

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

June 3, 2019

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

Also Present: John Harrington, County Attorney
Spencer Barron, 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, June 3, 2019, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Cheek gave the devotional and prayed.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

Sharon Cobb Flanagan reported that attendance at the Dodge County Farmers Market was good with seventeen vendors with good produce.

Approval of Minutes

A. May 20, 2019 Regular Meeting

Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 20, 2019. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the minutes with Commissioner Watkins making the second. All voted to approve.

Old Business

A. Dodge County Recreation Department Alcohol Ordinance

Chairman McCranie referred to a letter received from the recreation department requesting action by the board to put in place a no alcohol ordinance for the local recreation facilities. The county attorney asked for direction from the board to draft the ordinance adapting it to state law and the limits set by the driving laws of the State of Georgia. Commissioner Howell made a motion to adopt the ordinance to prohibit alcohol consumption for activities at the recreation complex as well as those who rent the facility. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion and Commissioner Watkins asked to clarify that the ordinance would be specific to existing laws and fine schedules and would be enforced by the Probate Court. The vote was taken and the motion passed.

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Chairman McCranie asked for any questions or comments concerning the Accounts Payable checklist. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve. Commissioner Watkins made the second and the vote was unanimous to approve.

B. Appointment to Dodge County Recreation Department Advisory Board

Chairman McCranie asked for nominations for the appointment to the Recreation Advisory Board. Commissioner Howell nominated Bodie Gray. Commissioner Watkins nominated Cody Sheffield. Commissioner Howell made a motion to close the nominations and Commissioner Watkins made the second. Chairman McCranie called for a vote with Commissioner Howell being the sole vote for Bodie Gray. Commissioners Watkins and Cheek voted for Cody Sheffield and Commissioner Niblett abstained. Chairman McCranie announced that Cody Sheffield was the appointee.

C. Authorization to Change Signatures on Bank Accounts

County Manager Barron said that the board had granted authority as a check signer at the Citizens Bank and needed to grant authority to add the county manager and county clerk to accounts at the Bank of Eastman and to remove Bobby Peacock as a signer on those accounts. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to authorize the changes and Commissioner Watkins made the second. All voted in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Reports

There were no reports from the board.

County Manager Report

The county manager submitted a request from Public Works Director Richard Harrell to purchase a trailer with two bids submitted at \$4,834 and \$3,100 from available SPLOST funds. Commissioner Howell made a motion to accept the low bid of \$3,100. Commissioner Niblett made the second and all voted in the affirmative.

The county manager also reported that good progress was being made at the former AT&T building with the Grand Jury set to convene there Tuesday week.

Public Comments

Juliette Roberson of 709 Abbeville Highway asked about the signs requested for her road and County Manager Barron said the signs had been ordered and will be put up when delivered.

Cindy Eckles of the Dodge County News asked about the schedule move for the building on Pearl Bates Avenue and Barron answered that the court would move to the building for the grand jury to meet in June. He stated that the county officials would move after the court was in place

with the Tax Commissioner, Tax Assessor, and the Registrar being located in the Courthouse Annex.

Jesse Bearden commented that he was personally against eminent domain acquisition of the acreage on Ben Giddens road and asked that the county negotiate with Rayonier to purchase the acreage.

Executive Session

The county attorney asked that the motion for the executive session be amended to include discussion of legal matters as well as property acquisition and Commissioner Howell moved to make the change. Commissioner Watkins seconded his motion and the change was made. Commissioner Howell made a motion to move into executive session with the second from Commissioner Niblett. The motion passed.

At the conclusion of the executive session Commissioner Cheek made a motion to return to the regular meeting. Commissioner Watkins made the second and all voted yes.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to approve payment of \$121,910.64 which represents fifty percent (50%) of the cost to pave Dodge Avenue from the railroad tracks to the transfer station with the city sharing in the repaving cost at one half or fifty percent (50%). Commissioner Niblett seconded her motion. Commissioner Watkins stated that the county legally owned one half (1/2) of the road and the city owned one half (1/2) and the amount would represent a fifty fifty split of the cost with the county's portion coming from TSPLOST. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Adjourn

Commissioner Howell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Niblett made the second and all voted yes.