

Minutes
Taylor County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
May 7, 2024

The Taylor County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p. m. on Tuesday, May 7, 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 Robert Peacock, Commissioner Randy Nelson, Commissioner Cicero Latimore, County Manager Amanda Queen, and County Attorney Eddie Davis.

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

The agenda was approved as distributed, on motion of Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Latimore and carried with all in favor.

The Minutes of the April 2, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved as distributed on motion by Commissioner Latimore, seconded by Commissioner Peacock and carried by voice vote with all voting in favor and none opposed.

Citizens scheduled to appear:

1. James Conn – Averett Rd – Mr. Conn addressed the Board regarding getting Averett Rd to be a priority on the paving list of roads. There are about 8-9 houses on the road, and it gets graded often, however due to drainage and weather it washes out and there has been some damage to trailers traveling down the road. Mr. Conn asked the Board to please add this to the budget for the upcoming year. Commissioner Nelson asked if clay had been put down on the road. It had been put in early 2022. The Commissioners expressed that there isn't much more they can do but keep an eye on it and thanked Mr. Conn for his concerns.
2. Nextera Solar – Monica Schmelzenbach with Nextera Solar and Mr. Jonathon Wells an attorney on this project addressed the Board with information regarding the plans for the 1500 acre tracts that used to be the Boondocks Mud Park. Ms. Monica stated that they will develop 900 acres with solar panels and leave 600 acres natural to enhance wildlife and keep the natural habitation intact. Nextera is looking at an early 2026 start date for construction and requested that the Board approve the conditional use application without an expiration date. Commissioner

Latimore asked how long is the projected construction? Ms. Monica stated that they are looking at 2 years construction of the project and plan on hiring as many locals as possible.

Reports:

Amber Swann, Planning and Zoning – Ms. Swann brought the conditional use application for Nextera Solar to the Board from the Planning and Zoning Board where it was unanimously approved. Commissioner Latimore made a motion to approve the conditional use application without expiration based on the P&Z recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Peacock 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 April there were 169 calls with 98 transports. Mr. Preston stated that the Strawberry Festival went well, there were reportedly over 50000 people in attendance and for next year having a ‘cooling’ tent at next years festival. And continuing the discussion regarding body cameras, Mr. Preston has spoken with several counties, and it is saving a lot of potential lawsuits from disgruntled patients. This is something to investigate for our EMT’s.

Jamason Byrd, Taylor County Fire Department – Mr. Byrd reported that the fire department responded to 13 calls for the month of April. 4 were structure fires, one of which was a mutual aid to Talbot County.

Garrett Bosely, Project Manager – Mr. Bosely, Taylor County’s new Project Manager addressed the Board and will be providing updates of the projects going on with different departments in the county. Tonight Mr. Bosely updated on the road report, our road project list of current needs, the new Sany excavator and our completed airport project.

River Valley Regional Commission – Commissioner T. Harris invited the Commissioners, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Development Authority to the yearly Legislative Meeting on May 22, at 10:30 am in Americus at the South Georgia Technical College.

Unfinished business:

Update on Projects – Rustin Rd, Airport & Gymnasium – Garrett Bosely updated the Board starting with Rustin Rd, this was re-surveyed due to the original did not have enough right of way space. An update on the Gymnasium project, we are waiting on the budget and environment procurement for the agriculture and engineering services. The

airport project was updated during the reports.

New business:

Move Safes in the Courthouse – These are the safes that are currently in the hallways of the courthouse, they are not in use and in the way. Commissioner Latimore made a motion to table this until next month, Commissioner T. Harris seconded the motion, carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

Adopt New Road Matrix – Mr. Bosely shared with the Board a new matrix for valuing roads and conditions, putting them in a point system that will help the county and engineers determine what road needs are. The results of the valuation system will eventually be put onto the county’s website. The commissioners wanted more time to look over the form and see it in action before making an official decision.

Adopt Resolution for Comprehensive Plan – Ms. Queen stated that a meeting was held a month ago, tonight we are adopting the resolution. Commissioner T. Harris made a motion to adopt the resolution for the Comprehensive Plan, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

Amend Current Budget – Ms. Queen shared with the Board several accounts that needed to be amended due to spending. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to amend the current fiscal year budget to align with the current spending, seconded by Commissioner Latimore, and carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Latimore to enter Executive Session at 7:38pm, seconded by Commissioner Peacock, carried with a voice vote of all in favor, none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Work session followed for the Budget FYE 06.30.2023.

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