

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009 at 4:30 P.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, October 5, 2009 at 4:30 P.M. in Courtroom Number Two of the White County Courthouse, Cleveland, Georgia. Present at the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Post 1 Commissioner Joe Campbell, Post 2 Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Carol Jackson, Interim County Manager Jean Welborn, and County Clerk Shanda Smallwood.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order. Following the pledge of allegiance, Mr. Dean Dyer brought the invocation.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded Commissioner Campbell the minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 14, 2009 and the Called Meeting held September 17, 2009 were unanimously adopted.

Upon presentation of proclamation to the White County Family Connection Partners, the White County Board of Commissioners declared the week of October 26, 2009 as "Red Ribbon Week In White County".

Upon presentation of proclamation to the White County Enotah Judicial Circuit Task Force Against Domestic, the White County Board of Commissioners declared the month of October 2009 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month".

Tom O'Bryant, Director of Community and Economic Development presented the second reading for the adoption of revisions to the White County Sign Ordinance. Mr. O'Bryant summarized that Chapter 58, Section 2 of the Sign Ordinance was being amended to expanded the current definitions to include illumination, Chapter 58, Section 16 was being amended to delete the exemption of window signs and all signs sixteen (16) square feet or less from requiring a sign permit, and Chapter 58, Section 23 was being amended to delete the exception of temporary signs from the current sign setback of fifteen (15) feet from a city, county, state, or federal right of way. The first reading of the following resolution regarding amendments to the White County Sign Ordinance was completed:

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 2009- 26

**REVISING CHAPTER 58 (SIGN REGULATIONS)
OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF WHITE COUNTY**

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the White County Board of Commissioners wishes to amend Chapter 58 of the Official Code of White County;

NOW, THEREFORE, the White County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes the following amendments to the Official Code of White County:

Chapter 58 – Signs, Section 2 (Definitions) is hereby amended by adding the following definitions:

Multiple message sign: A sign, display, or device which changes the message or copy on the sign electronically by movement or illumination or rotation of panels or slats; and

Chapter 58 – Signs, Section 16 (Exemptions from Sign Permits) and Section 23 (Sign Setback) is hereby amended by the following deletions:

Sec. 58-16. Exemptions from Sign Permit.

Any sign which is specifically exempted from the requirements of this Article shall be exempt from the requirement to obtain a sign permit. ~~In addition, window signs and all signs sixteen (16) square feet or less in area shall be exempt from a sign permit.~~ Exemption from the requirement of a sign permit shall not be construed to exempt such sign from compliance with other applicable provisions of this Article.

Sec. 58-23. Sign Setback.

There is no established minimum required setback for signs, other than outside any city, county, state, or federal road right-of-way, ~~except that temporary signs shall be erected no closer than fifteen (15) feet from a city, county, state, or federal road right-of-way.~~

All other rules, regulations, definitions, etc. contained in said Official Code of White County, not herein amended or deleted, shall remain in full force and effect.

ADOPTED, this 5th day of October 2009.

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

s/ Travis Turner
Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell, Post 1

ATTEST: s/Shanda Smallwood
County Clerk

s/Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, Post 2

-End of Second Reading-

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to approve the second reading on and the adoption of the resolution, being County Resolution 2009-26, revising the White County Sign Ordinance.

In providing an update on the progress of plans for a White County Animal Shelter Chairman Turner stated the proposed site adjacent to the White County Transfer Station had been determined to be suitable for installation of a septic system. Ms. Jean Welborn stated that it had been determined that the cost of the generic set of plans was going to be substantial and now the staff was looking at other options for obtaining the plans for the facility. Commissioner Campbell stated the design of the facility was not the issue with the information on hand, however the floor plans which we had did not provide detailed specifications on the drainage requirements for the building. He further stated if the staff could obtain the drainage requirements, the plans could be drawn by someone locally. Chairman Turner asked Beverly Bollefer, Purchasing Manager, to obtain the drainage requirements from the State Department of Agriculture. Ms. Carol Jackson, County Manager, stated that she had been in correspondence with Geo Designs, the firm which designed the Dawson County Animal Shelter and was actively researching several options. Ms. Jackson asked the Board of Commissioners to delay a vote regarding the compilation of plans until she was able to gather additional information. The Board agreed that a called work session could be scheduled within the next week or so to review the information available. Chairman Turner asked Ms. Jackson to be in correspondence with Commissioner Campbell regarding the information she obtains.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant the consent agenda was unanimously approved, containing the following items:

- Granting of the appeal filed by Mr. Allan Duarte regarding a variance requirement issued by the White County Planning Commission relative to the current subdivision regulations;
- Granting of the appeal filed by Mr. Neil Mattson regarding a variance requirement issued by the White County Planning Commission relative to the current subdivision regulations;

- Approval of revisions to the variance policy for the subdivision of property for loan purposes;
- Authorization for pre-application for a grant opportunity for White County EMA to fund projects for outdoor warning and emergency notification systems;
- Authorization for a grant opportunity for the White County Road Department to pursue federal funding from the Safety Initiative Program for road re-stripping and road signage;
- Adoption of a resolution (County Resolution Number 2009-29) declaring the propane tank currently located at the former Fire Station #3, as surplus and authorizing the donation of this to the Sautee Community Association for use at the Sautee Community Center;
- Adoption of a resolution (County Resolution Number 2009-27) declaring certain county property as surplus and authorizing the sale of this property on Gov-Deals;
- Granting authorization to the Purchasing Department for bids to be placed, not to exceed \$5,000, for the replacement of the 1993 Chevrolet S10 pick up truck assigned to the Maintenance Department – with bids to be reviewed by the County Manager and approved prior to purchase;
- Approval of the Co-Op Law Enforcement Financial and Operating Plan for White County between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the White County Sheriff's Office; and
- Approval of the federally required annual EGTRRA (Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001) reinstatement of the White County Employee Retirement Plan.

