

Minutes
Taylor County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
March 5, 2024

The Taylor County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p. m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, in the County Commissioners Meeting Room of the Taylor County Government Complex at 7 Ivy St., Butler, GA. Present were Chairman Milton Harris, Vice-Chairman Tameka Harris, Commissioner Randy Nelson, County Manager Amanda Queen, and County Attorney Eddie Davis.

Chairman Milton Harris, presiding, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Mr. Terry Hudson gave the invocation. Commissioner T. Harris led the Pledge to the United States Flag and Commissioner Nelson led the pledge to the Georgia Flag.

Agenda approved as distributed, on motion of Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner T. Harris and carried with all in favor.

The Minutes of the February 6, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved as distributed on motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner T. Harris and carried by voice vote with all voting in favor and none opposed.

Citizens scheduled to appear:

1. Johnny Brooks – Mr. Brooks thanked the Board for the opportunity to work on road projects for the county, he has put together a proposal for the Rustin Lake Road improvements and feels that his team can help the county get the road paved at a lower cost to the county in working with the LMIG funds and maximizing those benefits.
2. Ms. Jamila Jackson – Ms. Jackson from the NRCS office in Ft Valley along with Mr. Jack McGlaun addressed the Board on the importance of having a local Soil & Conservation specialist in the county. In the local region, Taylor County accounts for over half of the NRCS accounts and workload. Ms. Jackson also reminded the Board that the contract between GACV and Taylor County will expire on September 30 and to work on getting the new contract worked on and signed.
3. Mr. Tommy Blackston – Mr. Blackston addressed the Board in stating that he wishes Taylor County would be able to decline the grant money for the funds regarding the Recreation department and the proposed community center due to

the national debt being so high. Ms. Queen stated these funds are from the state and its use it or it will go to another county and if he had any further questions or comments to go to our State Representative Ms. Stinson.

Reports:

Amber Swann, Planning and Zoning – The two Planning and Zoning Board members whose terms are expiring was brought before the Board last month and failed to pass was brought before the Board this month, Wayne McInvale and Carrie McClendon, both wish to serve an additional term. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to reappoint both members to the Planning & Zoning Board, seconded by Commissioner T. Harris, and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed. Ms. Swann stated that at a conference she recently attended, there is a way to take our ordinances and have them online for a starting fee of \$11,000 and a yearly maintenance fee of \$2,875 for any updates or additions; this is something that would be beneficial to the county. Ms. Swann stated that at the February public hearing Ms. Lena Shields had requested a rezoning on 266. E. Main St from R1 to C1. In April 2023 this was approved to have a 24-hour vending machine facility now she wishes for it to be a professional medical office to sell medical equipment to Medicaid and Medicare patients. With the hours of M-F 8:00AM to 3:30PM with no restroom, stock, minimal traffic, she already operates in Columbus. The vote was unanimous. Commissioner T. Harris made a motion to accept the Planning & Zoning Board’s recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Nelson and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

Abb Preston, Taylor County EMS – Mr. Preston reported that during the month of February there were 167 calls, 96 transports. The Butler region had 56% of the calls and the Reynolds region had 43% of the calls. The Reynolds station will have an Open House on Friday March 8th at noon. The new ambulance should arrive fully complete and ready for operation in late April.

Jamason Byrd, Taylor County Fire Department – No Report

River Valley Regional Commission – Commissioner T. Harris reported that there is a Block Grant with GEFA (Georgia Environmental Financial Agreement) that is up to \$150,000 that can be used to remodel any existing building, there is no match, the project cannot cost more than \$130,000 with additional funds for administrative support. Commissioner Nelson stated that maybe we should look at getting the bell tower repaired on the Courthouse. There is a March 15th deadline. Commissioner T. Harris made a motion to apply for the grant for the bell tower repair, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

Unfinished business:

None.

New business:

Sign DOT Letter – DOT has requested an R-Cut be put in at the intersection of Highway 208 and Highway 19. The Commissioners requested this be tabled until we have all the Board members here to discuss this.

Sign WINGAP Agreement – This is the software used in the Tax Assessors office, this agreement comes each year for the Commissioners to sign.

Sign SWNAA Agreement – This is a statewide mutual aid agreement that if a wreck occurs then we agree to send help and receive help from anyone available.

Commissioner Nelson made a motion to accept and sign both agreements, seconded by Commissioner T. Harris and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

Reynolds REC Department Expense – The electric bill at the Reynolds Recreation Department is overdue, it averages 12.50 a month. After minimal discussion Commissioner Nelson made a motion to take over the bills for the electric services and utilities at the Reynolds Rec Department. Seconded by Commissioner T. Harris and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

Re-allocation of ARPA Funds & Deadlines - the ARPA grant monies from 2021 & 2022 are approaching a deadline of April 30 where the monies must be spent, 1.5 million has already been spent and there is about \$700,000 left, there is an impact study to be done, updating software, the airport needs a new vehicle, we can get a list together of important things that need to be done.

New LMIG Funds – This is the LMIG Project that is 3rd on our safety action plan. We will get recommendations from engineer Rick Saunders, Johnny Brooks, as well as Robert Short with the Roads & Bridges department.

A motion was made by Commissioner T. Harris to enter Executive Session at 7:21pm, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

Work session followed for the Budget FYE 06.30.2023.

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