

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – February 12, 2019

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 in Richmond Hill. The following members were present: Chairman Carter Infinger, Commissioner Wade Price, Commissioner Steve Myers, Commissioner Brad Brookshire, Commissioner Gene Wallace, and Commissioner Noah Covington. 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 Chairman Infinger. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Visitors were recognized.

A discussion was held on the **agenda**. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the agenda with the removal of Mark Gordon PUD Amendment as the applicant has requested this be withdrawn. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **minutes** of the January 2019 meetings. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the minutes of the January 2019 meetings as printed. 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 Due to Appeals**
2. **Approval of Juvenile Court Judge Service Agreement**
3. **Approval of Oneida Tax Agreement**
4. **Approval of Environmental Health Fee Increase**

A motion was made by Gene Wallace and seconded by Noah Covington to close the regular meeting to hold **Planning & Zoning Public Hearings**. Motion carried unanimously.

***Case CUP # 153-18 – Todd & Deidre Barber Conditional Use** – The applicant was present to speak on this request. Several citizens spoke with concerns over this request.

***Preliminary Plat Approval for Wexford Subdivision** – Representatives for the applicant were present to speak on this request. Several citizens spoke with concerns over this request.

A motion was made by Gene Wallace and seconded by Steve Myers to close the public hearings and go back into regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

Amanda Clement, Planning Manager, met with the board with Planning & Zoning issues.

***Case CUP # 153-18 – Todd & Deidre Barber Conditional Use** – Todd & Deidre Barber makes application for a conditional use approval for an accessory building on a lot adjacent to the principal use building at 1575 Belle Island Road, PIN # 0712 021, located in unincorporated Bryan County. Staff recommends approval with conditions. The Planning Commission recommends denial. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Wade Price to table this request for two (2) months to allow neighbors time to review the revised plans. Motion carried unanimously.

***Preliminary Plat Approval for Wexford Subdivision** – Buckhead Lake Developers are requesting preliminary plat approval for Wexford Subdivision located on Belfast River Road, PIN # 062-060. Staff recommends approval. The Planning Commission also recommends approval. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Brad Brookshire to approve the preliminary plat for Wexford Subdivision with the condition that the developers do not use Griffin Road and a plan be made regarding the canal. Voting for: Myers, Covington, Brookshire & Price. Voting against: Wallace. Motion carried.

***UDO Steering Committee** – The purpose of the Steering Committee will be to provide input and feedback during the process of drafting the Unified Development Ordinance. The following individuals have confirmed their interest in volunteering their time to serve on this committee: Jonathan Goodman, Beth Williams Holley, John Reynolds, Keith Spitznogle, Joshua Coffey, Lisa Safely, Tracy Walden-Stafford, Boyce Young, Key Bartow, Dawn Poe and Michelle Henderson. Staff recommends that these individuals be appointed to the Steering Committee. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Brad Brookshire to appoint the named individuals to the UDO Steering Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Phillip Scott, Tim Morris and Jack Thain with the **Department of Natural Resources** met with the board to give an update on what the DNR does for Bryan County as well as the State of Georgia.

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

***County Administrator's February Report-**

-Bryan County Fire Station 1 should be complete and ready to move in November 2019.

-North Bryan Animal Shelter Ribbon Cutting was held on February 11, 2019.

-Animal Control Improvements over the past four years have included two new additional positions; replacement of rolling stock; adopted, returned, rescued numbers have doubled in 2018 (500 animals annually).

-Animal Control Ordinance Amendments are being reviewed and it is being recommended that we strengthen the county code immediately in a few areas. The review stage would take place in February and March with commission and public feedback in April and consideration for adoption in May.

-The Local Crime Victim Witness Program was reviewed. These are funds that come from a fine added to city and county court cases. Only certified agencies can receive these funds by State law. Bryan County currently submits these funds to the Atlantic Judicial Circuit Victim Witness Program. As the county grows, we will begin to get more request for funding allocations from other qualified providers, either existing or future. These services are highly specialized and the comprehension of their importance to our specific community needs is often limited to those closest to the victims. With the consideration of our growing needs and the specialization of these services the allocation of these funds should have input from an advisory board. The composition of the board should consist of law enforcement, court officials, and appropriate community organizations (not receiving funds). A recommendation of allocations should be made at least annually to coincide with the annual county budget and the Commissioners will take this into consideration.

