

The Regular Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present: Chairman Melvin Davis
Commissioner Jim Luke
Commissioner John Daniell
Commissioner Chuck Horton

Commissioner Margaret Hale was absent

Staff Present: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault
County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey
County Attorney Daniel Haygood

Brad Callender, Planner
Krista Gridley, Planner
Jason Gantt, Planner
Chris Thomas, Utility Director
Jeff Benko, Finance Director
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director
Lisa Davol, Interim Parks and Recreation Director
Rusty Haygood, Economic Development Director
Patrick Magana, Information Technology

Media Present: Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise
Joe Vanhoose, Athens Banner Herald

Chairman Davis began the meeting with a moment of silence. Commissioner Luke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: On motion by Commissioner Daniell and second by Commissioner Luke, the agenda for the January 5, 2010 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

Commissioners Remarks: Commissioner Daniell expressed his appreciation to those that had assisted him during his first year serving on the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Davis announced that during calendar year 2010, Commissioner John Daniell will serve as Vice-Chairman to the Board of Commissioners, per the decision of the Board on January 6, 2009.

Citizen Remarks: None.

Minutes: On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Luke, Minutes of the December 1 and December 15, 2009 meetings were approved as distributed.

Rezone Request No. 5900 – Georgia Bank & Trust Company of Augusta: The Board held a public hearing on Rezone Request No. 5900 by Georgia Bank & Trust Company of Augusta, ±18.327 acres, located on Mars Hill Road and Shenandoah Drive, from OIP to R-1.

With concurrence of the applicant, Planner Brad Callender presented the staff reports for Rezone Request No. 5900 and Variance Request No. 5911 at the same time.

Ken Beall, representing the applicants, said the property is to be developed as an additional phase to Meridian Subdivision and will include 14 lots. The lake located in the middle of the property will be divided between the lakefront lots.

Mr. Beall stated that due to the unusual shape of the property, a variance is requested to allow a reduction in the 80 feet required distance for a cul-de-sac street setback.

The hearing was opened for public comment. Elizabeth Hovell said the project has the overwhelming support of the current residents of Meridian Subdivision.

The Board discussed at length the design of the roadways, maintenance of the lake, dam and stormwater facilities, minimum square footage of the proposed homes, development of the adjacent Summit Office Park, and buffer areas.

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Daniell, the Board unanimously approved Rezone Request No. 5900 by Georgia Bank & Trust Company of Augusta, ±18.327 acres, located on Mars Hill Road and Shenandoah Drive, from OIP to R-1, with conditions, for a residential subdivision (Meridian Subdivision, Phase 2). **See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 19.**

Variance Request No. 5911 – Georgia Bank & Trust Company of Augusta: The Board held a public hearing on Variance Request No. 5911 by Georgia Bank & Trust Company of Augusta, ±18.327 acres, located on Mars Hill Road and Shenandoah Drive, to reduce the required separation distance of a cul-de-sac from the project boundary.

With concurrence of the applicant, Planner Brad Callender presented the staff reports for Rezone Request No. 5900 and Variance Request No. 5911 at the same time.

Commissioner Daniell made a motion to approve Variance Request No. 5911 by Georgia Bank & Trust Company of Augusta, ±18.327 acres, located on Mars Hill Road and Shenandoah Drive, to reduce the required separation distance of a cul-de-sac from the project boundary. Commissioner Luke seconded the motion. Commissioners Daniell and Luke voted yes. Commissioners Horton voted no. Variance Request No. 5911 was approved. **See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 19.**

Tree Donation – Select Trees: On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board unanimously accepted the donation of 48 6” – 8” caliper Hightower Willow Oak Trees for Veterans Park by Select Trees through their “Select Sustainable Tree Trust” program. The Board also approved funding the cost of planting the Oak Trees and re-planting the existing Sycamore Trees from SPLOST excess proceeds in an amount not to exceed \$33,000.

Consent Agenda: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Daniell, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Agenda item:

- **Playground Equipment at Herman C. Michael Park:** Approved an amendment to the SPLOST 2004 budget by an amount not to exceed \$95,000 to replace the playground equipment at Herman C. Michael Park
- **2009 Tax Digest Error and Release Order:** Approved the 2009 Tax Digest Error and Release Order as recommended by Tax Commissioner Harriette Browning.
- **2010 Qualification Fees:** Approved the 2010 Qualifying Fees of \$594.42 for a Board of Commissioners Member and \$54.00 for a Board of Education Member.

There being no further business, on motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Luke the meeting was adjourned.

County Clerk

Chairman

Date