



FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 24, 2020

Forum River Center

Commission Planning Session—Floyd Room	2:30pm
Caucus—Floyd Room	4:30 pm
Regular Meeting—Ballroom	6:00 pm

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS: SCOTTY HANCOCK, WRIGHT BAGBY, RHONDA WALLACE, ALLISON WATTERS, & LARRY MAXEY; COUNTY MANAGER JAMIE MCCORD, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER GARY BURKHALTER, COUNTY CLERK ERIN ELROD, COUNTY ATTORNEY VIRGINIA HARMAN; TODD WOFFORD, BRUCE IVEY, JOHN BLALOCK, MARK WALLACE, BOB HENDERSON, SUSIE GASS, OLIVIA MORLEY, ART NEWELL, DR. GARY VOCCIO (ZOOM)

CAUCUS

1. William Hibberts addressed the Commission regarding a property he purchased from Bill Whitener in Riverside and has had problems with a neighbor ever since. Stated his property has been vandalized daily, in addition to someone calling Animal Control. He's called the Police Department and Animal Control and nothing has happened to prevent any further issues. Trees have fallen in the street and the neighbors will not do anything despite the road being blocked. Mr. Hibberts also stated he is changing tags. I'm just asking someone to please go out there and work on this. I've only been told, "Why don't you just move?" Jamie McCord asked John Blalock to coordinate with Mark Wallace, Jeff Mitchell, and James Martin to work through this issue.
2. **County Attorney Virginia Harman to report on elections** — Ms. Harman stated the recount has started at 12pm today. They have finished the testing of the equipment. They have gotten through three of sixteen absentee ballot boxes at this point. These are the slowest to scan and adjudicate. They are well underway. The Board has a real space issue in the server room. People are being very accommodating through this process. We anticipate that tomorrow they will only go through around 1pm because we will lose our Dominion rep at that point. They will resume on Monday after the holiday due to the Dominion rep's schedule. We did not receive the forms and materials from the Secretary of State's office until yesterday. The audit was completed in time and the discrepancy was narrowed down to an early voting box from the County Administration building. On the date, a voter had jammed a scanner. The cards would not sync at that point. We do not really understand why either ballots did not get scanned or they were not incorporated in the final vote tallies.
3. **Dr. Gary Voccio to update on COVID-19 pandemic in NWGA** — Dr. Voccio updated the Commission. We are seeing evidence of much more widespread of COVID-19 in Northwest Georgia.

Chair Hancock asked Mr. McCord for an update on County policies. Mr. McCord informed the Commission he has reminded employees on the existing policy requiring

employees to wear masks on County property and in County vehicles. There has been some disciplinary action taken against employees who have not worn their masks. Vice-Chair Bagby asked the Commission to consider requiring everyone to wear masks on County properties, including citizens. Chair Hancock asked the management team to advise the Commission with the possibility of a Special Called Meeting early next week to adopt a policy.

Chair Hancock and Mr. McCord began reviewing the agenda for the meeting. Planning & Zoning Director Art Newell answered questions from the Commission on the ULDC updates. Mr. McCord reviewed the remaining items on the budget, and Finance Director Susie Gass reviewed changes to the budget for the first reading. Vice-Chair Bagby made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Hancock called the meeting to order.
- II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG** — Commissioner Wallace
- III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** — Chair Hancock asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Maxey made a motion to approve seconded by Vice-Chair Bagby. The motion carried 5-0.
- IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
 1. Grant Miller from Callier Springs Country Club asking for the Commission to review alcohol licenses, especially sporting facilities, and fees for background checks. Chair Hancock asked Ms. Elrod to review and report back to the Commission.
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 1. **Adopt minutes of Caucus, Regular Meeting, and Executive Session of November 10, 2020.** – Chair Hancock asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Watters made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Wallace. The motion carried 5-0.
- VI. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**
- VII. PROCLAMATIONS**
 1. **National Nurse Practitioners Week** — Chair Hancock thanked local Nurse Practitioners for their expertise and effort in our local doctor offices and hospitals.

