

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES of the REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
April 25, 2022 6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commission Chairman Todd Higdon
District 1 Commissioner Dennis Adams
District 2 Commissioner Terry Chandler
District 3 Commissioner Frank May
District 4 Commissioner Brian Kirk
District 5 Commissioner Derek Doster

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

MEDIA PRESENT:

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal

STAFF PRESENT:

Christina Baxter, County Clerk
Mike Pruett, County Attorney

Chairman Higdon called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and led in the pledge to the American Flag.

Item No. 1. Approval of minutes:

Minutes of the March 25, 2022 Special Called Meeting
Minutes of the March 28, 2022 Regular Business Meeting
Minutes of the April 4, 2022 Agenda Setting Work Session

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2022 Special Called Meeting, the March 28, 2022 Regular Business Meeting and the April 4, 2022 Agenda Setting Work Session. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

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

Hall Consulting, Marilyn Hall

Marilyn Hall with Hall Consulting presented a 10 minute presentation to the public. Ms. Hall also announced Madison County will have a website dedicated to the Comprehensive Plan development. The website is: Madison-compplan.com. This link will be posted to the Madison County Government website as well as the Madison County Chamber of Commerce webpage. Ms. Hall also announced Public Hearing with the Cities will begin next week and Public Workshops are being scheduled to begin in June for public input.

Madison County Sheriff Michael Moore

Sheriff Moore spoke to the Board regarding the Animal Control Unit. Moore states the Animal Control kennels are over populated and a shortage of staff to run all Animal related calls. Moore asked the Board for

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an increase of \$20,000 in funds to expand the Animal Control kennels. Moore notified the Board that Animal Control currently has two full time deputies. As of last year statistics Madison County took more than 1,000 animals than Athens-Clarke County.

Item No. 3. Chairman's Report

Chairman Higdon gave an update on County events and business. Chairman Higdon read a Thank You letter from the Georgia Rural Water Association. Georgia Rural Water hosted a training class in the Government Complex April 22nd for local citizens invested in the water industry and volunteer fire fighters.

Chairman Higdon gave an update on the Recreation Department. Diamond Hill Ball Park project is almost completed. New playground surface material known as "Kid-Safe" has been installed at Sammy Haggard Park, Diamond Hill Ball Park and Brewer Phillips Soccer Complex playgrounds.

Chairman Higdon also gave thanks to the 11 students who volunteered during Spring Break to pressure wash and paint the Recreation Department buildings.

Comer Emergency Medical Services building trusses have been ordered and are expected to be delivered in June. The Food Bank is also receiving an expansion and those trusses are being ordered as well.

Evergreen Solutions conducted Zoom meetings with County staff providing feedback for a classification and wage study. Evergreen Solutions representative are planning to visit the Government Complex during May to conduct in person focus groups by departments.

A meeting with Arpeggio was held April 20th. Arpeggio is planning to present a draft ordinance in the next two months. The plan to begin field studies throughout the county over the next month. A public Hearing will be held during August or September to allow for public input regard a Noise Ordinance.

Chairman Higdon advised there is still another week of the Tire Amnesty. Currently the Transfer Station has received three tractor trailer loads of tires submitted from the community.

Chairman Higdon also updated the Board of 2643 discrepancies between Q-Public and the Zoning Book. Higdon advised the Public the Planning and Zoning department are working to correct those errors.

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 amendments to the Timber Harvesting Ordinance

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve the Timber Harvesting Ordinance presented. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 6. Consider approving the amendments to the Beer and Wine Ordinance

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to approve the amendments to the Beer and Wine Ordinance as presented. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

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Item No. 7. Consider amendments to the Policy for the Acceptance of Private Roads into the County Road System Ordinance

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve the amendments to the Policy for the Acceptance of Private Roads into the County Road System Ordinance. The voted was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 8. Consider an amendment to the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 Budget

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner May the Board voted to approve the amendments to the American Rescue Plan Act as presented for the 2021 Budget. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 9. Consider the 2022/2023 Health Insurance Policy

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second Commissioner Adams the Board voted to approve the 2022/2023 Health Insurance Policy. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 10. Discuss an ordinance for Construction of New Private Roads

Chairman Higdon presented to the Board a new ordinance for the Construction of New Private Roads.

Item No. 11. Discuss the Madison County Roads Standards Policy

County Clerk, Christina Baxter explained a new Road Standards Policy being created for the Madison County Road Department to have in office for references on ordinance requirements for all road construction, private drive requirements, setbacks, signage and driveway installation. The Board discussed the purpose of having a Policy in place for easy access for Citizens and County employees.

Item No. 12 Roads Update

Chairman Higdon asked the Commissioners if they had any concerns for their districts. Commissioner Adams advised of Martin Griffith Road shoulder breaking away. Adams also discussed the need for attention regarding potholes at the intersection of Lucky Jones Road, Old Ila Road and Nowhere Road. Commissioner Chandler discussed Esco Road and Timberlane Trail. Chandler has been discussing these concerns with the Road Department and they are aware and working towards repairs. Chandler asked for the Road Department to assess potholes at the Rogers Mill Subdivision entrance as well as speed limit signs within the subdivision. Commissioner Kirk discussed the need for ditch repair on Broad River Road.

Chairman Higdon gave a Roads update announcing Neel- Schafer has completed the Road Study Survey and will be presenting those findings to the County and Cities in the coming weeks. Mr. Chris Dills is scheduled to present a brief presentation to the County on May 2, 2022. Chairman Higdon also updated the Board regarding Holman Autry Road drainage pipe and the Road Department is working on a strategy to widen the drainage pipe and repair that intersection. The Road Department is acquiring material pricing now. Also, the Road Department has begun mowing shoulders within the County right of ways and for the public to be aware of your surroundings while driving. Higdon also followed up with the 270 undocumented private

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drives in the County. An approximate cost for signage, brackets and posts is \$16,000. These signs will assist Emergency personnel in locating homes on undocumented private drives.

Item No. 13. Urgent Matters

Christopher Roach, Department Director for Planning and Zoning and Code Enforcement, approached the Board with concerns regarding the large discrepancies in the zoning book, zoning ordinances, other tasks for corrections assigned by the Board of Commissioners along with many other zoning matters. Roach expressed his concern with these issues and the up and coming Comprehensive Plan, Ordinance revisions and clarifying correction throughout the Planning and Zoning Department the need for time to appropriately revise zoning classifications and permitting to adequately meet Community Standards and the new Land Use Map being constructed.

The Board discussed the need of a moratorium and the effects that it would have on the Community. After discussion between the Board and County Attorney, Mike Pruett. The Board of Commissioners agreed to move forward with the implement of a 90 day Moratorium. The Moratorium will be considered on May 2nd during the Public Hearing.

Item No. 14. Statements and Remarks from Citizens

Chairman Higdon asked if there were any statements or remarks. David Pearson asked the Board the procedure to report potholes. Chairman Higdon advised the public if you see a pothole to call the County Road Department. The Road Department works to follow up with repairs within two weeks of notification.

Item No. 15. Statements and Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Doster wanted to remind citizens of the ordinance requirement to tarp loads of trash. All loads of trash being transported within the County need to be tarped properly before exiting any property.

Item No. 16. Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation

There was no need for executive session.

Item No. 17. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at by Chairman Higdon with unanimous consent.