

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

November 19, 2018

Present: Dan McCranie, Chairman
William T. Howell, Vice-Chairman & District 1 Commissioner
Terry L. 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, November 19, 2018, 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 followed by the devotional and prayer by Commissioner Cheek.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

Travis Niblett – Dodge County Recreation Department

Travis Niblett of the Dodge County Recreation Department thanked the board for the opportunity to speak and gave an update announcing two local football teams are headed to state tournaments. He said during the week of Thanksgiving he was thankful for the community support for recreation and introduced Steve Card of the Georgia Recreation & Parks Association.

Card told the board that he had the unique responsibility to travel the state and he had learned the backbone of recreation was the volunteers. He said the volunteers display loyalty, passion and pride in where they live. He said he was in Eastman to award a local volunteer who was selfless, had a servant's heart, and after having a massive heart attack was back in two days to coach. He said he had volunteered for thirty plus years as a coach, assistant, grounds keeping, cleaning and maintenance. He said this volunteer was instrumental in starting the soccer program in Dodge County and had coached all stars, all levels, and all sports. He said Coach Shane Mangham was the 2018 GRPA Volunteer of the Year. Coach Shane Mangham was present to receive the award and pictures were taken by the local news media. Chairman McCranie congratulated Mangham on behalf of the board and thanked Card for coming to present the award.

Approval of Minutes

A. November 5, 2018 Regular Meeting

Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 5, 2018. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the minutes with Commissioner Niblett making the second. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Old Business

A. Wendell Lowery – Property Tax Matter

County Attorney Harrington said he had met with Lowery and checked into the situation and there is no dispute that the bill went out but the taxes paid by Lowery were for property titled in his mother, Hazel Lowery's name who is deceased. He said the property with the penalty and interest due is titled in his father, Pershing Lowery's name who is also deceased. He said there will be a hearing in January or February to resolve family business concerning the property and he would suggest that the matter be tabled until after the hearing. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the matter with Commissioner Cheek making the second. All voted in favor of the motion.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Chairman McCranie asked if there were any questions from the board concerning the listing of Accounts Payable payments. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the payments. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Commissioner Reports

There were no reports from the commissioners.

County Manager Report

The county manager had nothing to report and there were no questions for him.

Public Comments

Sharon Cobb Flanagan told the board that twenty-six (26) no littering signs had been put up throughout the county and the beautification project was still in process.

Reverend Lonnie Lewis asked the board for help with the Free Gift Church Road, a dirt road that he lives on in a house built in 2014. He asked that the road be paved but would appreciate any help for improvement. Commissioner Cheek asked how many people lived on the road and he answered not too many but the section near his home was the worst on the road.

Cindy Eckles asked about plans for offices to be closed on Wednesday through Friday for Thanksgiving holidays. Commissioner Niblett replied that holidays and office hours had already been set by the Board of Commissioners. She also gave an update on Tax Commissioner Kay Graham who is hospitalized in Macon.

Executive Session

Chairman McCranie asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss legal matters and land acquisition and explained that no vote could be held on anything discussed until the regular meeting resumed. Commissioner Niblett made the motion and Commissioner Watkins made the second. All voted in the affirmative.

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

Adjourn

Commissioner Howell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Watkins made the second and the motion passed.