

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 August 3, 2021 9:00 AM

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 9:00 AM on August 3, 2021 in Commission Chambers. The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Michael Gotell, Commissioner Glenn Kester, Commissioner James Hagins Commissioner Pete Williams and Commissioner John Williams.

The following staff was present: Dennis Stroud County Manager, DuBose Porter County Attorney, Rakita Sinkfield Sr. Accounting Tech II, Lindsey Benefield Sr. Account Tech 1.

Broadcasted Live via Facebook. A call-in phone number had also been installed for public attendance. (978) 990-5000 code 180826,

Invocation

Chairman Gotell asked Commissioner Pete Williams to lead the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gotell led the pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner Glenn Kester to approve the agenda. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

Minutes

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes and the Executive Session Minutes of the July 20th, 2021 meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Pete Williams and seconded by Commissioner James Hagins to approve the minutes of the Regular Session. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

Visitors' Present

Donna Asbell, Beverly Clark, Malcolm McEachern, Lisa Dykes, Karen Kester, Joan Mace, Richard Chatman, and Brandon Smith.

Recognition of Visitors / Presentations

Beverly Clark discussed how there has been improvements near the garbage collection point but would like to see some signs that can help direct traffic to the correct location for drop-off. Beverly Clark also asked if we do really recycle? Chairman Michael Gotell stated that we will look further for that information on whether we do recycle.

Unfinished Business

- a. Discussion regarding Eternal Flame by Commissioner John Williams. County Manager Dennis Stroud looked up some details for fixing the Eternal Flame stated that it would be \$1,610.00 to replace. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated that he has the intent to order this week. County Manager Dennis Stroud also discussed information on what he learned was causing the issue for the Eternal Flame not functioning properly and stated that there are two lines that lead to the burner that was causing the issue. Commissioner John Williams motioned to approve to write a thank you note to G&S Gas Company for coming to look at the issue for free as well as Mrs. Donna Asbell for her collaborative efforts. Commissioner John Williams 1st to motion and Commissioner Pete Williams to second. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.
- b. Discussion to reappoint Ronnie Grande to the Board of Assessors. Motion passed to reappoint Ronnie Grande to the Board of Assessors Chairman Michael Gotell 1st to motion and Commissioner Glenn Kester second. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner Pete

Williams voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes and Chairman Gotell voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

- c. Discuss Building Permit Fee Schedule- Chief Tax Appraiser. Chief Tax Appraiser Ramona Vaifale discussed how most fees are around \$25.00 whether it be someone building a front porch or a big business building a large structure the fee stays the same. Chief Tax Appraiser Ramona Vaifale discussed how we should look into changing the fees to match surrounding counties and gave an example of the fee's that other counties pay. Chief Tax Appraiser Ramona Vaifale also stated that some of the other counties fee's include inspections and some don't. Chief Tax Appraiser Ramona Vaifale also talked about how we should maybe contact power companies to not allow power until the permit is given, she stated that we should use Twiggs County as a reasonable playing field for the price of fees. This matter will need further discussion.
- d. Discuss an Increase of Sheriff's Vehicle replacement mileage from 150,000 to 200,000 miles- Chairman Gotell. Sheriff Richard Chatman discussed how he believes that quality vehicles are around 125,000 miles. Sheriff Richard Chatman emphasized the importance of Officer Safety and Dependability with the vehicles. Sheriff Richard Chatman discussed about the importance of vehicle maintenance in the vehicles that we have and that we need to take a detailed look at each vehicle to access where each one is at. Commissioner Glenn Kester stated that once they get over 150,000 they usually have a lot of issues. Sheriff Richard Chatman mentioned that these vehicles do tend to get harder driving than regular vehicles. Commissioner John Williams asked on the 3 vehicles that we replaced recently how many miles did they have before we needed to replace, Sheriff let us know that there are over 150,000 miles on those vehicles by the time they needed to be replaced. This matter will need further discussion.
- e. Discuss Emergency Powers Ordinance- EMA Director. EMA Director Emma Bacon talked about how the Emergency Powers ordinance allows Chairman to invoke a local state of emergency by signing this it allows supplies to come to the EMA Director. County Attorney Dubose Porter mentioned that there will be some steps before it can be signed. EMA Director Emma Bacon then further explained what this Ordinance can help the county do like setting curfews and even charging for goods. Chairman Michael Gotell told EMA Director Emma Bacon to email the documents to the County Manager Dennis Stroud so that he can get it to the commissioners to look over it.

Commissioner's District Report

1. Commissioner Glenn Kester District 1 no report.
2. Commissioner James Hagins District 2 stated that the grass cutting has been slow but it's coming along.
3. Commissioner Pete Williams District 3 no report.
4. Commissioner John Williams District 4 stated that he would like to encourage citizens to use social media and to sit in on Citizen's Connect every 1st Monday of each month.

Chairman's Report:

- a. Chairman Gotell discussed how recreation is in full affect and that Football letters should have been sent home Friday July 30th,2021 with students.

County Managers Report:

- a. County Manager Dennis Stroud discussed how he has been working with the EMA Director Emma Bacon, Chief Tax Appraiser Ramona Vaifale, and Director of Finance Tracy Strange on the budget for 2021-2026 to get more detail with a plan for those years.

Comments from the Public:

- a. Mrs. Donna Asbell had asked a question in reference to the Building Permit Fee Schedule that Chief Tax Appraiser Ramona Vaifale had proposed. Mrs. Donna Asbell asked if the main purpose of looking into changing the fees for permits would be for revenue.
- b. Mr. David Vault asked a question about when he would hear follow-up about the accident at the convenience center. County Manager Dennis Stroud stated that he needs to get all of the details and will call him back said to give him until Thursday.

Executive Session

Motion made by Commissioner John Williams to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters and possible litigation. Motion seconded by Commissioner James Hagins. Commissioner Glenn Kester voted yes, Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Chairman Michael Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams. voted yes and Commissioner John Williams. voted yes. Motion carries there were none opposed.

Motion to exit Executive Session made by Commissioner Glenn Kester. Seconded by Commissioner James Hagins. Commissioner Kester voted yes, Commissioner Hagins voted yes, Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Pete Williams. voted yes and Commissioner John Williams. voted yes. Motion carries there were none opposed.

No Action Taken

Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner John Williams and seconded by Commissioner Glenn Kester to

adjourn the meeting. 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 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.