-End of Consent Agenda-

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant, there was a unanimous vote to offer Keith Canup a part-time Engineer position at the rate of \$25.00 per hour with the White County Road Department, with Mr. Canup's main duties including assistance in applying for federal funding from the Safety Initiative Program for road re-stripping and road signage. Chairman Turner asked Doug Dockery, Director of Public Works, to contact Mr. Canup with this offer and to advise the Board of Commissioners if he did not accept the position.

Based on the interviews which had been conducted with the top three (3) architectural firms selected from the request for qualifications submitted and the discussions with White County Sheriff Neal Walden; Chairman Turner asked the Board of Commissioners for a motion regarding the awarding of the contract for architectural services for the White County Detention Center expansion project.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commission Bryant there was a unanimous vote to award the contract for architectural design services for the White County Detention Center expansion project to Goldberg, Sullivan, and McCreery.

Chairman Turner stated that a work session would need to be scheduled in the near future to discuss plans for moving forward on this project, including possible finance options for the detention center expansion.

Ms. Carol Jackson presented the Board of Commissioners with a proposed resolution for a grant opportunity with the Georgia Department of Transportation 2009 GATEway project. Ms. Jackson explained this grant did not require any portion of county match and would provide up to \$50,000 for beautification projects along state routes leading into White County. She indicated that part of the grant process would include the County submitting a plan to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) with the details of White County's plan for expending these funds.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Campbell there was a unanimous vote to adopt the following resolution in support of White County pursuing the Georgia Department of Transportation 2009 GATEway Grant:

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-28

A resolution of the White County Board of Commissioners authorizing the county staff or its designee to apply for and accept a GATEway grant; upon award of the grant the White County Commission shall enter into a mowing and maintenance agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation.

WHEREAS, many road side areas and median strips within the GDOT right of way must be maintained and attractively landscaped; and

WHEREAS, the White County Board of Commissioners and its staff routinely beautify and improve various rights of way by landscaping within its purview; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to authorize the staff to apply for a GATEway grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation, and if awarded, to enter into a mowing and maintenance agreement between itself and the GDOT;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the White County Board of Commissioners of White County, Georgia and it does hereby authorize staff to apply for a GATEway grant and, upon award of the grant, shall enter into a mowing and maintenance agreement between itself and the GDOT, and

The Clerk of the Commission is hereby directed to send copies of this resolution to GDOT and others as directed by the Commission.

ADOPTED, this 5th day of October 2009.

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

s/Travis C. Turner
Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell, Post 1

s/Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, Post 2

ATTEST:
s/Shanda Smallwood
Shanda Smallwood, County Clerk

-End of Resolution-

Commissioner Campbell stated that he would like to add two items to the agenda under new business.

Commissioner Campbell said he would like for the White County Board of Commissioners to discuss the possibility of suspending building and development permit fees in an effort to spur the local economy. He further stated the County was currently funding the Planning and Building Inspection Departments, so this would not create a new burden in the county budget – however he did think this would encourage people to look at starting new projects if they knew the fees were not going to be required.

Chairman Turner stated that Union County, GA has suspended their building permit fees and there had been a very positive upswing in their local building economy as a result of these fees being alleviated.

Commissioner Bryant stated that he would like to see the fees waived until the beginning of 2009 and for this to be reevaluated at that time.

Ms. Carol Jackson asked for clarification regarding the exact fees this suspension would apply to. Mr. Tom O'Bryant, Director of Community and Economic Development, stated there may be an issue with suspending some of the development related fees for which a portion is collected on behalf of the State of Georgia.

Chairman Turner suggested the Board address only building permit fees at the present time and asked that Mr. O'Bryant research the possibility of suspending other development fees for presentation at the October 26, 2009 work session.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to suspend building permit fees effectively immediately, with the requirement to acquire a building permit and follow all applicable county codes remaining in effect and this decision is to be reviewed in ninety (90) days.

Commissioner Campbell stated that he would like to make a motion to remove Mr. John Jordan from the White County Planning Commission and stated this was based on Mr. Jordan's negative reaction to the Board of Commissioners attempting to assist a citizen in resolving an issue through the White County Planning Board.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a vote to remove Mr. John Jordan from the White County Planning Commission effective immediately. Chairman Turner voted against this motion, noting this was due to the timing of this issue.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Campbell there was a unanimous vote to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing personnel issues.

-See the Following Closed Meeting Affidavit-

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Campbell there was a unanimous vote to exit Executive Session.

With no decisions being made during Executive Session and upon a motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

The minutes of the October 5, 2009 regular meeting are hereby approved as stated this the 2nd day of November 2, 2009.

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell, Post 1 Commissioner

s/Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, Post 2 Commissioner

s/Shanda Smallwood
Shanda Smallwood, County Clerk