

Wilkinson County Commission
October 3, 2006

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at the Wilkinson County Courthouse. The following Commissioners were present: C. L. Brooks, Alfred Gibson, Dennis Holder, J.M. Howell, John Williams. Commissioner was absent.

The following staff was present County Manager Laura Mathis, Chief Appraiser Phyllis Lavender, Economic Development Director Farrah Senn, Tax Commissioner Kevin Rauscher, Sheriff Richard Chatman. County Attorney Jon Helton was absent due to a conflict in court.

The following visitors were present: Philip Hadarits, Roger Smith, George Young, Frank Wall, Jonathan Jackson.

Chairman Holder called upon Commissioner Brooks to give the invocation.

I. Approval of Minutes.

Chairman Holder presented the minutes of the September 19, 2006 meeting. Copies of the minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Upon motion of Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Williams, the minutes were approved as prepared.

II. Recognition of Visitors

Chairman Holder recognized and welcomed all visitors to the meeting. Chairman Holder called upon Philip Hadarits to address the Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Wilkinson County Development Authority. Mr. Hadarits stated that one of the biggest impediments to development is the lack of countywide water and sewer. He stated that the Water and Sewer Authority indicated to the Development Authority that there was a lack of cooperation from all of the parties involved (i.e., the County, Irwinton, McIntyre, and Toombsboro). Commissioner Williams stated that the biggest problem is the cost to finance a system. Commissioner Brooks expressed a similar concern. After discussion, Chairman Holder suggested that the County send a letter to cities regarding any appointments that may be out of date, to make new appointments if needed and to restart the dialogue. The Board of Commissioners agreed to the letter. Chairman Holder thanked Mr. Hadarits and the members of the Authority who were present.

III. Old Business

1. **Nichols Farmer Road** Ms. Mathis stated that paving is slated to begin the week of October 16, 2006.
2. **Criswell Road** Ms. Mathis stated that she has followed up with Imerys about their plans for dust control on Criswell Road and is waiting on a reply.

3. **Davis Cemetery Road** Ms. Mathis stated that she would re-schedule the meeting the WKA to discuss Davis Cemetery Road. No date has been set.

4. **Oochee Creek Road** Ms. Mathis provided a status report on the right of way acquisition of Oochee Creek Road indicating that 15 out of 20 parcels had been secured.

5. **Dent Road** Ms. Mathis stated that the condemnation hearing will be held October 5 and following that Mr. Helton will begin the condemnation proceedings on the other parcels.

6. **Board Appointment to the Department of Family and Children Services Chairman** Holder stated that David Smallwood has submitted his resignation from the DFCS Board. No action was taken regarding a new appointment.

IV. New Business

1. **Request to Write Off Insolvent Property Taxes** A copy of the proposed action was distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Mathis stated that the Tax Commissioner requested that the personal property tax from 2001 and 2002 for the Nitrogen Plant be declared insolvent. The Board of Assessors had addressed the personal property taxes from 2003 to the present. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Williams, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously declared personal property tax from 2001 and 2002 for the Nitrogen Plant insolvent.

2. **Cleaning Contract for Senior Center** Ms. Mathis requested approved to contract for cleaning services with the Wilkinson County Service Center to clean the Senior Center for a trial period of 3 months. Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a three-month contract with the Service Center.

3. **City of Gordon TMDL Local Watershed** A letter from City of Gordon Mayor Kenneth Turner was distributed prior to the meeting. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a partnership with Gordon on additional testing on Little Commissioner Creek to be removed from the Section 303 d list.

4. **County Excellence Award** Chairman Holder stated that the County has the chance to apply for the County Excellence Award. After discussion, it was agreed that an application would be submitted for the Balls Ferry project and the sale of Twiggs Wilkinson Landfill.

