

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – April 11, 2017

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 in Richmond Hill. The following members were present: Chairman Carter Infinger, Commissioner Brad Brookshire, Commissioner Noah Covington, Commissioner Steve Myers, Commissioner Wade Price and Commissioner Rick Gardner. Also present: County Administrator Ben Taylor, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney Lea Holliday.

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

A discussion was held on the **agenda**. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Noah Covington to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **minutes** of the March 14, 2017 regular meeting. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Wade Price to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2017 regular meeting as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

A proclamation recognizing the month of April 2017 as **Child Abuse Prevention Month** in Bryan County was presented to the Bryan County Family Connection Collaborative Board. There were 393 reported cases of child abuse in Bryan County in 2016 and of those 25 cases were substantiated as true abuse. The Family Connection Collaborative Board has “planted” pinwheels at the courthouse in North Bryan and the Administration Building in South Bryan. There were 25 pinwheels, along with a sign, at each location representing the 25 cases of true abuse in Bryan County. The Collaborative Board is also partnering with Helen’s Haven Children’s Advocacy Center to provide some parenting sessions and mandated reporter training throughout the month of April.

A proclamation recognizing the month of April 2017 as **Donate Life Month** in Bryan County was read and will be sent to LifeLink of Georgia. April is National Donate Life Month, an opportunity to honor all those who made the decision to give the Gift of Life, to focus attention on the extreme need for organ, eye and tissue donations and to encourage all residents to take action and sign up on Georgia’s Donor Registry. In Georgia, over 5,500 people await a second chance at life and over 118,000 men, women and children in the United States are on the organ transplant waiting list; an average of 22 people will die each day because a much needed organ does not become available in time. Through public education and action such as proclaiming April as Donate Life Month in Bryan County can help save lives.

Jody Laing, as representative for some residents in his neighborhood, met with the board to discuss an accessory use building on a lot in Mill Hill. The residents feel as though this accessory building is in violation of the codes for this residential area and someone on the county level made a mistake by allowing this construction.

Curtis Sanders, a volunteer coach with the recreation programs, met with the board to discuss the need for another gym in South Bryan County.

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to close the regular meeting to hold a **planning & zoning public hearing**.

1. **Rezoning Consideration for Michael T. Casey & James W. Royal, Sr.** for property located on Belfast River Road near the Intersection of Harris Trail Road and Dunham Marsh Trail from A-5 to PUD.

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to close 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. **Rezoning Application for Michael T. Casey & James W. Royal, Sr.** for PIN #057-101, located along the frontage of Belfast River Road from A-5 (Agricultural District) to PUD (Planning United Development). The property is located on Belfast River Road near the Intersection of Harris Trail Road and Dunham Marsh Trail. The property is approximately 139.76 acres and the proposed use is for a residential subdivision consisting of 143 lots. Staff recommends approval with conditions. Planning Commission recommends approval with staff conditions. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the rezoning application for Michael T. Casey & James W. Royal, Sr. from A-5 to PUD with condition that the garage front be set back a minimum of 4' from the body of the house. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **consent agenda**. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listed on the consent agenda.

1. **Approval of Tax Refunds**

*TAVT (Motor Vehicle) Appeal Refunds in the amount of \$166.25

John Grotheer, Finance Director, met with the board to discuss FY 2016 Budget Amendments. The board approved a budget in the amount of \$20,880,462 for FY 2016 and the actual expenditures were \$19,748,672.29 for FY 2016. Even though the overall expenditures were under budget, some departments were over budget, which requires budget amendments. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to approve the FY 2016 Budget Amendments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

***Administrator's Monthly Report –**

***Single Family Home Permits –** 97 permits have been issued as of March 31.

***Fire Station/EMS Station # 2 Progress –** This project was started in January 2017. Station # 2 is the busiest station we operate. This station is located off Highway 17 and is progressing along very nicely. Once the new station is complete, we will keep the old station and convert it for other purposes.

