

February 2, 2021

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Walton County Courthouse. Those participating in the meeting included Chairman David Thompson, Commissioners Bo Warren, Mark Banks, Timmy Shelnett, Lee Bradford and Kirklyn Dixon, County Clerk Rhonda Hawk, Finance Director Milton Cronheim, Planning Director Charna Parker and County Attorney Chip Ferguson. Commissioner Jeremy Adams joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m. A list of employees and citizens in attendance at the meeting is on file in the auxiliary file under this meeting date.

MEETING OPENING

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Shelnett gave the invocation.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

***Motion:** Commissioner Banks made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion. Commissioners Warren, Banks, Shelnett, Bradford and Dixon voted in favor; the motion carried.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Contract - Chamber of Commerce-Capital Campaign FY22

***Motion:** Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve the contract allocating \$50,000 for FY22. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. Commissioners Warren, Banks, Shelnett, Bradford and Dixon voted in favor. The motion carried.*

Appointment - Walton County Planning Commission (tabled 1/14/21)

Chairman Thompson requested that Wesley Brown Sisk be appointed to the Walton County Planning Commission.

***Motion:** Commissioner Bradford made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to appoint Wesley Brown Sisk to the Walton County Planning Commission. Commissioners Warren, Banks, Shelnett, Bradford and Dixon voted in favor. The motion carried.*

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Denial of Z20110015 - Rezone 75.484 acres from A1 to R1 OSC for a residential subdivision - Applicant: Lexes Homes Inc./Owner: Snows Mill Road LLC - Snows Mill Rd-Map/Parcel C1790044 & 44A – District 4

Chairman Thompson opened the public hearing on the matter. Paul Rosenthal of Preston & Malcom Attorneys at Law represented the request to rezone on behalf

of Ken Gary, Owner of Lexes Homes, Inc. and advised of his clients Constitutional Rights. Commissioner Adams joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m. during the presentation. Candace Donahue presented a petition and spoke in opposition. Also speaking in opposition were Tommy Nash and Amanda Foy. (The Planning Commission case file and minutes with more detailed information are on file as part of the record in the auxiliary file of this meeting.) Chairman Thompson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: *Commissioner Bradford made a motion to accept the Planning Commission recommendation to deny the rezone. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion, voted and carried unanimously.*

Denial of CU20110026 - Conditional Use for Event Facility - Applicant: Benjamin Juarez/Owners Benjamin & Elsa Juarez - 3681 Bold Springs Rd-Map/Parcel C0720026B00 – District 5

Chairman Thompson opened the public hearing on the matter. Eduardo Munoz spoke on behalf of the owners offering possible solutions for approving the conditional use. The applicants would like to hold rodeos on the property and charge admission but cannot charge admission without the conditional use. Charles Gangi spoke in opposition. Ashley Cameron presented a petition opposing the conditional use. Mike Zech spoke in opposition on behalf of the residents of Providence Club. Chairman Thompson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: *Commissioner Adams made a motion to accept the Planning Commission recommendation and deny the conditional use. Commissioner Bradford seconded the motion. All voted in favor.*

Approval of CU20110011 - Conditional Use for Gated Community - Applicant/Owner: William H Coleman - 604 PJ East Rd-Map/Parcel C0640100A00 – District 3

Chairman Thompson opened the public hearing on the matter. Applicant William Coleman spoke in favor of the conditional use. There was no opposition present. Chairman Thompson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: *Commissioner Shelnutt made a motion to approve the conditional use. Commissioner Banks seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.*

Approval of CU20110022 - Conditional Use for a Guest House - Applicants: Heather & Johnny Spaugh/Owners: Dwight & Teresa Beachy - 2060 Harry Arnold Rd-Map/Parcel C1640099 – District 6

Chairman Thompson opened the public hearing on the matter. Johnny Spaugh spoke in favor of the conditional use. There was no opposition present. Chairman Thompson closed the public hearing on the matter.