5. **Adoption of the Subdivision Development Ordinance** Chairman Holder stated that the Commissioners have been working on the Subdivision Development Ordinance for the past year and that the final document has been prepared. After discussion the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Williams unanimously approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners desires to preserve the rural character of Wilkinson County; and

WHEREAS: The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners desires to provide guidelines for the subdivision of land and construction of roads and structures;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners adopt the Subdivision Development Ordinance of Wilkinson County effective today, October 3, 2006; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the moratorium on the acceptance of roads for county maintenance shall be lifted and all future development shall be in accordance with the Subdivision Development Ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Road Acceptance Ordinance originally adopted January 5, 1998 is rescinded in its entirety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Article Two *Notice of Construction* of the Subdivision Development Ordinance shall not be enforced until completion to two public hearings, notice in the legal organ of Wilkinson County for at least two weeks prior to implementation date and further action by the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Manager or their designee shall be appointed Enforcement Officer until further action by the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners; and

6. **Extension of Option** Chairman Holder stated that the Option to Donate the land at Balls Ferry to the State of Georgia is set to expire October 20, 2006 however, all of the necessary steps have not been completed so an extension of 120 days is requested. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the extension of the Option to Donate to May 20, 2007.

7. **Request to Release Funds** Ms. Mathis stated that Fall Line Regional Development Authority has requested \$7,000 from the savings account to pay a portion of the surveying invoice. Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Brooks, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the release of the funds.

8. **Request to Reconsider 2007 Budget Request** Chairman Holder stated that a recent case has prompted Coroner Billy Matthews and Sheriff Richard Chatman to ask the Board of Commissioners to reconsider the request for a body cooler. Upon motion by Commissioner Howell and second by Commissioner Williams, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the purchase of a body cooler, not to exceed \$6,000.

V. Reports

1. **Speed Detector** Sheriff Chatman advised the Board that the GSP could only accept the speed detector that the Board of Commissioners previously approved if the detector is given to GSP, rather than "on loan".
2. **State Right of Way Maintenance** Commissioner Howell requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Department of Transportation for the recent cutting of bushes along Hwy 112 and stated that a portion of Hwy 112 is slated to be resurfaced in the near future.
3. **Courthouse Project** Ms. Mathis stated that the Board needed to ratify the authorization for additional furnishings. Upon motion by Commissioner Brooks and second by Commissioner Gibson, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved an additional \$20,000 towards courthouse furnishings. Ms. Mathis also reported that the Dedication Committee recommended that the date of Dedication be changed to December 2, 2006. The Board of Commissioners agreed. Ms. Mathis stated that the Gordon Bank, Four County Bank, Wilkinson County Bank, Advanced Disposal and Heartland have offered donations to cover the cost of the dedication. Finally, Ms. Mathis presented information to the Commissioners about having professional photographs of the building taken. No action was taken.
4. **Veterans Memorial** Ms. Mathis presented two different sketches for the placement of the Veteran's Memorial. The Board of Commissioners agreed with the plan that included the placement of the bench and the monument without the relocation of the irrigation system.
5. **FY 2007 Budget** Ms. Mathis stated that the Board of Assessors would like to sell subscriptions to the new public website that would provide access to the photography and the map data. If sufficient subscriptions were not received, the information would not be included on the web site. Although there is no cost to the County, the Board of Assessors desired the Board of Commissioners consent before pursuing. The Board of Commissioners agreed. Ms. Mathis then asked for clarification from the Board of Commissioners regarding the Magistrates Retirement that Chief Magistrate Vivian Cummings requested. Ms. Mathis stated that the only discussion about this during the budget process was when Judge Cummings made the request to have the new add-on filing fee in Magistrate Court go toward the Magistrates Retirement Fund. The Board of Commissioners clarified that the Budget included the contribution to the Magistrates Retirement Fund in the amount of \$103 per month retroactive to July 1. Sheriff Chatman stated that he was able to secure 100% grant funding for the new finger print scanning that was included in the 2007 budget, but that it is a reimbursable grant. No action was necessary.

Upon motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Howell, the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn meeting.