

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 19, 2021
6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commission Chairman Todd Higdon
District 1 Commissioner Dennis Adams
District 2 Commissioner Terry Chandler
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
Christina Baxter, County Clerk in training
Mike Pruett, County Attorney

Chairman Higdon called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., led in the pledge to the American Flag and requested a moment of silence, recognizing the passing of a beloved former commissioner, Pete Bond.

Item No. 1. Approval of minutes:

Minutes of the March 29, 2021 Regular Business Meeting

Minutes of the April 5, 2021 Agenda Setting Meeting

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2021 Regular Business Meeting and the April 5, 2021 Agenda Setting Meeting. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

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

Charlie Barrett, Field Representative, Office of Congressman Andrew Clyde

Mr. Barrett introduced himself to the Board, stating he will be Madison County's field representative for Congressman Andrew Clyde. Mr. Barrett said the Gainesville office of the 9th Congressional District is open and staff is available to be of assistance.

Item No. 3. Chairman's Report

Chairman Higdon stated Code Enforcement Officer Chris Roach started his employment with Madison County and will be at the next work session to discuss a Nuisance Abatement Ordinance. He strongly encouraged everyone to visit the Madison County website and familiarize themselves with chapter 54 of the Madison County Code of Ordinances regarding solid waste, as the ordinance will be enforced and violations will not be tolerated.

Chairman Higdon shared the 2020 Roadside Litter Removal and Recycling Report, stating the inmate work detail picked up 8,800 pounds of roadside litter and 20,120 pounds of litter found at various illegal dump sites. Also, there were 109 tons of tires collected in 2020 during the Tire Amnesty Events.

Chairman Higdon announced several Madison County "clean-up" events including Citizens' Help Dates for Roadside Trash Pick-Up scheduled to take place on May 23 and May 24, a Tire Amnesty Event being held May 1 through June 5, a Recycling Event scheduled for this Saturday, April 24 from 10 to 12 and the ongoing Adopt-A-County Road program. More information on these events is given under the Transfer Station link on the County website at madisoncountygga.us.

In closing, Chairman Higdon admonished everyone to drive with caution and be aware of inmate work details performing roadside trash pick-up and our road crews performing grass detail at this time of year.

Item No. 4. Statements and Remarks from Citizens on agenda items

Chairman Higdon asked if there were any statements or remarks on agenda items. No one came forward.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item No. 5. Consider hiring Cynthia McElreath to fill the vacant assistant director position at the recreation department.

On motion by Commissioner Adams and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to hire Cynthia McElreath to fill the vacant assistant director position at the recreation department. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 6. Consider approving the bid recommendation for 2021 LMIG road projects

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Adams the Board voted to award the recommended bid of \$1,168,115.00 for the 2021 LMIG road projects to Stratton & Sons Construction. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 7. Consider approving a 2021 Beer & Wine License for Dogsboro, LLC

Commissioner Doster made a motion to approve a 2021 Beer & Wine License for Dogsboro, LLC. Commissioner Kirk seconded the motion.

After discussion, on substitute motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to table this item until May 3, requesting the store manager to ask the applicant, John Betts, to attend the meeting allowing for questions to be asked of him in person. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 8. Consider amending section 6-33 of the alcoholic beverage ordinance regarding excise taxes

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to amend section 6-33 of the alcoholic beverage ordinance regarding excise taxes. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 9. Consider selling 4.5 acre County owned land-locked parcel #0069-013 through sealed bid process

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to offer County owned parcel #0069-013 through sealed bid process. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 10. Consider adopting a resolution to facilitate a grant application for the Mize Road Water System Improvement Project

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board vote to adopt a resolution to facilitate a grant application for the Mize Road Water System Improvement Project. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 11. Consider approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the IDBA for the appropriation of funding and other terms relating to the Mize Road Water System Improvement Project

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the IDBA for the appropriation of funding and other terms relating to the Mize Road Water System Improvement Project. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 12. Consider approving 2020 budget amendments dated 4-5-21

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to approve the 2020 budget amendments dated 4-5-21. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 13. Consider amending section 50-34 of the personnel policy regarding recruitment.

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to amend section 50-34 of the personnel policy regarding recruitment. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 14. Roads Update

The commissioners said they had already contacted the Road Department with road work requests.

Chairman Higdon said the Road Department has had wonderful response time in handling road work requests.

Item No. 15. Urgent Matters

Chairman Kirk made a motion to appoint William Smith to the Planning and Zoning Commission, requesting the matter be voted on tonight due to the volume of rezone activity coming up. Commissioner Chandler seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 16. Statements and Remarks from Citizens

Chairman Higdon asked if there were any statements or remarks.

Gina Ward, Drago Tesanovich and Dave Ramsey addressed the Board with their concerns of the noise coming from the GRP plant.

Item No. 17. Statements and Remarks from Commissioners

Chairman Higdon and the commissioners expressed their desire to determine an acceptable noise level, a happy medium and then meet with GRP to achieve a common goal.

Commissioner Doster requested an update on the new 9-1-1 radio system when they are finished testing. He also reiterated his quest for staff and board members to have training opportunities. County Attorney Mike Pruett was asked to schedule training for the Planning and Zoning Commission Members.

Commissioner Adams noted the water installation projects that are underway, which are an asset for ISO ratings, and requested to have the Board receive periodic reports from the ID&BA.

Chairman Higdon said there will be a lot of topics to discuss at the May 3 work session. He invited everyone in the audience to attend.

Item No. 18. Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation

There was no need for executive session.

Item No. 19. Adjourn.

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Chandler the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.