

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
AGENDA SETTING MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commission Chairman John Scarborough
District 1 Commissioner Lee Allen
District 2 Commissioner Tripp Strickland
District 3 Commissioner Theresa Bettis
District 4 Commissioner Brian Kirk
District 5 Commissioner Derek Doster

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

MEDIA PRESENT:

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal

STAFF PRESENT:

Rhonda S. Wooten, County Clerk
Mike Pruett, County Attorney

Chairman Scarborough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., led in the pledge to the American flag and gave the invocation.

Item No. 1. Chairman's Report

Chairman Scarborough announced that a \$10,000 Georgia Heritage Grant was applied for and received. The grant funding will be used for renovations to our historic courthouse.

Item No. 2. Hearings and Actions on Rezone Matters, Special Use Permits, Etc.

1. Paul Metz is requesting a Conditional Use for an event venue on his 20.0 acre parcel, zoned A1. The property is located on Map 98 Parcel 33-01 at the corner of Russell Road and Cooper Road in District 4.

Chairman Hughston explained the Conditional Use request and stated the Planning and Zoning Commission voted five to zero to approve.

Chairman Scarborough asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of the request. Applicant Paul Metz spoke in favor of the request and answered questions from the commissioners regarding the plans for the property.

Chairman Scarborough asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition to the request. No one came forward.

Chairman Scarborough asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of the request. Applicant Paul Metz addressed the Board to share positive feedback that he has received from neighboring property owners.

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Strickland the Board voted to approve the Conditional Use request. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

2. Chris Jones is representing Calwood Properties. They are requesting to rezone their 1.53 acre parcel from B to R1. The property is located on Highway 72 East in District 4.

Chairman Hughston explained the rezone request and stated the Planning and Zoning Commission voted five to zero to approve.

Chairman Scarborough asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of the request. No one came forward.

Chairman Scarborough asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition to the request. Dianne Satterfield said that she was not in opposition but would like to know the location of the property. Zoning Administrator Linda Fortson provided the location to Ms. Satterfield.

Chairman Scarborough asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of the request. No one came forward.

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to approve the rezone request. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

3. Zoning Ordinance amendments if needed.

Chairman Hughston said there were no amendments to present.

Chairman Hughston advised the Board that he was selected to serve as Chair and Conolus Scott was selected to serve as Vice-Chair by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Item No. 3. Statements and Remarks from Citizens on agenda items

Chairman Scarborough asked if there were any statements or remarks on an agenda item. No one came forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 4. Consider an additional Homestead Exemption for senior citizens

Tax Commissioner Lamar Dalton presented the Board with a detailed request and a resolution to adopt an \$8,000 Homestead Exemption for seniors age 70 and above.

After considerable discussion and clarification on how the money can be collected through prior year delinquent taxes, on motion by Commissioner Allen and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to endorse an exemption in the amount of \$8,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of the County who are 70 years of age or older, in addition to any local or state exemptions currently in existence. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Homestead Committee Member Floyd Read shared his views on the need for the exemption.

Item No. 5. Discuss filling a vacant position on the Planning and Zoning Commission

Commissioner Kirk said he wanted the family members of Bob Fowler to know how much his service meant to our county.

Commissioner Kirk said he has been talking to a few folks in his district regarding the vacant position on the Planning and Zoning Commission and hopes to have some names to present at the next meeting. He encouraged people to contact him with recommendations.

Item No. 6. Discuss a \$1500 salary increase for the Administrative Assistant position at the County Extension Office

The Board discussed the requested \$1500 salary increase for the Administrative Assistant position at the County Extension Office.

Item No. 7. Consider creating a \$5,000 Education and Training line-item in facility 01

After discussion and clarification on the purpose of the budget amendment, Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve creating a \$5,000 Education and Training line-item in facility 01 with registrations to be approved by the chairman. Commissioner Doster seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Commissioner Doster requested an accounting of employee training activities.

Item No. 8. Roads Update

Commissioner Allen requested to have pot holes repaired on Diamond Hill Neese Road, Neese Commerce Road and Seagraves Mill Road.

Commissioner Strickland requested to have pot holes repaired on Booger Hill Road. He also requested to have tree limbs cut at the Presbyterian church on Highway 29 and ditches pulled on Hilley Road.

Commissioner Kirk requested repair work on Macedonia Church Road.

Commissioner Doster asked for a review of Waggoners Grove Church Road. He also commended road department employees for their recent service in taking care of falling trees in the middle of the night.

Item No. 9. Urgent Matters

There were no urgent matters.

Item No. 10. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed).

There was no need for executive session.

Item No. 11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.