissioner Jones made a motion to go into public hearing.

Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

**Rezoning:**

(2<sup>nd</sup> Reading-Vote Eligible)

**Troup County Planning Department-General Commercial (GC) from Single-Family Medium Density (SFMD) Parcel 052-1-000-174 located at 2747 Hamilton Road:**

Sr Building Official Jay Anderson presented the application by the Troup County Planning Department of 2747 Hamilton Road to rezone property from Single-Family Medium Density to General Commercial. The (BOZAPC) Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission recommended approval with 6 of 9 members present. The reason to rezone was an administrative error. Chairman Wolfe asked if there was anyone who would like to speak in favor of or in opposition to the rezoning. No one responded. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the rezoning. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

(2nd Reading-Vote Eligible)

**Jeffrey Wreyford- Single-Family Medium Density (SFMD) to Agricultural (AG)+17 Acre Parcel 078-0 -000-034 located at 5949 West Point Road**

Sr Building Official Jay Anderson presented the application by Mr. Jeffrey Wreyford of 5949 West Point Road to rezone property from Single-Family Medium Density to Agricultural. Mr. Anderson read the six rezoning standards. Chairman Wolfe asked if there was anyone who would like to speak in favor of or in opposition to the rezoning. No one responded. Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve the rezoning. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

**Subdivisions:**

- None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- None.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- None.

**Executive Session to discuss Potential Litigation and Personnel Issue:**

Commissioner Jones made a motion to go into exit the Public Hearing, return to the Regular Meeting, and go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and personnel issue. Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

**MEETING REOPENED:**

Commissioner Jones made a motion to go out of Executive Session back into Regular Meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

Chairman Wolfe announced that during Executive Session they discussed personnel issue on which no action was taken.

Potential Litigation was discussed and Commissioner Foster made a motion to allow County Manager Tod Tentler to be authorized to enter into a settlement agreement on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to resolve two claims of two employees of the Sheriff's Department being Michael Stewart and Shannon Howard who alleged they were improperly paid for hours worked and to pay the sum total of \$47,500 which includes attorney fees and cost. Commissioner Davis seconded.

Unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Foster made a motion to exit Public Hearing and to adjourn. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
G. S. Turk, County Clerk