VIII. FIRST READING

1. **Fiscal Year 2021 Budget** — Mr. McCord reviewed the proposed FY 2021 budget which includes the public safety pay plan enacted in 2020 as well as other reclassifications. There was lower gains due to lower fines and fees in judicial and parks and recreation and other areas due to COVID-19 closures. Health rates are continuing to rise and will have to be reevaluated. If COVID continues, a hard discussion will be needed in regards to Parks and Recreation operations in 2021. Property taxes did show gains as well as intergovernmental revenues. We are projecting to use a \$4.4 million in fund balance even with capitol deferred until midyear in 2021. We did receive COVID federal funds this year, but we do not think they will make up for loss revenues in parks and recreation and the court system. We do have an additional position for Cave Spring and an increase to the City of Rome agreement as part of the 2020 public safety pay plan. We will be discussing the Solid Waste budget in the coming weeks. Stadium maintenance had a \$100,000 transfer to continue improvements. Current Forum fund has been reduced since we did not renew with Safari. We have staffed with parks and recreation staff to make up the difference at this time. The majority of capitol was done through SPLOST in 2020. We had \$6 million in capital request with only \$780,000 in funding.

IX. SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARINGS

(FIRST READINGS HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020, AT 6PM)

1. **Adopt an ordinance to amend Articles 3 and 4 of the Unified Land Development Code of Rome and Floyd County, Georgia (The “ULDC”); to have application only in unincorporated Floyd County; related to special events venues; in the agricultural residential (AR), suburban residential (SR) zoning districts; to repeal conflicting ordinances; and for other purposes. The ordinance is recommended by the planning staff and the Rome-Floyd Planning Commission (7-0).** – Chair Hancock reviewed the rules for the public hearing. Mr. Newell reviewed the item for the Commission. Chair Hancock opened the public hearing. No one was in attendance to seek in favor or against the request. Commissioner Maxey made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Wallace. The motion passed 5-0.
2. **Adopt an ordinance to amend Articles 3 and 4 of the Unified Land Development Code of Rome and Floyd County, Georgia (The “ULDC”); related to Hobby Farms and Wildlife Parks or Zoos; in the agricultural residential (AR), and suburban residential (SR) zoning districts; to repeal conflicting ordinances; and for other purposes. The ordinance is recommended by the planning staff and the Rome-Floyd Planning Commission (7-0).** – Mr. Newell reviewed the request for the Commission. Chair Hancock opened the public hearing. Commissioner Maxey asked about the

number of chickens allowed. Mr. Newell clarified that you must have more than five (5) acres to have more than four (4) chickens. Commissioner Watters had some concerns regarding the limitations. Cliff Flagello spoke in favor of the chickens. He began with speaking graciously of the Planning and Building Inspection Departments. He asked that the request be reviewed further to allow for more chickens. No one to speak in opposition. Chair Hancock closed the public hearing and clarified that the intent is not to restrict, but allow people to have hobby farms in the County. Vice-Chair Bagby made a motion to send back to the Planning staff for further review and asked they bring it back before the Commission. Commissioner Wallace seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

X. RESOLUTIONS

- 1. Adopt a resolution regarding potential elimination of Hall Road grade crossing; repealing all prior ordinances in conflict herewith; and for other purposes.** — Mr. McCord reviewed for the Commission. The project has been identified by Georgia Department of Transportation to be managed by GDOT and will receive Federal funding. The project should begin in late 2021 or early 2022. This resolution is with Norfolk Southern to remove the crossing. They will be providing a onetime payment of \$75,000.00 with a \$7,500.00 payment from GDOT. Chair Hancock asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.
- 2. Adopt a resolution declaring certain property of the County unserviceable and authorizing the transfer of said property to Rome-Floyd Land Bank Authority.** — Mr. McCord reviewed the resolution with the Commission. Chair Hancock asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Maxey made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.

XI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

XII. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- 1. Administrative/Finance Committee – Commissioners Bagby & Wallace**
 - a. Next Meeting, TBD
- 2. Public Safety Committee – Commissioners Maxey & Hancock**
 - a. Next Meeting, Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 9:00am.

