

September 2, 2008

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Walton County Government Building, 303 South Hammond Drive, Suite 330, Monroe, Ga. Those present included Chairman Kevin Little, Commissioners Clinton Ayers, Michael Turner, Vickie Gasaway, Lamar Palmer, Gerald Atha and Kirklyn Dixon, County Clerk Leta Talbird, County Attorney Kirby Atkinson, Personnel Director Karen Fraser, Finance Director Linda Hanna and Planning Director Mike Martin. A list of citizens and other employees in attendance at this meeting is on file in the auxiliary file under this meeting date.

Steve Cumblidge with the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center made a presentation regarding the availability of the RDC's GIS Mapping Service for use by the County.

Chairman Little called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Dixon opened the meeting in prayer.

Commissioner Atha made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Palmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2008 and August 7, 2008 meetings. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered bids received for resurfacing subdivision roads on which the bonds have been called. Planning Director Mike Martin gave a status report on the roads, stating that few houses have been built in the subdivisions. Mr. Martin recommended tabling a decision on resurfacing the streets until 2009. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to defer the matter until January 2009. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Facilities Manager Joyce Chambers presented a Cooperative Agreement with USDA for lease of office space located in Courthouse Annex II. Ms. Chambers stated that maintenance costs are included in the lease amount. She recommended leasing the space to USDA in the amount of \$1,925.00 per month for two years. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to approve the lease for a two-year period. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered a Planning Commission recommendation to approve, with conditions, a rezone from MH (A-2) to B-3 on 3.25 acres for Daniel Ragsdale – Z08070002. The affected property is located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 278 and 2367 Hancock Road and is further identified on WC Tax Map C 158, Parcel 74. Chairman Little opened the public hearing on the matter. Tom Garrett of Alcovy Surveying and Daniel Ragsdale came before the Board in support of the rezone. Mr. Ragsdale requested a reduction in the transitional buffer and approval of an entrance off of Hancock Road. Kathleen Rosser spoke in opposition, stating that she wants the 50 ft. transitional buffer to remain in place. Ms. Rosser inquired what type businesses are permitted in B-3 zoning. Planning Director Mike Martin stated that B-3 is middle ground between retail commercial and industrial. Chairman Little closed the public hearing on the matter. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to approve the rezone with the recommendation by the Planning Commission that the transitional buffer will not be waived, but would allow an entrance off of Hancock Drive. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Planning Director Mike Martin discussed a citizen request for an amendment to the Walton County Animal Control Ordinance adding Managed Care of Feral Cats. Mr. Martin stated that he found a number of problems with the proposed amendment and that he is coordinating with Animal Control to develop amendments to address the issue. Dr. Lori Deemer spoke in favor of feral cat management. No action was taken.

At 6:35 p.m., Commissioner Turner entered the meeting.

The Board considered an annexation request from the City of Social Circle – Approximately 322 acres located at U.S. Highway 278 and Interstate 20. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to approve the annexation. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Finance Director Linda Hanna presented contracts and budgeted purchases of \$2,500.00 or greater for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Ayers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon, to approve contracts and purchases as presented. All voted in favor.

Ms. Hanna presented an FY 2009 budget transfer from Water Operations to General Government Buildings. She stated that at its July meeting, the Water Authority Board amended their FY 2009 budget to remove \$35,000.00 for the purchase of equipment for connection with the county telephone system and the Commission ratified the amendment at its July 8, 2008 meeting. She stated that the request is to transfer monies to Government Buildings to be used for reconstruction of the former Diversion Center as proposed by Facilities Manager Joyce Chambers at the August 5, 2008 meeting.

