

Twiggs County Board of Commissioners
Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes
Commissioners Chambers
February 19, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Kenneth E. Fowler, Commissioners Brent DuBois, Lonnie Ford, Steve Birdsong, William Bond, and County Administrator, Kelvin C. Lewis.

Call to Order: Chairman Fowler called the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Fowler

Invocation: Commissioner DuBois led in Prayer

Approval of the Agenda:

- a. Property Tax Refund Request-Julia Asherman
- b. Tax Assessor Board Appointment-District 3
- c. Tax Assessor Needs
- d. John Deere Tractor Repair
- e. AmiTy Propane
- f. State Payroll Withholding Taxes Update
- g. Twiggs County Designated Officer
- h. Housing Authority
- i. Recreational Authority
- j. Health Dept. Support
- k. Cemetary Vandalism

Commissioner DuBois made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ford seconded. Unanimous approval.

Property Tax Refund Request-Julia Asherman

Julia Asherman petitioned the BOC for a structural valuation property ruling for 2019. The original agenda request related to a 2018 desired refund. However, the 2018 matter was resolved by the Tax Assessor prior to the meeting. BOC Attorney, W. Kerry Howell, referred Ms. Asherman to the Tax Assessor Office and Board for 2019 questions. The BOC also recommended following the property tax appeal protocol in the future.

Tax Assessor Board Appointment-District 3

Commissioner Bond nominated Ms. Johnnie Martin for another term to the Tax Assessor Board representing District 3. Commissioner DuBois seconded. Unanimous approval.

Tax Assessor Needs

Romona Vaifale, Chief Tax Assesor, petitioned the BOC for a headcount increase to assist in completing Twiggs County's property reviews by December 31, 2019. She stressed the importance of having competent assistance for office and field support. Ms. Vaifale also requested an additional vehicle to expand the evaluation reach. After deliberating, Commissioner Birdsong motioned to have Monte Bloodworth, Planning and Zoning, join the Tax Assessor Office Team. Commissioner Bond seconded. Vote: 3 Yes (Birdsong, Bond, and Fowler); 1 No (Ford); 1 Abstain (DuBois).

Commissioner Ford motioned to approve up to \$10,000.00 for the purchase of a Tax Assessor vehicle. Commissioner Bond seconded. Unanimous approval.

John Deere Tractor Repair

Commissioner Ford motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Bond seconded. Unanimous approval.

AmiTy Propane

Administrator Lewis presented the details of the purchase of two (2) propane heaters to support the Road Dept. The units mirrored Dry Branch Fire Station. Commissioner Bond motioned to approve. Commissioner Fowler seconded. Unanimous vote.

State Payroll Withholding Taxes Update

Administrator Lewis advised the BOC of additional payroll tax withholding discrepancies. Of note were the apparent late payroll tax filings by M.L. Carroll, that generated agency interest and penalties. Administrator Lewis indicated appealing the penalty charges. The BOC will be updated at the next meeting.

Twiggs County Designated Officer

Administrator Lewis reminded the BOC of the delayed Department of Revenue communication when the sales tax refund was due because of the lack of a designated officer. A resolution was presented to remedy the situation. Commissioner Bond motioned to have the County Administrator appointed as the Designated Officer. Commissioner Birdsong seconded. Vote: 4 Yes (Birdsong, Bond, Ford, Fowler). 1 Abstain (DuBois).

Housing and Recreational Authorities

Administrator Lewis advised the BOC of contact with Habitat for Humanity of Houston County. Would update the BOC at next meeting after discussion occurs. Commissioner Ford indicated Development Authority Director Judy Sherling was conversing with Laura Mathis to source details on options for housing and recreational authorities.

Health Dept. Support

Chairman Fowler indicated that the Health Dept. has purchased a vehicle for employee use. Petitioned the BOC for the ability to get fuel at the county facility and pay at month's end. Administrator Lewis advised of the ability to create a key and add them to the monthly list. Commissioner Ford motioned to approve. Commissioner Bond seconded. Unanimous approval.

Cemetery Vandalism

Ms. Godwin returned to BOC with a cemetery vandalism update. The BOC concurred with the deplorable nature of the incidents. Ms. Godwin expressed interest in forming a committee to address the matter. To date, Sheriff Mitchum indicates no reported incidents.

Elections Office Renovations

Administrator Lewis updated the BOC on a contractor visit to address the Elections Office renovation. Measurements were taken with hopes of a quote by the next meeting.

Extension Office Partitions

Administrator Lewis informed the BOC of discussions with County Agent Brandon Crumsey to source quotes for partitioning the County Extension Office. Quotes expected by February 20.

Senior Center Light

Administrator Lewis shared e-mail details from Middle Georgia Community Action Agency, Inc. regarding the addition of an external light at the Senior Center. The cost will be approximately \$55.00 monthly with an expected completion timeframe of 7-10 business days.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Bond made a motion to approve the February 5, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Ford seconded. Unanimous approval.

Old Business

Mobile Pantry Dates

1. March 21, 2019-Sgoda Rd
2. April 11, 2019-Jeffersonville

Senior Center Vehicle Purchase

Commissioner Ford motioned to approve up to \$10,000.00 for the purchase of a Senior Center vehicle. Commissioner Bond seconded. Unanimous approval.

New Business

Local legislation

Commissioner Birdsong motioned to authorize county attorney to draft local legislation to increase BOC salaries effective January 1, 2021. Commissioner Bond seconded. Vote: 2 Yes (Birdsong and Bond); 2 No (Ford and Fowler); 1 Abstain (DuBois). Motion failed.

Administrator Lewis advised the BOC of the 2019 Twiggs County Leadership Retreat. An attendee count was obtained.

Commissioner Bond requested postponement of the Elections Registrar pay increase discussion until the next meeting.

The BOC agreed not to support a resolution for the construction of Interstate 14. Not advantageous to county. BOC desires focus on Sardis Church Rd for industrialization and commerce. Administrator Lewis to notify Frank Lumpkin of the Youth Infrastructure Coalition of the decision.

Public Comments

Julia Asherman inquired about recycling considerations. Chairman Fowler indicated previous investigations yielded lack of economic feasibility.

Executive Session

Commissioner Bond made a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel, Legal, and Real Estate. Motion second by Commissioner Ford. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Ford made a motion to return to Regular Session. Seconded by Commissioner DuBois. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Adjournment

Commissioner Birdsong made a motion to adjourn. Motion second by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Minutes approved _____, 2019

Kenneth E. Fowler, Chairman

Kelvin C. Lewis, Administrator