

## **Minutes**

### **Dodge County Board of Commissioners**

**March 7, 2016**

**Present:** Dan McCranie, Chairman  
William T. Howell, Jr., Vice-Chairman and District 1 Commissioner  
Terry Niblett, District 2 Commissioner  
Brian Watkins, District 3 Commissioner  
Karen Cheek, District 4 Commissioner

**Also Present:** John Harrington, County Attorney  
Bobby Peacock, County Manager  
Nancy Gail Rogers, County Clerk

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2016, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. The devotional and prayer was given by Commissioner Cheek.

#### **Elected Officials/ Department Heads**

A. Henry Whitfield representing Middle Georgia State University passed out information on the Heart of Georgia Air Show to be held Saturday, November 5, 2016 and coinciding with the fiftieth (50<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of the Heart of Georgia Airport and the twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of the aviation school. He told the board that sponsorships were available and asked the board to consider supporting the event.

B. Travis Niblett of the Eastman Dodge County Recreation Department addressed the board to clear up any misconceptions or rumors about the incident at EDRD during the weekend. He assured the board that no children were present and the building was rented to a private individual with a legally binding contract. He said the EDRD board intends to pursue that individual. Commissioner Cheek asked if there was a rental policy agreement in place and the response was yes including a one hundred dollar (\$100) damage deposit as well as no alcohol or drugs allowed with the event over by eleven o'clock (11:00) p.m. Commissioner Cheek said she was appalled by the incident and asked Niblett to do whatever it takes for this not to happen again. Commissioner Howell asked going forward what would be done to control this type of situation. Niblett replied that all rental activities had been suspended and the board would be considering increasing the deposit amount along with requiring events to be held during daylight hours with a staff member present. Niblett stated this was not a policy failure it was a person failure. Commissioner Howell also suggested they utilize the Sheriff Department to prevent a

reoccurrence. Chairman McCranie said the sad part was it would be tougher for citizens to use the facility that was funded by taxpayers.

C. Charles Williams of the Eastman Dodge Chamber of Commerce informed the board that the City of Eastman have voted unanimously at its last meeting to support the local library through the GMC program. He said Georgia Military College now has the keys to the building with classes due to begin around August 1, 2016.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **A. February 15, 2016 Regular Meeting**

Chairman McCranie asked the board to review the minutes of the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting prepared and presented in printed form. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Niblett. Approval by vote was unanimous.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Approval of Accounts Payable**

Chairman McCranie asked the board to look over the printed check listing of Accounts Payable for questions or comments. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve followed by the second from Commissioner Watkins. The vote was unanimous to approve.

#### **B. Sharon Flanagan – Dodge County Farmer's Market**

Sharon Flanagan told the board members that she would like to address three areas concerning the formation of the Dodge County Farmer's Market with those being 1) Background, 2) Consider formation of a Development Authority, and 3) Appoint members to the authority. She said committee members Joan Tripp, Ariana Reaves, Charles Williams, Milton Johnson, Mr. Papel (former Ag teacher), George Fluellen, Rachel Hilliard, Tom Cranford, Brian Watkins, Marlas Williamson and herself had met numerous times to lay the ground work for the market with Mr. Papel accepting the position as market manager. She said the committee was modeling the local market after the Warner Robins Farmer's Market which was an international market and had been successful for five years. She said policies and rules had been set with critical analysis given to choosing the location for the market. The courthouse had been given the highest score with hopes to draw business to the downtown businesses nearby. She said the committee desired the market to be a fun family place and would ask the Sheriff to check routinely to assure safety for the participants and visitors. A planned grand opening and ribbon cutting is scheduled for April 2 at 9 a.m. with hours of operation from 9 until 2. All board members were extended an invitation to attend. She said a logo in red had been created with sponsorships secured from the Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce and Farm

Bureau. She asked the board to consider formation of a Development Authority for the market to do two things: 1) Establish sovereign immunity and 2) Enable them to apply for grants. The authority would allow them to apply for an EIN to get EBT dollars. She referred to a list of recommended members for the Development Authority given to each board member and asked that the authority be comprised of three to five members. Those names submitted were Sharon Flanagan, Jon Butler, Ariana Reaves, Karen Cheek, and Joan Tripp. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to create the authority. Commissioner Watkins asked if there would be any costs associated with the authority and County Attorney Harrington replied no, but it would allow the market to register with the state. He also credited his associate, Silas Harrington, with researching the legalities of the formation of the authority and subsequently the market. The motion to create the authority was seconded by Commissioner Howell and all voted affirmative. Next Commissioner Howell made a motion to appoint the recommended list of nominees to the authority. Commissioner Watkins asked if there were term limits for the slate of nominees and if they were staggered to which Harrington replied it was addressed in Article Three of the bylaws. A second to the motion was made by Commissioner Niblett. Commissioners Howell, Niblett and Watkins voted in favor of the motion with Commissioner Cheek abstaining from the vote. Commissioner Niblett complimented Mrs. Flanagan and the committee on the work thus far.

### **Commissioner Reports**

There were no reports from the board.

### **County Manager Report**

County Manager Peacock asked the board to review the Intergovernmental Agreement between Dodge County and the City of Eastman with regard to the sharing of the Dodge County Building Inspector and to be ready to take action on the matter at the next meeting.

### **Public Comments**

Milton Johnson, Eastman City Councilman, told the board that the city was eager to get the agreement in place for the building inspector. He commended the board on their decisions in favor of the farmer's market and stated his commitment to use his voice with the city to garner their support.

### **Adjourn**

Commissioner Howell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at the conclusion of the public comments. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion and all voted in favor of adjournment.