

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – August 9, 2016

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 in Richmond Hill. The following members were present: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed, Commissioner Wade Price, Commissioner Dallas Daniel, and Commissioner Noah Covington. Also present: County Administrator Ben Taylor, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney Lea Holliday. Commissioner Steve Myers was present via telephone. Commissioner Rick Gardner was not present.

Chairman Burnsed called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Invocation was given by Commissioner Noah Covington. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Visitors were recognized.

Erin Cowan and the Richmond Hill Swim Team met with the board to discuss the need for a pool in South Bryan County and to tell the Board about how the Richmond Hill Swim Team just won the Savannah Coastal City Meet for the first time ever and how proud we should be as a community at this accomplishment. The Swim Team was presented with the Proclamation proclaiming August 9, 2016 in Bryan County be known as the 2016 Richmond Hill Swim Club “Wildcats” Team Day. A motion was made Noah Covington and seconded by Dallas Daniel to approve the proclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **agenda**. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Dallas Daniel to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **minutes** of the July 12, 2016 regular meeting and August 1, 2016 special called meeting. A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Dallas Daniel to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2016 regular meeting and August 1, 2016 special called meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **consent agenda**. A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Noah Covington to approve the consent agenda as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listed on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of Tax Refunds

*TAVT (Motor Vehicle) Appeal Refunds - \$752.50

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to close the regular meeting to hold a planning & zoning public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **PUD # 172-16 – McAllister PUD Application** – No one other than the applicant was present to speak on the application.

A motion was made by Dallas Daniel and seconded by Steve Myers to adjourn the public hearing and go back into regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

Eric Greenway, Planning Director, met with the board with Planning & Zoning issues.

1. **McAllister PUD Application** – The property is located on Highway 144 near the Highway 144 Spur Intersection and is approximately 55 acres. In January 2015 this property was rezoned from A-5 (agricultural) to an R-1 (residential) in order to develop a subdivision of

approximately 110 lots. The current developer of the property wishes to rezone this property into a PUD designation. The redesigned development will consist of single family lots. Staff recommends approval with the condition that a community trail be constructed by the developer parallel to Highway 144 to the property line. The Planning & Zoning Board approved with the above staff conditions. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the McAllister PUD Application. Motion carried unanimously.

Kristi Cox, United Way of the Coastal Empire, met with the board to share about the upcoming 2016 campaign. The kickoff will be on September 13 at the Richmond Hill City Center and campaign will run from then through the first couple of weeks of November. She also shared information about the new programs that are helping seniors and families in Bryan County.

John Grotheer, Finance Director, met with the board to discuss a request from the Atlantic Judicial Circuit for funds from the (DATE) Drug Abuse Education and Treatment Fund for the Drug Court. Georgia law requires DATE Funds be used specifically to fund and support the Drug Court that serves the county. O.C.G.A. provides for funds to be expended for: 1) Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Programs relating to controlled substances, alcohol and marijuana; and 2) If a drug court division has been established in the county under Code Section 15-1-15, for purposes of the drug court division. Participants are required to pay \$2,000 within the 24 month period while in the program. There is 1 out of 57 drug court participants who reside in Bryan County. Based on the ratio of usage, Bryan County's pro rata share is \$3,327.00. Staff recommends funding the Atlantic Judicial Circuit Felony Drug Court the county's pro-rata share of \$3,327.00 from the DATE Funds. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to approve Bryan County's share of the funding for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit Drug Court in the amount of \$3,327.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Ben Taylor, County Administrator, met with the board with several issues.

***Adoption of the 2016 Millage Rate** – Currently and for many, many years our taxation is divided among three zones: the unincorporated area, the city of Pembroke; and the city of Richmond Hill. Last year and the many proceeding it, Pembroke and the unincorporated have been taxed at the rate of 9.15 mills as decided with service delivery negotiations. Richmond Hill has been taxed one mill lower at 8.15 mills which was again the result of service delivery negotiations. The total property digest has declined over the past few years. In the past years, the commission had the opportunity to accept the "rollback rate" which in times of a declining digest would yield a higher millage rate and not require a tax increase hearing. However, this year is the exact opposite of our situation those past few years and this year the digest has increased resulting in a net gain. This net gain has triggered a component of the law that would require notice to the public of a tax increase if the last year's rate remained the same for Pembroke and Richmond Hill. The total gained revenue gained by keeping the millage rate the same in these two zones would equate to only about \$60,000. The Commission has the opportunity this year to accept the "rollback rate of 8.032 for the Richmond Hill zone and 9.077 for the Pembroke zone and avoid triggering the "backdoor" tax increase component of the law. The unincorporated rate will stay at 9.15. However, the growth of the digest will still trigger \$630,600 worth of growth countywide. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the resolution to adopt the 2016 millage rate as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

***Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Pembroke for Temporary Assistance with the CRS Flood Insurance Program** - The City of Pembroke has the desire to enter the CRS Flood Insurance Program and has been informed by the staff of the FEMA Flood Insurance Program that deficiencies in their staff's certification will invalidate them from being included in this discounted flood insurance program. An intergovernmental agreement is presented that allows our county staff to assist Pembroke staff with the administration of aspects of their program for a period of 6 months until their staff is estimated to be ready for the administration of their program. The county has recommended this temporary assistance for three reasons. The first being it is a benefit to our municipal partner of Pembroke. The work load should not overload our staff when it is for a temporary period. And lastly, it should ultimately be a municipal function to comply with the current service delivery agreement and it is a program best administered closer to the people than from afar. A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Noah Covington to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Pembroke for Temporary Assistance with the CRS Flood Insurance Program. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Wade Price to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.