

Board of Commissioners Wilkinson County

MEMBERS OF BOARD:
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COMMISSION MEETING
November 2,2021
9:00 AM

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 9:00 AM on November 2,2021 in Commission Chambers. The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Michael Gotell, Commissioner James Hagins, Commissioner Pete Williams, and Commissioner John Williams. Commissioner Glenn Kester was not present.

The following staff was present: County Manager Dennis Stroud, Lindsey Benefield Senior Account Tech 1 and County Attorney DuBose Porter.

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 James Hagins to lead the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gotell asked Commissioner John Williams to lead the pledge.

Agenda

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Commissioner Pete Williams and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to approve the agenda. Commissioner James Hagins voted yes, Commissioner John Williams voted yes, Commissioner Pete 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 October 19, 2021, meeting. Motion made by Commissioner James Hagins and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to approve the minutes of the Regular Session and Executive Session minutes 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

Recognition of Visitors / Presentations

Unfinished Business

- a. Telecommunications Ordinance- County Manager Dennis Stroud stated “we started this process a few years ago and now there is a company affiliated with AT&T who wants to erect a cell tower out at 500 Maddox road. Apparently, they have talked to the property owners everything has been OK the fee’s that they have seen they are good with. But we did not move on it, so I didn’t want to give them the OK to give them the clearance to do anything until I brought it back to the body because I recognize we didn’t do anything a few years ago.” Chairman Michael Gotell stated, “What area is it going to be at?” County Manager Dennis Stroud stated, “It’s at 500 Maddox road and when I looked at the spot on the map it is deep down into what looks like private property.” Chairman Michael Gotell stated, “Is that towards Toombsboro?” Commissioner Pete Williams stated, “It’s across the fall line at 57 up there on the right.” Chairman Michael Gotell stated, “Do we have to approve that or is that just part of the structure of the Development Authority does?” County Attorney Dubose Porter stated “You all were wanting to know how many were going in from what I remember so it’s not necessarily needing your approval, there’s nothing in the ordinance that requires approval each plan you submit this is on private property but it would be a fee because of the public place it would be in the air, along with the fees also taxes that would be added to it later after it’s built. It depends on how much control you want to have on the placement and the number of cell towers in the county. There is nothing that requires approval right now. But if you want that we can certainly do that if it becomes an issue. “Chairman Michael Gotell stated “Mr. John, Mr. Pete, Commissioner Hagins, if I’m not mistaken, I remember a commissioner meeting here a while back before we came on board, and you all had approved a ordinance on to start charging fees for the power that is coming into the county. Basically, Dubose your telling do you want to stand on that ordinance? Because you all went through the Middle Georgia regional to get recommendation.

“Commissioner John Williams stated, “I don’t understand, they said although we don’t sign the resolution for the fees what is some lacking?”. County Attorney Dubose Porter stated, “Well it said that you want to review it on the way of permit, in the ordinance it says you want the ability to possibly permit the sighting and construction of cell towers. But you never adopted anything that would put the permit that you get on the fees but not on the sight. Might want to work with the RDC because they have done this in some other areas if you want to have a review of where they go. “Chairman Michael Gotell stated. “When we talked to our Chief Assessor a few months ago she is trying to develop something as far as permitting that we are doing in Wilkinson County anyway so what we will do is bring this back up in the near future and discuss this.” County Manager Dennis Stroud stated, Mr. Chairman if I may I’m due to respond back to their request on Thursday so am I saying to them we are currently reviewing the process and looking at land use plan?”. Chairman Michael Gotell stated,” For that particular one is out in the boondocks, right? So, it’s not affecting the citizens so if we go ahead and give them the OK.” County Manager Dennis Stroud stated,” Accept their fee’s and let them continue? OK, I just wanted to make sure I was going according to the board. “

Commissioner’s District Report

1. Not Present
2. Commissioner Hagins stated that there is some trash being piled up out on JR road but are checking the videos now.
3. Nothing to report
4. Nothing to report

Chairman’s Report:

Chairman Michael Gotell stated” Just wanted to make the board aware I asked the County Attorney and County Manager to reach out to the overseers of the lake over in Ivey where we can all have a sit down and see how we can help each other, I got some numbers on it and I think as a whole if we work together it’s a resource that the county as whole need to have so I did ask the County Attorney and County Manager to reach out over there and we are going to try to set up a meeting within the next 30 days. “

County Managers Report:

- a. County Manager stated, “Yesterday we had the fire committee meeting, not all members were present, but it was a productive meeting. I think we are going to encourage the fire chief to help us write up some standards about this paper call, and then come back to you with something solidified hopefully at the next meeting.”
- b. County Manager stated, “I’ve also met with Paws and Claws and A Rescue Tail’s people and we aren’t tat far apart I think we are going to have a meeting with myself, and both of those two entities and I think we can actually strengthen animal control across this county because they both want the same thing. We are so close to being there. So, I hope to have great news by next meeting.”
- c. County Manager stated,” The roof is done, across the street is done. They are due

to start on DPH on the 12th that's what we decided yesterday that they would start on the 12th". Chairman Michael Gotell stated, "Did you get a chance to get up to the Service Center in Gordon and look at that?" County Manager Dennis Stroud stated, "Yes sir, I walked through the entire Service Center with Miss Bernie I've seen all the cabinets falling off the wall and holes in the wall. I've dispatched the Road crew to take care of some of the immediate stuff and but the cabinetry we need to replace those. So, want to replace those repair the walls someone attempted to break in a while back, so I'm going to replace those door locks on the door. Mr. Reese who did the trimming around here will also trim those around there. I think we can set them up for success to make the building look allot better. Then the only thing we have to do is give it a real good cleaning and then they should be back in shape. Chairman Michael Gotell stated," What about the camera system over there, I know you said there was a potential break in." County Manager Dennis Stroud stated, "They do have a camera system the issue became those overgrown crepe myrtles, so the trees were blocking the views so that's why we want to get those trees pruned back." Chairman Michael Gotell stated," That was on our priority list with the whole board is the Service Center." Commissioner John Williams stated, "If you would could you add the health department for ground keeping it needs some work." County Manager Dennis Stroud stated that he was on it.

Comments from the Public:

Miss Donna Asbell stated, "One suggestion would be to add the Senior Citizens Center to the clean up for the grounds as well, it hasn't been done in months." County Manager stated that he will extend to those additional buildings mentioned.

Executive Session

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

Motion to exit Executive Session made by Commissioner John Williams. Seconded by Commissioner James Hagins, 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 Pete Williams to adjourn the meeting. 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.