

**Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 17, 2024**



Commissioners Present:

Chairman Dan McCranie
Sharon Cobb Flanagan, District 1
Vice-Chair Brian Watkins, District 3

Remotely:

Kelly Belflower, District 2
Karen Cheek, District 4

Also Present:

Conner Bearden, County Manager
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Absent:

John P. Harrington, County Attorney

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and said a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

- Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson reported 98 calls in May.
- EMS Director Michael Johnson reported \$84,314.57 for May revenues.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – June 03, 2024 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All physically present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. Tax Matter

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the tax matter until Attorney Harrington could be present. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All physically present voted in favor. Motion passed.

B. Recreation Board Resolution

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to pass the Recreation Board Resolution. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. Commissioners Cheek, Belflower, and Flanagan voted yes. Commissioner Watkins voted no until one of the attorneys could answer questions. (Neither attorney was present at the meeting at this time.)

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH THE DODGE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION AND ALL SUCCESSOR ENTITIES AS CREATED BY THE ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION OF THE DODGE COUNTY COMMISSIONER ON OCTOBER 17, 1994 AND SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED; TO CREATE THE DODGE COUNTY RECREATION BOARD, ITS MEMBERSHIP, POWERS, DUTIES, AND OFFICERS; AND TO REPEAL EXISTING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THERETO.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DODGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS;

Section I.

(a)The Eastman-Dodge County Recreation Commission and its successors as created by the Joint Resolution of City of Eastman and Dodge County on October 17, 1994 is hereby abolished as of _____.

(b)All real and personal property formerly belonging to the Eastman-Dodge County Recreation Commission and its successors shall immediately become the property of the Dodge County Board of Commissioners.

(c)The present members of the Eastman-Dodge County Recreation Commission and its successors shall continue to serve in their respective positions until _____, and, thereafter, shall be divested of their office.

Section II.

There is hereby created a Board to be known as the Dodge County Recreation Board effective _____.

Section III.

The Dodge County Recreation Board shall be composed of five members as appointed by the Dodge County Board of Commissioners.

(a)The terms of office for the Dodge County Recreation Board members shall be for a period of four years or until their successors have been duly appointed and qualified. Each such term shall commence on January 1 of the year said member is appointed.

(b)The foregoing notwithstanding, two of the initial Dodge County Recreation Board members shall be appointed for a term of two years.

(c)Vacancies of the Dodge County Recreation Board shall be filled for the remaining unexpired term of the vacating member.

(d)Members of the Dodge County Recreation Board shall serve without remuneration or financial benefit of any kind.

(e)Any Member of the Dodge County Recreation Board who misses three consecutive meetings without good excuse shall be reported to the Dodge County Board of Commissioners and subject to removal.

Section IV.

(a)The members of Dodge County Recreation Board shall annually elect from their membership a Chairman and other officers as it may deem necessary for the orderly conduct of its business. Any such officer may serve for consecutive years is so elected.

(b)The Dodge County Recreation Board may adopt rules and regulations governing its meetings so long as the same is not in conflict with any rules or regulations promulgated by the Dodge County Board of Commissioners.

(c)The Dodge County Recreation Board shall hold regular meetings at such times and places which it may designate but shall hold a minimum of a meeting each quarter of a calendar year.

(d)A quorum of the Dodge County Recreation Board shall be 3 or more members.

(e)The Dodge County Recreation Board shall review the operations of the Dodge County Recreation Department, make recommendations to the county manager, and shall otherwise serve in an advisory capacity to the county manager and the Dodge County Board of Commissioners.

(f)The Dodge County Recreation Board shall not have the authority to enter into contracts, agreements, letters of intent, memorandums of understandings, or any other agreement or otherwise bind or obligate the Dodge County Board of Commissioners or the Dodge County Recreation Department. Nor shall the Dodge County Recreation Board be authorized to receive, collect, or disburse any monies.

(g)The county attorney or their designee may serve as legal counsel for the Dodge County Recreation Board.

Section V.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the remaining portions hereof.

Section VI.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances and all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance and resolution are hereby repealed.

B. Recreation Board Appointment

Applications received: Lindsey Craven, Dana Lowery, Chase Eaton

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to open nominations with Chase Eaton. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the nomination.

With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor.

Chairman McCranie stated Chase Eaton was appointed by acclamation.

C. Sweet Home Church Road Dumpsters

Manager Bearden stated the Milan dumpsters opened June 5, which should help alleviate some of the dumping issues on Sweet Home Church Road. He stated the county had also placed a fourth dumpster at Sweet Home to help with the overflow problem.

Commissioner Belflower made a motion to hold a public hearing at the next board meeting concerning the Sweet Home Church Road dumpsters. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All physically present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$583,047.99. All physically present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Dodge County Parcel E21 083

Manager Bearden received a request to purchase Parcel E21 083 (.14 acres on Mt. Moriah Street), acquired by the county in a tax sale in August 1997. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to engage an auctioneer to sale the property. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All physically present voted in favor. Motion passed.

C. City of Eastman – Service Delivery Strategy

Manager Bearden notified the board he had received the following correspondence from the City of Eastman:



Christopher C. Gordon
Direct: 478.749.9939
Email: cgordon@jamesbatesllp.com

231 Riverside Drive
Macon, Georgia 31201
O 478.742.4280
F 478.742.9720

June 5, 2024

Conner Bearden (VIA EMAIL: conner.bearden@dodgecounty-ga.com)
County Manager of Dodge County
P.O. Box 818
643 Pearl Bates Avenue
Eastman, GA 31023

RE: Service Delivery Strategy

Dear Conner,

I hope this correspondence finds you well. The City of Eastman and Dodge County are currently under a Service Delivery Strategy. This agreement no longer adequately addresses the needs and concerns of the citizens of both the City and the County, and fails to deliver services in a manner that avoids unfair distribution of the financial burdens of these services.

Accordingly, the current Service Delivery Strategy must be revised. This letter serves as the City of Eastman's demand pursuant to O.C.G.A. 36-70-28 to renegotiate the existing Service Delivery Strategy. Please respond in writing within 30 days of the date of this letter advising the County's willingness to renegotiate. Should the County be unwilling to negotiate, the City will pursue the mediation and/or arbitration remedies as provided by Georgia law.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments you may have.

Best,

CHRISTOPHER C. GORDON
Attorney for City of Eastman

CCG/vg
54304.0005

E. Board of Elections

Manager Bearden stated he would be advertising openings for the five-member Board of Elections, which will be effective January 2025. The probate judge will no longer be the Elections Superintendent at that time.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Flanagan reported the work session for Growing Forward together will be held June 27 at 6:00 p.m.
- Commissioner Watkins stated the GRAD site application for the property out by the airport had been approved by the state.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

County Manager Bearden reported, as follows:

- Local Roads Administration (LMIG supplement grant) bids will be opened July 2 at 2:00 p.m. The grant has been approved and monies have been received.
- Tire abatement ended June 16. Three company trailers and two county trailers were filled.
- Seven courthouse RFQs have been received.
- The SPLOST negotiations meeting will be Thursday, June 20 at 6 p.m.
- Frisbee golf is now available at the recreation department.
- Maloy’s Store will be available as a manned dumpster site.

Public Comments

John Battle enquired about security at the recreation department.

Sherri Bloodworth stated the Sweet Home Church Road dumpsters were in violation of the county’s ordinance.

John Battle invited the board to the Juneteenth celebration.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, a motion was made by Commissioner Flanagan and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to adjourn at 6:33 p.m. All physically present voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman