

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – June 9, 2015

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 in Richmond Hill. The following members were present: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed, Commissioner Rick Gardner, Commissioner Wade Price, Commissioner Carter Infinger, Commissioner Steve Myers,

Chairman Burnsed called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Invocation was given by Chairman Burnsed. 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 Carter Infinger to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **minutes** of the May 12, 2015 regular meeting. A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Noah Covington to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2015 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The following items were listed on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of New Occupational Tax Certificates

- *Valerie M. Holt – Big A's Cast Iron Café, LLC
- *Marion Kay Abel – Abel Construction and Management, LLC
- *Jimmie Hilton – EMF Electric
- *Garry S. Gravitt – Coastal Risk Services, LLC

2. Approval of Tax Refunds for April & May Appeals

\$25,495.03 for Real Property and \$1,320.55 for Motor Vehicles

3. Bryan County Fiscal Agent for FY16 – Family Connections

Approve execution of the contract agreeing to serve as the Fiscal Agent for the Bryan County Family Connections – Contract award for the period July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 is \$46,000.

4. Public Defenders Program Extension of Agreement FY 16

Approval of the Public Defender Program Extension of Agreement FY 2016

Lupita McClenning of the **Coastal Regional Commission** met with the board to inform the Commission and gauge their interest on the services the Coastal Regional Commission as they pertain to assistance with Zoning Ordinance Reviews. The cost involved in reviewing and rewriting the Zoning Ordinances would be \$40,000 and this cost would be spread out. A motion was made by Steve Myers and second by Rick Gardner to approve the Coastal Regional Commission reviewing and rewriting the Zoning Ordinances for Bryan County at a cost of \$40,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Liz Lynn, Chief Appraiser, met with the board to give an update on the 2015 digest.

John Grotheer, Finance Director, met with the board to discuss the Atlantic Judicial Circuit Drug Court's request for funds from the DATE (Drug Abuse Education and Treatment) Funds. Their funding is \$134,000 per year which comes from a state grant and their expense is \$212,280, which leaves a shortfall of \$75,280. There are 3 out of 72 drug court participants who reside in Bryan County. Based upon the ratio of usage, Bryan County's pro rata share is \$3,136.67. A motion was made by Carter Infinger and seconded by Wade Price to approve the funding of \$3,136.67 for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit Drug Court with funds to come from the DATE Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

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

***SR 144 Roundabout** – The proposed schedule for GDOT to pave the SR 144 Roundabout will be July 6 – July 16 with a substantial completion date of July 17.

***Murphy McKeel Walking Trail** – The grand opening of the Murphy McKeel Walking Trail will be Saturday, June 27, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be at 9:00 a.m. with a 1 mile walk to start immediately following.

***County Road Traffic Counter** – The county just purchased a road traffic counter to help determine the need for paving roads, etc.

***GIS Practical Applications** – Quint Moore and Kandi Quillet adapted a Practical Application for Bryan County that was created with ArcGIS online for the purpose of improving field data collection and tracking. It is used to collect data/information in the field along with pictures if needed. This makes it easier to collect, track, and view everyday activity. It can be viewed through a web application with a username and password.

***Amendment to Chapter 6 "Environmental Regulations"** of Bryan County Ordinance, specifically pertaining to the penalty clauses. Chapter 6 of our Code of Ordinances pertains to Environmental Compliance which largely addresses property maintenance. Our Code Enforcement Officer enforces these guidelines that are established in the Ordinance. The Code Enforcement Officer has strongly indicated in the past that lack of compliance to these ordinances is often attributed to weak penalties. The majority of cases involving property maintenance are solved with voluntary compliance after the initial contact with the owner of the property. The monetary fine is usually reserved for those owners that fail to comply voluntarily. This ordinance amendment increases the original minimum fine amount of \$50, which was established in the mid-1990s, to a minimum fine amount of \$250. This is the second reading for this amendment. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Carter Infinger to approve the amendment to Chapter 6 "Environmental Regulations" of Bryan County Ordinances. Motion carried unanimously.

***Removal of Chapter 5 – Personnel** from Ordinances and establishing new language to enact personnel policy by resolution. Currently our personnel policies are established by ordinance. Most local governments include in their ordinances the ability to adopt personnel policies; however, the actual policies are more than likely outside the ordinances and established by resolution. Of course, this allows the document to be changed without the requirement of a second reading. This makes the document

more reactive to the needs of the organization. It also reinforces the premise that ordinances are for governing and establishing laws for the population, which policies are more applicable for the managing of an organization. This is the second reading for this amendment. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to remove the Personnel Ordinance from the Bryan County Ordinances. Motion carried unanimously.

***Adoption of the Existing Personnel Policy** – The personnel policy was recently removed from the Ordinances in an attempt to make them more reactive to the needs of the organization and reflect more of a norm in recent trends in county government. This recently adopted ordinance also validated the ability of the County to establish Personnel Policies by resolution. There is a need to officially adopt by resolution the attached policies. The policies attached have not been amended for tonight (other than minor wording mentioning Ordinance and Civil Service) and reflect the past policies of the County; however, expect some amendments to come in the next few meetings. A motion was made Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the existing personnel policies as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

***I-95 Interchange 82 Tri-Party Agreement** – In FY 2014, the County committed \$200,000 for the funding of the I-95 Interchange 82 Project. A recent redesign to include roundabouts on the upcoming exist project was conducted, which has the effect of reducing wetland mitigation costs. Originally, the County and the City were to share the costs of the wetland mitigation at 50% of the total cost of \$400,000. The redesign of the interchange cost \$118,000. This agreement shifts the saved portion of the original wetland mitigation allocation to the redesign and establishes a division of the costs between the County at \$40,000, Richmond Hill at \$40,000 and TerraPointe at \$38,000. The redesign benefits the County from the aspects of construction time, traffic flow, and project footprint. The County's budget still stands at \$200,000 and this is a shift of \$40,000 of that to redesign costs. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Carter Infinger to approve the I-95 Interchange 82 Tri-Party Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

***Addition to Bryan County Policies – Citizen Complaints/Community Interaction Assessment Policy** – It is a necessity that Bryan County is responsive to complaints alleging employee misconduct and external concerns regarding the operation of the County Government. This policy helps to accomplish that by ensuring that complaints alleging employee or County misconduct are accepted and investigated in a consistent and reasonable manner. This policy also helps to accurately identify employees whose performance is in need of supervisory intervention while protecting employees and the County from erroneous complaints. A motion was made by Carter Infinger and seconded by Wade Price to approve the adoption of the Citizen Complaints/Community Interaction Assessment Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointments to DFCS Board** – Diane Hardee, Director for Bryan & Bulloch County DFCS, has sent in a request to make three (3) appointments to the DFCS Board as follows: Wendy Sims with a term to expire July 31, 2020; Dr. Janet Butler with a term to expire July 30, 2016; and Kelly Price with a term to expire June 30, 2020. A motion was made by Carter Infinger and seconded by Wade Price to approve the recommendations of Diane Hardee to appoint Wendy Sims with a term to expire July 31, 2020; Dr.

Janet Butler with a term to expire July 31, 2016; and Kelly Price with a term to expire June 30, 2020 to the Bryan County DFCS Board. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Carter Infinger and seconded by Wade Price to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Burnsed declared the meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.