Motion: *Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bradford to approve the conditional use. All voted favor.*

Approval of CU20120002 - Conditional Use for telecommunications tower -

Condition that least obtrusive lighting be used - Applicant: Brian M Devine (Verizon Wireless)/Owner: Gwen Burnham - 1811 Michael Rd-Map/Parcel C1620010 - District 4

Chairman Thompson opened the public hearing on the matter. Applicant Brian Devine with Verizon Wireless spoke in favor of the conditional use. Stan and Maria Gaddy spoke in opposition to the conditional use for a telecommunications tower. Chairman Thompson closed the public hearing on the matter.

***Motion:** Commissioner Bradford made a motion to table the matter for further review until the March 2, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion. All voted in favor.*

Approval of CU20120003 - Conditional Use for Parking for Event Facilities - 5480 & 5520 Kent Rock Rd - Applicant: Crump & Co LLC/Owner: Barbara M McMichael - Kent Rock Rd-Map/Parcel C0290020B00 - District 3

Chairman Thompson opened the public hearing on the matter. Applicant Joe Crump spoke in favor of the conditional use. The parking is needed for filming crews and would relieve traffic on Kent Rock Road. There was no opposition present. Chairman Thompson closed the public hearing on the matter.

***Motion:** Commissioner Shelnett made a motion to accept the Planning Commission recommendation to approve the conditional use and adding a planted tree buffer along Kent Rock Road. Commissioner Banks seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.*

Approval of Z20120006– Rezone 4.04 acres from A2 to B3 for a Heating & Air Conditioning Business - Applicant/Owner: Michael Dermer - 4931 Highway 81-Map/Parcel C0160013 - District 2

Chairman Thompson opened the public hearing on the matter. Michael Dermer spoke in favor of the rezone. There was no opposition present.

***Motion:** Commissioner Banks made a motion to approve per the Planning Commission recommendation. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. All voted in favor.*

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of January 5, 2021, Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of January 14, 2021, Meeting Minutes
3. Contracts & Budgeted Purchases of \$5,000 or greater
4. Declaration of Surplus Property
5. Appointment of chief Deputy, Tax Commissioner (for the record)
6. Authority to Authorize Tax Commissioner to Receive Checks
7. Ga. EPD Scrap Tire Abatement Grant Application – KWB
8. Fiscal Agent Designation/Acceptance Agreement – Partnership for Families Children and Youth
9. Approval of Full-time Deputy Coroner and one Part-time Deputy Coroner
10. Water Purchase Agreement – City of Loganville

Motion: Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the Administrative Consent Agenda and to give Chairman Thompson the authority to execute the water purchase agreement subject to final negotiation. Commissioner Bradford seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

FY 2021 Budget Amendments

Motion: Commissioner Bradford made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to adopt the Resolution for FY2021 Budget Amendments. All voted in favor.

Workers Compensation Insurance for Volunteer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Motion: Commissioner Bradford made a motion to adopt the Resolution for CERT members. Commissioner Banks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACTS

Updated Engagement Letter – Operational Assessment – Mauldin & Jenkins

David Roberts of Mauldin and Jenkins presented an updated engagement letter for the firm to perform an operational assessment of county departments. He stated they would start with 4 of the larger departments. Chairman Thompson said he would like to see an exemption for EMS, Fire and the Sheriff's Office due to COVID concerns.

Motion: Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the assessment starting with the 4 largest departmental budgets except for EMS, Fire and the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Shelnut seconded the motion. After some discussion, Commissioner Adams amended his motion to add that going forward, all departments would be assessed. Commissioner Shelnut seconded the amended motion. All voted in favor.

Legal Services – Atkinson Ferguson

County Attorney Chip Ferguson presented a contract to provide general legal services to the County for a flat rate of \$25,000 per month. Other legal services such as litigation matters will be billed separately at \$175 per hour for partners and \$160 per hour for associates. Chairman Thompson added that this would give departments the ability to ask freely for legal advice when needed.

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the contract retroactive to January 1, 2021. Commissioner Banks seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Bradford made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Banks, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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

DAVID G. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN

RHONDA HAWK, COUNTY CLERK