

Board of Commissioners Wilkinson County

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COMMISSION MEETING

August 2, 2022

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 9:00 AM on August 2, 2022 in Commission Chambers. The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Michael Gotell, Commissioner Glenn Kester, Commissioner James Hagins, and Commissioner John Williams. Commissioner Pete Williams was not present.

The following staff was present: Lindsey Benefield Senior Account Tech 1 and Rakita Sinkfield Senior Account Tech 2. County Manager Tracy Strange was not present.

Broadcasted Live via Facebook.

Invocation

Chairman Gotell asked Commissioner Glenn Kester to lead the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gotell asked Commissioner John Williams to lead the pledge.

Motion to Amend the Agenda:

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to amend the agenda to take off item B. Terri Howard, Oconee EMC regarding county broadband and taking off item B under new business Emma Bacon, EMA Director report on Covid, and adding Pat Topping Development Authority Executive Director to give the county an update. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to amend the agenda to take off item B. Terri Howard, Oconee EMC regarding county broadband and taking off item B under new business Emma Bacon, EMA Director report on Covid, and adding Pat Topping Development Authority Executive Director to give the county an update. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes. Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Agenda

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the agenda with amendments. Motion made by Commissioner Glenn Kester and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to

approve the agenda with amendments. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Minutes

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes and the Executive Session Minutes of the July 19, 2022 meeting. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner Glenn Kester to approve the Regular Session Minutes and the Executive Session Minutes of July 19, 2022. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Visitors' Present

Pat Topping, Royce Brewer, Flint Shepherd, Donna Asbell, Tece Bloodworth, Wendell Bloodworth, Chris Daniels, Yvette Boland and Chris Boland.

Recognition of Visitors / Presentations

Rick Craft with Georgia Department of Public Health to discuss Environmental Health/Wilkinson Health Department: Increase in food service fees proposal. Mr. Rick Craft discussed how there will be an increase on food fees across districts. He went through a presentation that discussed the details and factors that determine these fee increases in the different types of areas like Urban Counties and Rural Counties. Mr. Rick Craft discussed how fees are based on outdated restaurant business models per number of seats. Mr. Rick Craft discussed how lots of businesses are taking into consideration things like to-go orders, mobile orders and how lots of business isn't coming just solely from people who come to sit in the restaurant to eat. He then went on to discuss the proposed fee structure and fees. He went on to discuss how the fee is determined by total points and risk type. He discussed how there could be a potential of around one thousand dollars' worth of annual revenue from this.

Development Authority Executive Director Pat Topping then came to give an update for the Development Authority for the county. Mr. Pat Topping began by discussing how they have finished the website and has added new things like maps. He discussed how they are moving into the new office. He also discussed an interest in exploring some parking options behind the Development Authority building. He talked about how he would like there to be clean up and maintenance regularly on the property for the Development Authority building. Mr. Pat Topping also wanted to congratulate Miss Tracy Strange on becoming the new County Manager for Wilkinson County.

Yvette Boland, Direction of the County: Yvette Boland began asking to explain to the public the purpose of the multipurpose building was. Chairman Michael Gotell stated that it is just that for multiple purposes and he discussed how it will be used for exercise

classes for the seniors for them to have more space. Yvette Boland asked what is the plan for the county. Commissioner John Williams stated that we want to build a quality of life here. Chairman Michael Gotell talked about how there is no Urgent Care here and would like to try to push our ambulance services, and discussed how we went above state average on EMS services. Chairman Michael Gotell also discussed workforce housing and how that could bring more business to the county. Chairman Michael Gotell discussed a few other items for his plan for the county.

Chris Daniels, plans for vacant County buildings: Chris Daniels asked what is the plan for vacant county buildings, specifically 105 Main Street. Commissioner Glenn Kester stated to sell them.

Old Business

New Business

- a. Chairman Michael Gotell entertained the motion to approve Environmental Health and Food Service Hearing. Motion made by Commissioner John Williams and seconded by Commissioner James Hagins to approve Environmental Health and Food Service Hearing. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Commissioner's District Report

1. Nothing to Report
2. Commissioner James Hagins stated that the bridges are ready for Wriley Road and signs on Cross Justice Road.
3. Not Present
4. Nothing to Report

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Michael Gotell discussed the Recreation Department and had the Recreation Department Director John Carswell come up and give an update. Recreation Department John Carswell discussed how McIntyre Park event had a good turn out and how the third Saturday of every month. John discussed how they are having issues with bus transportation at the moment. Mr. John Carswell discussed how the department would like more people to get involved.

County Managers Report:

County Manager Tracy Strange was not present.

Comments from the Public:

- a. Wendell Bloodworth asked to define workforce housing. Chairman Michael Gotell stated that they would essentially be apartment complexes.
- b. Royce Brewer discussed the recreation department ball fields and discussed how the Board of Education does not want us to use their services.
- c. Donna Asbell asked about the capacity for the multipurpose building. Commissioner John Williams stated that County Manager Tracy Strange has given him the plans but he has yet to look at them.
- d. Tece Bloodworth discussed if the multipurpose building is free to the public or is there a charge for using the facility. As well as she asked to elaborate on how we went above the state average EMS services. Chairman Michael Gotell stated that there are more qualified people on the ambulance when they go on the calls. Chairman Michael Gotell stated that the building will generate revenue and that the only one that won't will be the one class that grandfathered in.
- e. Mr. Chris Boland discussed how a lot of business is in Dublin and essentially asked about the master plan for the County and suggested that more companies or businesses are brought into the county.

Executive Sessions

Chairman Michael Gotell entertained the motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and litigation. Motion made by Commissioner John Williams and seconded by Commissioner Glenn Kester to go into executive sessions to discuss personnel and litigation. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

Chairman Michael Gotell entertained the motion to exit executive sessions. Motion made by Commissioner Glenn Kester and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to exit executive sessions. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes, and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition. No action taken.

Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner John Williams and seconded by Commissioner Glenn Kester to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes. Motion carried with no opposition.

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.