

Board of Commissioners Wilkinson County

MEMBERS OF BOARD:

Michael Gotell, Chairman
Glenn Kester
James Hagins
Pete Williams
John Williams

PO BOX 161
IRWINTON GA 31042
(478) 946-2236
FAX 946-3767

Dennis Stroud, County Manager
DuBose Porter, County Attorney

E-mail:
bdofcomm@wilkinsoncounty.net
Website: www.wilkinsoncounty.net

COMMISSION MEETING
January 19, 2021
5:00 PM

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 5:00 P.M on January 19, 2021 in the Commissioners Chambers. The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Michael Gotell, Commissioner Pete Williams, Commissioner James Hagins, Commissioner Glen Kester and Commissioner John Williams.

The following staff was present: County Manager Dennis Stroud, Finance Director Tracy Strange, County Attorney DuBose Porter, and Rakita Sinkfield Sr. Accounting Tech 1.

Meeting was broadcasted live via Facebook.

Invocation

Chairman Gotell asked Recreation Director John Carswell to lead the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gotell asked Commissioner John Williams, District-4 to lead the pledge.

Agenda

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion was made by Commissioner Hagins and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to approve the agenda. The motion was opened up for discussion. Commissioners John Williams had questions regarding some items that he thought were left off the agenda. County Manager, Dennis Stroud, stated that he planned to address those items in his report. There was brief discussion before a vote was taken on the motion. Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Kester voted yes and Commissioner John Williams voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Minutes

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes and Executive Sessions of January 5, 2021. Motion was made by Commissioner Kester and seconded by Commissioner Hagins to approve the regular session and executive session minutes. Commissioner Kester voted yes, Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes and Commissioner John Williams voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Recognition of Visitors / Presentations

Chairman Gotell recognized Mayor Davidson of Allentown. Mayor Davidson reported that there had been delays in the progress of the E911 system installation due to COVID19 but that things are back underway. They are scheduled to have training on the new system the week of March 8th and hope to go live on the system the following week. He reiterated his previous concerns regarding the necessity of a full-time fire department. He reported 80 fire calls in the past 2 weeks.

Next Chairman Gotell recognized Mr. William Thompson. Mr. Thompson expressed concerns regarding being taken off the first responder roster. Mr. Stroud will follow-up with him.

Next Chairman Gotell recognized Mr. James Bridges. Mr. Bridges is a volunteer firefighter and expressed concerns regarding the operation of the fire department and the use of equipment. Mr. Stroud will follow-up with him regarding his concerns.

Unfinished/Old Business

Commissioners entered into discussion of the following unfinished and old business:

- a. **Elect Vice Chairman for 2021:** Chairman Gotell stated that Commissioner Pete Williams, D3 has completed his term as vice chairman. The position now goes to District 4 Commissioner John Williams. Motion was made by Commissioner Hagins to appoint Commissioner John Williams as Vice Chairman. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pete Williams. Commissioner Kester voted yes, Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes and Commissioner John Williams voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.
- b. **Motion to Approve 3 Documents for Tax Commissioner Vanessa Lewis:** Motion made by Commissioner John Williams to allow the tax office to continue to accept cash, debit and/or credit cards, and checks for payments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pet Williams. Commissioner Kester voted yes, Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes and Commissioner John Williams voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. Next motion made by Commissioner John Williams to authorize the tax commissioner to disburse tax collections to the county on a monthly basis. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pet Williams. Commissioner Kester voted

yes, Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes and Commissioner John Williams voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. Lastly a motion was made by Commissioner John Williams to authorize the tax commissioner to correct obvious clerical errors for the duration of her current term (Jan 2021 – Dec 2024). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kester. Commissioner Kester voted yes, Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes and Commissioner John Williams voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

- c. **McIntyre Sewer Project:** County Manger Stroud will continue talks with the City of McIntyre. He asked commissioners to let him know if of any ideas or questions that they have for him to present to the city.

Commissioner District Reports

1. Commissioner Kester: COVID numbers continue to rise. Everyone should continue to take precautions.
2. Commissioner Hagins: The road department will drag ditches out on Balls Church Road in the coming weeks in response to citizens' requests.
3. Commissioner Pete Williams: Gave Mr. Stroud some roads to add to road maintenance list.
4. Commissioner John Williams: Working with Mr. Stroud on a resolution regarding meeting agendas and set-up.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Gotell reported that the State of the County address is scheduled for February 1, 2021 at 5pm in Courtroom A. It will be a virtual address from commissioners, department heads, and constitutional officers. He then asked for an update from the recreation department. Mr. Carswell stated that they are currently looking at baseball registration and Mayor Bacon is in the process of completing seats for playground equipment for the park at behind the senior center. Chairman Gotell had nothing further to report.

County Managers Report:

Mr. Stroud reported that he has asked commissioners to review the road list again and pinpoint any additions or deletions to the list. Commissioner Pete Williams has given him some roads from his district to add to the list. Next Mr. Stroud reported on his findings in researching the possible addition of a restroom at the Irwinton Park. He has obtained quotes for a portable building and port-a-potties. He will also acquire a quote for building a facility and report those numbers back to commissioners. Lastly Mr. Stroud stated that he is still in contact with the city of McIntyre. He wants to find out from the city how the county will benefit from contributing LMIG money to their project. He will let the body know the outcome of his discussions. Mr. Stroud had nothing more to report.

Executive Session

Motion by Commissioner Hagins to enter into executive session. Motion seconded by Commissioner John Williams. Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Kester voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, Commissioner Hagins voted yes, and Commissioner Williams voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion by Commissioner John Williams and seconded by Commissioner Pete Williams to exit executive session. Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Kester voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes and Commissioner Hagins voted yes and Commissioner Williams voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Upon exiting the executive session Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to execute the EMS contract with Heartland Ambulance Service. A motion was made by Commissioner Pete Williams and seconded by Commissioner John Williams. Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Kester voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes and Commissioner Hagins voted yes and Commissioner Williams voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Adjournment

- a. Moved by Commissioner John Williams and seconded by Commissioner Kester to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, Commissioner Hagins voted yes and Commissioner Kester voted yes and Commissioner John Williams voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

Notice to Visitors

The Board of Commissioners welcomes you to our meeting. We ask that you do not talk during the meeting to allow us to hear all discussion between Commissioners. If you would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact the Board of Commissioners Office at 946-2236 no later than the Thursday prior to meeting.