- 3. Public Works Committee – Commissioners Watters & Bagby**
 - a. Next Meeting, TBD
- 4. Water Committee – Commissioners Wallace & Maxey**
 - a. Next Meeting, TBD
- 5. Special Committee Reports**
 - a. Fire Overview Committee—Commissioners Hancock & Maxey**
 - i. Next Meeting, TBD
 - b. Joint Services Committee—Commissioners Hancock & Bagby**
 - i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 8:00am.
 - c. Rome-Floyd Planning Commission—Commissioner Maxey**
 - i. Next Meeting, TBD
 - d. Joint Development Oversight Committee—Commissioners Hancock & Bagby**
 - i. Next Meeting, TBD
 - e. Joint Solid Waste Commission—Commissioners Bagby & Watters**
 - i. Next Meeting, TBD
 - f. Transportation Policy Committee—Commissioners Wallace & Watters**
 - i. Next Meeting, TBD
 - g. Airport Commission—Commissioner Wallace**
 - i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 4:00pm.
 - h. SPLOST Project Overview Committee—Commissioners Hancock & Wallace**
 - i. RFPR Advisory Committee—Commissioner Bagby**

i. Next Meeting, Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 12:00pm.

j. **Judicial Committee/(CJIS) – Commissioner Wallace**

k. **Floyd County Library Board— Commissioner Watters**

i. Next Meeting, TBD

XIII. MANAGER’S REPORT

XIV. ATTORNEY’S REPORT

XV. CONSENT AGENDA — Chair Hancock asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Watters made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Wallace. The motion carried 5-0.

1. Ratify a VOCA continuation grant.
2. Approve rental agreement between Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Authority and Rome Premier Soccer for the Garden Lakes Soccer Complex and North Floyd Soccer Complex in the amount of \$22,000.00.
3. Approve sign memorial fee policy for Floyd County

XVI. OLD BUSINESS

XVII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Approve proposed 60% range and 2% increase to Floyd County Pay Plan.** — Mr. McCord reviewed the item with the Commission. This was discussed at the last Admin Finance meeting. This finalizes our plan and corrects problems from 2016. This will standardize all maximums to 60% of the minimum salaries. It will also shift up the minimum pay for all paygrade 2%. This allows us to catchup without doing a full COLA. We are requesting this to be retroactive to October 1, 2020 for the law enforcement pay plan. Chair Hancock asked for a motion to approve. Vice-Chair Bagby made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Wallace. The motion carried 5-0.
2. **Approve Michael Baker International Work Authorization 50 to provide an update to the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) to reflect the revised length of the Runway 1/19 Extension in the amount of \$12,794.00.** — Mr. McCord reviewed the item with the Commission. Chair Hancock asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.

3. **Approve Memorandum of Understanding between Rome-Floyd County Development Authority, F&P America MFG., Inc., Floyd County, and the Board of Tax Assessors of Floyd County.** — Mr. McCord reviewed the item with the Commission. Chair Hancock asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Watters made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Maxey. The motion carried 5-0.
4. **Approve Memorandum of Understanding between Rome-Floyd County Development Authority, Marglen Industries, Inc., Floyd County, and the Board of Tax Assessors of Floyd County.** — Mr. McCord reviewed the item with the Commission. Chair Hancock asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.
5. **Approve Floyd County TAD policies guidelines and review.** — Mr. McCord reviewed a potential TAD policy for guidelines for future TAD request. There is general policy as well as guidelines that line up projects that are eligible for consideration. Chair Hancock asked if the application would be available online and asked this be shared with the City of Rome. Vice-Chair Bagby questioned the bond availability for TAD over 25 years. Mr. McCord updated the Commission that number had been lowered to 15 years. Commissioner Maxey praised the policy. Chair Hancock asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Maxey made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Wallace. The motion carried 5-0.
6. **Approve contract with Morgan and Hunt Oil Company, Rome, Georgia, to provide Gasoline and Diesel Fuel to Floyd County for up to the five years.** — Mr. McCord reviewed the item with the Commission. The item was reviewed by the Admin Finance Committee. This will allow us to have a local vendor as well as help us with capacity. Chair Hancock asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.
7. **Approve additional payment of \$320,000.00 for our FY 2020 pension payment.** — Mr. McCord reviewed the item with the Commission. We have a minimum amount and a recommended amount for our pension contribution. This amount was reviewed by Admin Finance Committee. This is halfway between the minimum and the recommended. This keeps us around 82% funded. Chair Hancock asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.

XVIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Watters recapped Dr. Voccio's discussion from Caucus and reminded everyone to please keep your distance, wear a mask, and be outside as much as possible.

Chair Hancock informed everyone that the Commission had entered into Executive Session during Caucus for the purpose of discussing the acquisition of property. No action was taken.

XIX. ADJOURN — With no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Hancock asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Maxey made a motion seconded by Commissioner Watters. The motion carried 5-0.