

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 5, 2018
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 John W. Pethel, Sr.
District 5 Commissioner Jim R. Escoe, Sr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

MEDIA PRESENT:

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal

STAFF PRESENT:

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

Chairman Scarborough called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., led in the pledge to the American flag and gave the invocation.

Item No. 1. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the February 21, 2018 Work Session and the February 26, 2018 Agenda Setting Meeting. Minutes have been distributed.

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Allen the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2018 Work Session. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Pethel and Escoe voted YES. Commissioner Bettis abstained.

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Strickland the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2018 Agenda Setting Meeting. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES. Commissioner Allen abstained.

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

Jennifer Ivey, Madison County Library Branch Manager

Ms. Ivey gave the last quarter report for 2017 highlighting the numerous library activities and the high level of participation. She stated that the number of E-books and Audiobooks checked out from October through

December was up 45.7%. At the conclusion of her report, Chairman Scarborough read a proclamation recognizing the accomplishments of the Madison County Library, the outstanding staff and dedicated trustees and the recent honor of the naming of the Athens Regional Library System, which includes the Madison County Library, as the 2017 Library of the Year.

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Strickland the Board approved the proclamation. The Vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 3. Chairman's Report.

Chairman Scarborough stated that attorney Daniel Haygood has agreed to represent Madison County in opioid litigation. He recognized Mr. Haygood and asked him to explain what this entails and why we are entertaining the idea. Mr. Haygood discussed the suit against those legally responsible for the wrongful manufacture and distribution of prescription opiates. He explained that there is no cost to the county if there is no recovery. Mr. Haygood gave examples of the hardship that counties and municipalities have incurred as a result of the opioid epidemic and said that Oconee and Athens-Clarke have joined the suit and other surrounding counties are in discussion.

On motion by Commissioner Allen and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board approved the resolution authorizing a legal agreement between Madison County and Blasingame, Burch, Garrard and Ashley for representation in opioid litigation. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Commissioner Escoe asked about the ad for a grant writer. Chairman Scarborough said that the ad has been sent to the Madison County Journal and should appear in the paper this week.

Chairman Scarborough asked County Attorney Mike Pruett to discuss a consent order that needs to be voted on. Mr. Pruett said that it is regarding the condemnation action that was discussed in executive session and the general release that we asked for.

On motion by Commissioner Strickland and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to approve the consent order. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 4. Hearings and Actions on Rezone Matters, Special Use Permits, Etc. (Linda Fortson & Lamar Hughston)

1. Preliminary and Final Plat for Adam Swann, Tumbling Creek Subdivision.

Chairman Hughston presented the preliminary and final plat for Tumbling Creek Subdivision and stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission voted seven to zero to approve.

Chairman Scarborough recognized Adam Swann. Mr. Swann answered questions regarding the easement in the subdivision plat and stated that the easement will be paved.

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Pethel the Board voted to approve the preliminary and final plat for Tumbling Creek Subdivision. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

2. Donald Poore is representing owner Michael Hendrickson to request a rezone of 5.15 acres from A2 to RR for an additional home site. The property is located on Map 14, Parcel 85 at 3711 Neese Commerce Road in District 1.

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

Chairman Scarborough asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of the request. Donald Poore spoke in favor of the request.

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

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

3. Wayne Patrick is requesting a rezone of 9.23 acres from A2 to RR for an existing additional home site. The property is located on Map 54, Parcel 35 on Highway 29 North in District 2.

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

Chairman Scarborough asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of the request. Wayne Patrick spoke in favor of the request.

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

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

4. Zoning ordinance amendment: Codification of the Subdivision Regulations.

Chairman Hughston stated that this item was postponed until next month.

Item No. 5. 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.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item No. 6. Consider financial agreement with Government Capital Corporation for NG911 Call Taking System.

Chairman Scarborough stated that there is a \$10,000 cost in interest payments to finance the NG911 Call Taking System with Government Capital Corporation over a five year period. He said that there is an alternative, which is to purchase the system out right. He provided examples of revenue that could be used, such as FEMA reimbursement from Hurricane Irma and the funds that were budgeted for annual payments for a call taking system and maintenance. He said that the amount allotted for a 911 mobile communication vehicle could be purchased out of SPLOST at the end of the year or perhaps received through a grant.

On motion by Commissioner Allen and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to purchase a Next Generation Call Taking System for \$118,705 to be paid out of General Fund with \$5,000 to be reimbursed to General Fund from 911 SPLOST funds. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 7. Consider approving the Democratic Party's nominee, Rebecca Jo Scott, to fill the remaining four year term on the Board of Elections.

The Board reviewed the qualifications submitted by Ms. Scott.

On motion by Commissioner Allen and second by Commissioner Strickland the Board voted to appoint Rebecca Jo Scott to fill the remaining four year term on the Board of Elections. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 8. Roads Update

Commissioner Allen said that he would like to thank the Sheriff's Department for the trash pick-up by the work detail crew. He said that 1,000 pounds of trash was picked up on Neese Commerce Road.

Chairman Scarborough said that the recent rain has wreaked havoc on our dirt roads. The work that needs to be done on Waggoners Grove Church Road, H V Chandler Road and Zetta Lee Johnson Road has been noted and he is working with Code Enforcement on issues on Friendship Church Road.

Item No. 9. Urgent Matters

There were no urgent matters.

Item No. 10. Statements and Remarks from Citizens.

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

Item No. 11. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed).

There was no need for executive session.

Item No. 12. Adjourn

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Allen the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:04 p.m.