

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – Special Called Meeting – August 1, 2016

A special called meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, August 1, 2016 in Richmond Hill. The following members were present: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed, Commissioner Rick Gardner, Commissioner Wade Price, Commissioner Steve Myers, and Commissioner Dallas Daniel, Commissioner Noah Covington. Also present: County Administrator Ben Taylor and County Clerk Donna Waters.

Chairman Burnsed called the meeting at order at 5:30 p.m. and stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss **E-Commerce Freeport Exemption**.

Ben Taylor, County Administrator, gave an overview of the E-Commerce Exemption. Bryan County currently has Freeport Exemption as does 142 other Georgia counties. Freeport Exemption pertains to several categories of business inventory. These categories are as follows: (1) inventory of goods in the process of manufacture or production; (2) finished goods in the hands of the producer for not more than 12 months; and (3) finished goods stored that are destined to be shipped out of Georgia within 12 months. In the realm of economic development, this is a standard incentive that 142 of the 159 counties currently offer. Many states have another category that qualifies for their individual versions of Freeport that includes e-commerce fulfillment centers. A fulfillment center is a location which is used to pack, ship, store, or otherwise process tangible personal property that is sold by electronic, internet, telephonic, or other remote means; and provided that such business location does not allow customers direct purchase of goods onsite. With competitiveness in mind, the State passed and signed into law HB 935. Beginning July 1, 2016, a county may call for a referendum to adopt by a majority vote of their citizens this exception category for their jurisdiction. As of right now, not many counties have taken the steps to include this exception and by us doing this so early a competitive edge might be gained for industry recruitment.

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Dallas Daniel to put the E-Commerce Freeport Exemption on the November ballot. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Noah Covington to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.