

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES of the REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
May 23, 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 6:00 p.m. and led in the pledge to the American Flag.

Item No. 1. Approval of minutes:

Minutes of the April 25, 2022 Regular Business Meeting

Minutes of the May 2, 2022 Agenda Setting Work Session

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 Regular Business Meeting and the May 2, 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

Christopher Myers, Georgia Rental Assistance Outreach Coordinator

Diane Hester, Department of Community Affairs Mortgage Assistance Director

Mr. Myers and Ms. Hester presented to the Public Rental and Mortgage assistance available to the Public. Currently \$117,661 has been funded to Madison County Residents to assist with rental payments. Citizens can go online at GeorgiaRentalAssistance.ga.gov or GeorgiaMortgageAssistance.ga.gov to learn more information. There is also more information linked on the Madison County Government website.

Aleta Turner, Library Quarterly Report

Ms. Turner approached the Board with a quarterly update and discussed the summer events planned at the Library. Ms. Turner encouraged the public of all ages to attend the summer events being held. The Chairman and Commissioners all thanked Ms. Turner for her dedication to the Madison County Library.

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PUBLIC HEARING:

3. Consider a Moratorium

Chairman Higdon presented the temporary Moratorium and the additional exceptions. Chairman Higdon then opened the Public Hearing for Comments. Mr. Drago Tesanovich spoke in favor of the Moratorium. No one came forward to speak in opposition. Chairman Higdon closed the Public Hearing.

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler to approve a 180 day extension to the current Moratorium including the exceptions presented.

The Board held discussion with County Council and County Staff.

Commissioner Doster amended his motion to include the Moratorium to remain in effect through November 19, 2022 and such date be reflected in the Resolution presented. Commissioner Chandler second the amended motion. There was no further discussion. The Board voted to approve the Resolution presented.

The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES to extend a Moratorium through November 19, 2022.

Item No. 4. Chairman's Report

Chairman Higdon updated the Board on the current Arpeggio Noise Study and Ordinance drafting.

Higdon also announced the Board of Commissioners is currently accepting application for the Finance Director position as well as many others throughout County departments.

The Chairman followed up on the Taste of Madison County event recently held at the Comer Park. There were many vendors and citizens in attendance and turned out to be a great community event.

Chairman Higdon recapped on the 3rd grade summit held two weeks ago with the Madison County Extension Office and Keep Madison County Beautiful. The event hosted 362 students representing all five elementary schools. Higdon gave an update regarding events at the Recreation Department coming this summer. The Recreation Department is hosting summer camps for Volleyball, Basketball, Dance and Soccer. Parents and guardians can register for camps at www.madcorec.com. The Recreation Department is also having open registration for fall sports now through July 1st.

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

Chairman Higdon asked if there were any statements or remarks on agenda items. Drago Tesanovich expressed his concern to the Board regarding the Noise study taking place.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item No. 6. Consider approving a Referendum for the sale of Liquor by the drink

On motion by Commissioner May and second by Commissioner Adams the Board voted to approve the referendum for the sale of Liquor by the drink. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES to approve.

The Board expressed this would be placed on the ballot for the citizens to vote during the November election. Commissioner Doster stated this is for the sale of liquor by the drink for restaurant settings.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 7. Consider approving a Camper Permit Extension for Mr. Michael Hajdu

Mr. Michael Hajdu approached the Board regarding his request. Building Inspector, Eddie Pritchett and Code Enforcement Director, Christopher Roach presented to the Board the timeline of permits and inspections as well as images of the current property condition.

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Kirk to approve a six month camper permit extension as the ordinance allows for the appropriate use of the camper for temporary purposes while residents in being completed. The Board entered into discussion.

On amended motion by Commissioner Doster to approve a six month camper permit extension to include both campers to allow the family a transition period to get settled with the understanding work is being completed to come into compliance.

The Board continued in discussion. Council and County Staff assisted with ordinance clarification.

On amended substitute motion by Commissioner Doster to approve the camper permit extension for six months with the expectation County staff will foresee in the administration proper progress on the project and address any and all codes necessary to fulfill the original intent. Commissioner Chandler second the motion. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES to approve.

Item No. 8. Consider approving a Camper Permit Extension for Mr. Danny Sherman

Mr. Danny Sherman approached the Board and explained his request. Building Inspector, Eddie Pritchett and Code Enforcement Director, Christopher Roach presented timelines and images to the Board.

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner May to approve a six month camper permit extension. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES to approve.

Item No. 9 Consider appointing Jeff Hendricks to the Planning and Zoning Board

On motion by Commissioner May and second by Commissioner Kirk to appoint Mr. Jeff Hendricks to the Planning and Zoning Board as the District 3 representative. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted Yes to approve.

CONSENT AGENDA: (Items 10-13)

Item No. 10. Consider 2022 Budget Amendment for the Board of Elections and Registration Office

Item No. 11. Consider 2022 Budget Amendment for the Tax Commissioner's Office

Item No. 12. Consider 2022 Budget Amendment for Emergency Medical Services

Item No. 13. Consider 2022 Budget Amendment for the Solid Waste-Recyclables

Chairman Higdon presented the 2022 Budget amendments to the Board. There was Board discussion regarding the changes in the Budget. Chairman Higdon provided clarification on the amendments.

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On motion by Commissioner Adams and second by Commissioner May to approve the 2022 Budget Amendments as presented. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Adams, Chandler, May, Kirk and Doster voted YES to approve.

Item No. 14. Roads Update

Chairman Higdon asked the Board if they had any road issues they would like to address.

Commissioner Adams stated culvert on Jamieson Road needs repairs. Buford Carey and Lucky Jones cross there are pole holes needing repairs.

Commissioner Chandler commented Timberlane Drive progress looks great. Chandler asked for a power pole to be looked at to be relocated. Moriah Church Road has pot holes that need repair. Commissioner Chandler also requested the County to reach out to the local postal services regarding mail delivery to Timberlane Drive.

Commissioner Doster asked for tree limbs to be cut on Smithsonian Colbert Road. Doster also asked to follow up on the tree and stump removal on Lem Edwards Road project. Doster asked about possibly opening HV Chandler road.

Chairman Higdon gave a County Road update. Regarding Timberlane Drive is still under construction and to use caution in that area. Grass cutting along County Roadways is taking place in the Colbert and Haggards Crossing area. The patch wagon is going out weekly for repairs. Please call the Road Department to add any pot hole issues to their repair list.

Item No. 15. Urgent Matters

There were no urgent matters.

Item No. 16. Statements and Remarks from Citizens

Chairman Higdon asked if there were any statements or remarks.

Don Edmundson approached the Board in regards to his frustration with local Broadband providers and asked for assistance in his area.

Drago Tesanovich addressed the Board with his concerns with the current Comprehensive Plan public outreach. Stephanie Harvin expressed to the Board the hard work she has witnessed of Marilyn Hall with the Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman Higdon also expressed his concern with public input. Higdon referred to the current election taking place stating with over 22,000 registered voters as of May 23rd only 2,399 votes were taken for early voting. Chairman Higdon encouraged the public to get involved and express their concerns and opinion.

Item No. 17. Statements and Remarks from Commissioners

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

Item No. 14. Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation

There was no need for executive session.

Item No. 15. Adjourn.

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Kirk the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.