***Animal Shelter Progress (North Bryan) –** The land purchase has been completed; met with the Architect in late March; plans are in development for the new shelter; once plans are finalized, we will proceed with bid.

***FEMA Reimbursement Progress** – We are anticipating approximately \$10,121 for buildings; \$27,565 for donated resources; \$126,000 for emergency protective measures; \$351,576 for debris removal 0-30 days; \$137,480 for debris removal 30-90 days; \$198,000 for debris removal 90-180 days for an approximate total of \$850,000.

***P & Z Ordinance Committee** – This committee reconvened last month to look at the Cluster Ordinance. The next meeting is May 4 from 11:30 until 1:30 p.m. This committee will also work on the Comprehensive Plan before it is submitted to the Planning Commission and ultimately before the Board of Commissioners.

***Municode Codification** – We are currently working on having the Bryan County Code of Ordinances codified with Municode. This takes our codes, removes unnecessary and redundant things, and refers things back to state law. Once complete, these will be stored online and a link will be available on our website.

***GDOT Meeting & Presentation** – The Chairman, County Administrator and County Engineer met with GDOT in Atlanta to detail Bryan County's future transportation needs.

***Baseball Opening Day @ Timber Trail Park** – We have 480 kids participating in spring baseball in South Bryan.

***Conditional Use for Accessory Structures** – Ronnie Gerrald makes application for the construction of a metal building as a Conditional Use for Accessory Structures to be built on a vacant parcel in the R-1 Zoning District. He would like to construct a Carolina Carport with two (2) lean-tos. The size of the building is 20 x 30 with two 10 x 20 lean-tos. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Wade Price to approve the conditional use for accessory structures for Ronnie Gerrald. Motion carried unanimously.

***GDOT LMIG Safety Grant Submission** – An application was applied for and approved for a Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) for total expenditures of \$110,000. There is a matching grant requirement of 30% or \$33,000 and construction must be completed by year end of 2017. In conjunction with the request the 2017 LMIG Off-System Safety Projects includes Belfast River Road (CR 126) construction of a 3' shoulder widening on each side of the roadway starting at Harris Trail Road (CR 126) and ending at the intersection of Belfast Keller Road (CR 90). A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Noah Covington to approve the resolution to authorize the Chairman to submit a 2017 LMIG Off-System Safety Project Grant Application. Motion carried unanimously.

***Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments** – In accordance with Article 16, Section 1600 of the Bryan County Zoning Ordinance which states: "The Board of Appeals ("Board") shall consist of three (3) members ("Members") residing within the County and appointed by the County Commission. None of the Members shall hold other public office in the County." In the event that planning decisions of the Planning Director are appealed by affected landowner, the Code allows for appeals to fall to the Board of Appeals. The last appointments to the board were in 1996. Hence, three appointments need to be made. The Board of Appeals would decide appeals of the Planning Director's decision in accordance with Article V, Section 501.01 and hardship variances in accordance with Article V, Section 505 of the Bryan County Zoning Ordinance. These initial appointments would be done so in accordance with Article 16, Section 1600 of the Bryan County Code that refers to membership, appointment and term of office. A

motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Noah Covington to approve the appointment of Angie Kennedy for a one year term, Marty Todd to a two year term, and Mike Odom to a three year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion carried unanimously.

A citizen commented on her concerns over the growth in Bryan County, the method the county uses for filling vacancies on boards, bicycle paths and baseball fields.

Paul Thurston commented on the lack of comprise with the signs and excess funds in the budget.

Ron Gizzi commented on his concerns with the train blocking traffic for at least 20 minutes. He was advised the Board has no authority over the CSX Railroad and he would need to contract them directly.

Melanie Kramer would like it noted that Jody Laing had no legal authority to speak on behalf of the land owner across the street.

A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Brad Brookshire to go into **executive session** to discuss a legal claim. Motion carried unanimously. The board went into executive session at 7:02 p.m.

The board went back into regular session at 7:24 p.m. and adjourned immediately.