

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
August 5, 2013  
6:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commission Chairman Anthony Dove  
District 1 Commissioner Stanley Thomas  
District 2 Commissioner Dewitt Bond  
District 3 Commissioner Mike Youngblood  
District 4 Commissioner John Pethel, Sr.  
District 5 Commissioner Jim R. Escoe, Sr.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**MEDIA PRESENT:**

Zach Mitchem, Madison County Journal

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

Chairman Dove called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led in the pledge to the American Flag. Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman, Wayne Douglas, gave the invocation.

**Item No. 1. Approval of Minutes:**

**Minutes of Budget Work Sessions of July 22, 2013, July 23, 2013 and July 24, 2013 and Agenda Setting Meeting of July 29, 2013. Minutes have been distributed.**

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board approved the Budget Work Session minutes of July 22, 2013. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Youngblood, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

On motion by Commissioner Youngblood and second by Commissioner Bond the Board approved the Budget Work Session minutes of July 23, 2013. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Youngblood, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

On motion by Commissioner Youngblood and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board approved the Budget Work Session minutes of July 24, 2013. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Youngblood, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Youngblood the Board approved the Agenda Setting minutes of July 29, 2013. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Youngblood and Pethel voted YES. Commissioner Escoe abstained.

## **Item No. 2. Business Involving Guests, Groups or Multiple Visitors.**

Madison Oglethorpe Animal Shelter Board members, Sheila Luthi, Michelle Kaye and Joellen Steffen along with Co-Manager, Danielle Morton presented financial and program information. The Board members and Co-Manager shared the shelters achievements and goals. The Board of Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the detailed information.

Todd Edwards, ACCG Associate Legislative Director, presented Senator Frank Ginn with the 2013 ACCG Legislative Award. ACCG Legislative Policy Coordinator, Ines Kovacevic, was also present. Senator Ginn was commended for his achievements and hard work in sponsoring two senate bills. Senator Ginn expressed his gratitude for the award.

## **Item No. 3. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Dove named and commended each agency of our emergency services for the rescue efforts in locating an 81 year old male patient of Cobb Health Care nursing home that had walked away. An Emergency Operations Center was set up at the Comer Fire Station. The Madison County EMA Director, Johnny Bridges, was the Incident Commander. Mr. Bridges stated that we have some of the best, if not the best, group of volunteers anywhere in the State to respond to emergency calls. Chairman Dove expressed his sincere appreciation for all of the volunteer agencies and paid agencies that came together to respond and locate the missing patient within four hours of notification.

Chairman Dove presented an application for permit for Utility Facility Encroachment on Camp Halinan Road.

On motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Commissioner Bond the application for permit for Utility Facility Encroachment on Camp Halinan Road was approved. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Youngblood, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

## **Item No. 4. Hearings and Actions on Rezone Matters, Special Use Permits, Etc. (Linda Fortson and Wayne Douglas)**

1. Deborah Helms is requesting a Conditional Use Permit for an event hall. The property is located on Neese Commerce Rd. on Map 29 Parcel 31A in District 1.

Chairman Douglas explained the request for a Conditional Use Permit and stated that the Planning and Zoning Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve with conditions of no outside concerts and no events until the Event Hall is built.

Chairman Dove asked if the applicant, Ms. Helms, was present and would like to speak. Ms. Helms came forward to explain her plans for the Event Hall and to speak in favor of the request.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone else would like to come forward to speak in favor of the request.

Neighbor, Linda Kay Daniel came forward to speak in favor of the request.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone else would like to come forward to speak in favor of the request.

No one else came forward.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak in opposition of the request.

Carter Cagle, Darilyn Frazier, Thad Jones, Janet Culvard, Carol Patterson Johnson, Phebe Patterson and Addison Johnson each came forward separately to speak in opposition of the request.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak in favor of the request.

Applicant, Deborah Helms came forward and addressed the Board regarding the concerns.

Chairman Dove closed the public hearing.

On motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Commissioner Pethel the Board denied the Conditional Use Permit request for an Event Hall. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Youngblood, Pethel and Escoe voted YES. Commissioner Bond voted NO.

2. Steve Ebbert is requesting a Sign Variance for a billboard of 24' x 48' to be placed on his property located on Hwy 29 South, on Map 32 Parcel 23 in District 3.

Chairman Douglas stated that Steve Ebbert asked to have the Sign Variance request be postponed.

3. Chairman Wayne Douglas with Zoning Ordinance amendments to the sign ordinance, the Use Provisions Chart, and amendments to Article III Definitions.

Chairman Douglas explained that the Zoning Ordinance amendment to the sign ordinance is to allow billboards on State Highway 98 and state highways south of Highway 98 to be placed in B zones, I zones, A1 and A2 zones. He later advised the Board that the Planning and Zoning Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve this amendment.

Chairman Dove asked if there was anyone else in favor of this proposal.

No one came forward.

Chairman Dove asked if there was anyone against this proposal.

No one came forward.

Chairman Dove asked if there was anyone in favor of this proposal.

No one came forward.

Chairman Dove closed the public hearing.

On motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Commissioner Youngblood the Board approved the Zoning Ordinance amendment to the sign ordinance. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Youngblood, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Chairman Douglas presented three minor Zoning changes all at the same time. The changes were as follows: 1) Resolution amending the Zoning Ordinance for definitions to be in one location. 2) Clarification change to Watershed Protection District. 3) Adding “also see zoning clarification” to article seven, Use & Provision by districts. Chairman Douglas stated that the Planning and Zoning Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve these changes.

Chairman Dove asked if there was anyone else in favor of these changes.

No one came forward.

Chairman Dove asked if there was anyone in opposition to these changes.

No one came forward.

Chairman Dove asked if there was anyone in favor of these changes.

No one came forward.

Chairman Dove closed the public hearing.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board approved the three changes. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Youngblood, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 5. Statements and Remarks from Citizens on agenda items.**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Item No. 6. Discuss and Consider Property and Casualty Insurance policy. (Dan Horne)**

Chastain & Associates Insurance Agent, Dan Horne, stated that once again, Public Entities of America provided an excellent proposal and, as in the past two years, the insurance would be provided through OneBeacon Government Risks. The proposal was considerably less than last year’s premium because of the favorable claims experience the county has had over the past four years.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Youngblood the Board agreed to remain with OneBeacon Government Risks. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Youngblood, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 7. Consider hiring Herschel Dalton for mechanic position at the Road Department. (Alan Lapczynski).**

Public Works and Roads Superintendent Alan Lapczynski recommended Herschel Dalton for the Mechanic I position at a salary of \$11.62 per hour.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Youngblood the Board voted to approve the hiring of Herschel Dalton at a salary of \$11.62 per hour for the Mechanic I position. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Youngblood, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 8. Consider allowing donation of vacation time to employees in need of sick leave. (Stanley Thomas)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Pethel to allow employees to donate their vacation time to employees under the Family Medical Leave Act.

After discussion, the motion was amended by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Pethel to allow employees to donate a maximum number of 80 vacation hours to employees under the Family Medical Leave Act. The Board voted to approve. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Youngblood, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Commissioner Thomas withdrew his first motion with no objections from the Board.

**Item No. 9. Road Update.**

Public Works and Roads Superintendent, Alan Lapczynski, gave an update on road work being done.

**Item No. 10. Urgent Matters.**

There were no urgent matters.

**Item No. 11. Statement and Remarks from Citizens.**

Chairman Dove asked if there were any statements or remarks. No one came forward.

**Item No. 12. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed)**

There was no need for Executive Session.

**Item No. 13. Adjourn**

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Youngblood the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.