

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – April 14, 2020

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 via teleconference due to the Coronavirus. The following members were present: Chairman Carter Infinger, Commissioner Gene Wallace, Commissioner Brad Brookshire, Commissioner Steve Myers, Commissioner Noah Covington, and Commissioner Wade Price. 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 Pastor Brian Cooper of Bethel Baptist Church. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 **March 2020 minutes**. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the March 2020 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The following item was listed on the consent agenda.

1. 2019 Year End Budget Amendments

Audra Miller, Community Development Director and Kirk Croasmun, Engineering Director discussed a request from the developer for **George's Branch** to waive the county requirement of installing curb and gutter with new roads. The Engineering Director has denied this request. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Brad Brookshire that we disallow the opportunity to put in a swale and go with the requirements and next meeting discuss specific questions that may be brought before us. Motion carried unanimously.

Ben Taylor, County Administrator, discussed several issues.

***Resolution approving the waiver of certain penalties and interest by the Bryan County Tax Commissioner.** With a National Emergency, a Public Health State of Emergency, and a Local State of Emergency being declared due to the COVID-19 outbreak, a discussion was held on the waiver of certain penalties and interest by the Bryan County Tax Commissioner. O.C.G.A. § 48-5-242 authorizes the county governing authority to delegate to the county tax commissioner the authority to waive the collection of penalties & interest due to reasonable cause and not due to gross or willful neglect or disregard of the law. The unique circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 National Emergency and Georgia Public Health Emergency constitute due cause for failure to timely pay taxes within the timeframe of March 16, 2020 and May 15, 3030. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Wade Price to approve the resolution allowing the waiver of certain penalties and interest by the Bryan County Tax Commissioner for March 16, 2020 through May 15, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointment to the Coastal Workforce Development Board.** Mr. Justin Farquhar of the Development Authority of Bryan County currently serves on the Coastal Workforce Development Board

(CWBD) as an Economic Development Representative for Bryan County. The CWBD is requesting the re-appointment of Mr. Farquhar for a three (3) year term ending June 30, 2023. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Gene Wallace to re-appoint Justin Farquhar to the Coastal Workforce Development Board (CWDB) with a term to end June 30, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointment to the Bryan County Public Facilities Authority.** Mrs. Pam Gunter currently serves on the Bryan County Public Facilities Authority. Her term is set to expire on May 31, 2020. Mrs. Gunter has expressed her interest in serving on this board for another term. She has been very involved and attends all meetings. A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Brad Brookshire to re-appoint Pam Gunter to the Bryan County Public Facilities Authority with a term to end May 31, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointments to the Bryan County LVAP Committee.** The terms for William Collins, Judge Christy Balbo and Tracy Walden-Stafford on the LVAP Committee expired on March 31, 2020. These individuals have been involved and they attend the meetings. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Wade Price to re-appoint William Collins, Christy Balbo and Tracy Walden-Stafford to the LVAP Committee with terms to expire on March 31, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

***Development Agreement Second Amendment.** This amendment is being made to include paragraph 2.1 pertaining to the construction on Parcel 2A. The parties agree that the costs for county inspection, building permits and certificates necessary for construction or occupancy of the project on Parcel 2A will not exceed \$100,000. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Gene Wallace to approve the Development Agreement Second Amendment as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Steve Myers to **adjourn**. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.