***Appointment to Development Authority of Bryan County** – The term for Billy Conley on the Development Authority of Bryan County expires on February 28, 2019. Several other members on this board will be up for reappointment in July 2019. Therefore, it is recommended Billy Conley be reappointed until July 31, 2019 to get his seat in line with the other appointees. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Noah Covington to reappoint Billy Conley to the Development Authority of Bryan County for a term to expire on July 31, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointment to Planning Commission** – There are currently vacancies on the Bryan County Planning Commission. Boyce Young and Stacy Watson have been recommended for appointment to this board for four (4) year appointments, with the term to begin immediately and expire on February 28, 2023. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to appoint Boyce Young and Stacy Watson to the Planning Commission for a four (4) year term to begin immediately and expire on February 28, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

***SDS Extension** – The county and cities have agreed that it is best to file with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for an additional extension to the Service Delivery. The current extension expires on February 28, 2019. The method of accomplishing this is to file a DCA Form 5, which allows us to extend the deadline date by four months increments. This extension would extend the SDS until June 30, 2019. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the resolution requesting an extension of the current SDS which would extend the SDS until June 30, 2019 and authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary paperwork for the extension. Motion carried unanimously.

***ABM Energy Saving Contract & Financing** – Bryan County has entered into an energy saving contract with ABM to upgrade and improve the county's HVAC system, seal building envelopes, and increase the overall energy efficiency and savings throughout the county. All improvements are fully self-funded by the utilities saving over the 15-year financing period with Bank of America. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the resolution with ABM and the resolution with Bank of America and authorize the execution of the MOU by county staff. Motion carried unanimously.

***Bryan County Facilities Authority** – The County Administrator along with legal counsel are seeking authorization to work with the Georgia General Assembly during this legislative period to create a newly formed Bryan County Facilities Authority in order to finance future Bryan County capital projects with bonds. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Gene Wallace to authorize the execution of the MOU with legal counsel by county staff and adopt the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

***Project Reimbursement Resolution for Fire Station 1 & 9** – The County Administrator along with legal counsel are seeking approval for a Reimbursement Resolution on Fire Stations 1 & 9. This will allow the County to use its cash on hand to begin construction immediately and then be reimbursed at a later date from bond proceeds. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to adopt the resolution for reimbursement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

***Coastal Incentive Grant Resolution** – Bryan County has been selected to submit a full proposal for a Coastal Incentive Grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division. This grant will fund the County to complete the following: (1) update its drainage capital

improvement project list; (2) develop an impervious surface database in GIS; (3) conduct a stormwater utility feasibility study to look into a funding source for stormwater/drainage improvements; (4) facilitate a stakeholder committee to assist the County with developing recommendations for its future stormwater management program; and (5) draft an ordinance to adopt the Coastal Stormwater Supplement (CSS) of the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual. Adopting the CSS will allow the County to satisfy a goal related to stormwater management that was outlined in the "Bryan County 2018 Comprehensive Plan Update". Overall, this project will help the County with implementing and enhancing their stormwater management program. A motion was made by Gene Wallace and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the resolution authorizing staff to apply for a Coastal Incentive Grant through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Trinity L. Ingram-Jones, Executive Director of Serenity Hill, Inc. and Owner of Ingram-Jones & Associates, LLC met with the board to speak about medical care and victim services for victims of violence in Bryan County.

Joy Bohannon, Director of Georgia Animal Rescue & Defense, Inc. and **Michele Trammell**, Veterinary in Bryan County, met with the board to discuss the anti-tethering and humane laws.

Anne Marie Albough, met with the board to discuss the need to update to the county's animal ordinance.

A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Brad Brookshire to go into **executive session** to discuss litigation. Motion carried unanimously. The board went into executive session at 7:46 p.m. The board went back into regular session at 8:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Noah Covington to **adjourn**. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.