Commissioner Ayers stated that it is necessary for the Water Authority Offices to be connected to the County's telephone system. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to deny the budget transfer request. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Ms. Hanna presented an FY 2009 budget amendment in the amount of \$838,050.83 for the Public Works Department for the continuation of construction of the following Capital Road Improvement Projects: Carl Davis Road at Bold Springs Road, White Road/Sharon Church Road/Center Hill Church Road and Youth Jersey Road at Georgia Highway 81. Ms. Hanna stated that these Capital Projects were approved in the FY 2008 budget, but were not rolled over into the FY 2009 budget. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Personnel Director Karen Fraser present employee new hires, promotions, demotions and transfers for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to approve new hires, promotions, demotions and transfers as presented, for the record. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered an Employee Benefits Committee recommendation to approve an amendment to the Employee Bereavement Policy adding stepparents to the approved relatives list. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to approve the amendment as presented. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Walton County Water Authority General Manager Wendell Geiger presented actions taken by the Authority at its August 26, 2008 meeting for ratification by the Board. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to ratify actions taken by the Authority at its August 26, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered a request from Dan Foster, Hal Brady and Cheryl Brandy for the County to abandon a portion of Locklin Cemetery Road. Attorney Mary Felker, representing Ruth Tate, who owns a 120- acre tract on Locklin Cemetery Road, opposed abandonment of the road. Ms. Felker stated that Ms. Tate's only ingress, egress and road frontage is located on the segment of Locklin Cemetery Road that is being requested to be abandoned. Cliff McGaughey also spoke in opposition, stating that abandonment would create a severe imposition. After further discussion, Commissioner Palmer made a motion to deny the abandonment request and for the County to go forward with opening the road to the Tate property line. The motion died due to lack of a second. After further discussion, Commissioner Dixon made a motion to table a decision on the matter until the October 7, 2008 meeting to

allow time for further review of the request. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Facilities Manager Joyce Chambers gave an update on the progress of the SPLOST projects.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion to approve a DCA Local Assistance Grant for the purchase of digital video cameras for Sheriff's Department cars. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion to approve a contract with Medicare/Medicaid for the EMS Department. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered a contract change order in the amount of \$22,191.35 submitted by ISC, Inc. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to table a decision on the change order to get justification for the additional charges from ISC, Inc. After further discussion, Commissioner Ayers amended his motion to deny the change order. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon, to approve a Right of Way Agreement with GDOT for Project TSAP0S006-00 (020) – S.R. 81 @ Bay Creek Church Road. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered a proposal from QORE Property Sciences for a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment on 17 acres purchased from West Walton Properties. County Attorney Kirby Atkinson recommended changes in the contract language. Commissioner Dixon made a motion to approve the proposal pending changes in contract language recommended by the County Attorney. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Board considered a contract with Valley Services, Inc. for Walton County Jail inmate meals. County Attorney Kirby Atkinson recommended changes in the contract language. Commissioner Atha made a motion to approve the contract subject to changes recommended by the County Attorney. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered a contract with Traylor Business Services, Inc. for a Business Personal Property Verification Program. County Attorney Kirby Atkinson recommended changes in the contract language. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to approve the contract contingent upon changes recommended by the County Attorney. Commissioner Turner seconded the

motion. All voted in favor.

The Board considered a proposal from CBIZ Benefits & Insurance Services – Actuarial Services – Post Retirement Health Care Benefits. County Attorney Kirby Atkinson recommended changes in the contract language. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the contract pending review by the County Attorney. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Central Communications Director Wendra Williams presented a Site License and Site Description agreement with Williams Pipeline for the Jacks Creek Tower. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Chairman Little entered into the record a proclamation commemorating the 225th anniversary of the 1783 Treaty of Paris, ending the American Revolution.

Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to adopt a resolution extending the moratorium on the acceptance of applications for building and development permits within the Hard Labor Creek Regional Water Reservoir pool level boundaries and 150 ft. buffer for 24 months. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

County Attorney Kirby Atkinson reviewed the State of Georgia Statute requiring emblems on county vehicles. The Board decided to meet with the Constitutional Officers and then schedule a hearing on the matter.

Walnut Grove Mayor Don Cannon and members of the Walnut Grove City Council came before the Board regarding a proposed partnership in the Walnut Grove Water Reclamation System. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to initiate the development of a contract between the two entities based on Walnut Grove's proposal and other information presented. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Donna Martin and Jimmy Parker spoke during the public comment segment of the meeting.

At 7:55 p.m. Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Atha, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor.

All documents of record for this meeting are on file in either the addendum book or auxiliary file under this meeting date.

KEVIN W. LITTLE, CHAIRMAN

LETA P. TALBIRD, CLERK

CLINTON AYERS, DISTRICT 1

MICHAEL TURNER, DISTRICT 2

VICKIE M. GASAWAY, DIST. 3

LAMAR PALMER, DISTRICT 4

GERALD ATHA, DISTRICT 5

KIRKLYN DIXON, DISTRICT 6