

The Regular Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

*Members Present:* Chairman John Daniell  
Commissioner Mark Thomas  
Commissioner Chuck Horton  
Commissioner Mark Saxon

*Member Absent:* Commissioner W. E. "Bubber" Wilkes

*Staff Present:* Justin Kirouac, County Administrator  
Daniel Haygood, County Attorney  
Kathy Hayes, County Clerk  
Tracye Bailey, Deputy Clerk  
Paula Nedza, IT Director  
Alex Newell, Internal Services Director  
Dianne Baggett, Communications Manager  
C. J. Worden, EMA Director  
Fran Davis, Board of Elections Director  
Wes Geddings, Finance Director  
Melissa Braswell, Assistant Finance Director  
Donna Norton, Budget Officer

Chairman John Daniell began the Board Meeting at 6:01 p.m. with a moment of silence, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Mark Saxon.

**Approval of Agenda:**

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Saxon, the Agenda was unanimously approved.

**Statements and Remarks from Citizens:**

None.

**Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:**

Chairman Daniell reminded the audience that there will be a Town Hall Meeting on February 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Oconee Veterans Park and a Public Hearing on February 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center held by Department of Community Affairs regarding the CDBG Grant for the Senior Center expansion.

**Public Hearing of the "Emergency Management Ordinance:"**

A First Reading and Public Hearing was held for the Emergency Management Ordinance. EMA Director C. J. Worden presented highlights from the ordinance regarding EMA Director appointment, county/state approvals, emergency declarations, waiving procedures for contracting/purchasing, temporary/permanent dwellings, curfews and restricted areas, debris and protection from overcharging during a time of disaster. Mr. Worden asked that a revision to Section 18-2 in the presented Ordinance include "No listed agency shall be construed as ordered to fulfill any particular role or task at any given time."

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

A Second Reading and action for the "Emergency Management Ordinance" will be held at the Board's Regular Meeting on February 5, 2019.

**Public Hearing of "An Ordinance to Amend the Ethics Ordinance of Oconee County:"**

A First Reading and Public Hearing was held for revisions to the Ethics Ordinance. County Attorney Daniel Haygood explained the need for revisions stems from a new Georgia Supreme Court case, which prohibits the Board of Commissioners from delegating the power to appoint the Ethics Board to anyone who is not an elected official. The revision delegates the appointment of the Ethics Board to the Probate Judge in consultation with the Special Master and Oconee County Chief Magistrate.

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

A Second Reading and action for the revisions will be held at the Board's Regular Meeting on February 5, 2019.

**FY2018 Audit by Treadwell, Tamplin & Company:**

Carrie Wilkins of Treadwell, Tamplin & Company presented the FY2018 audit to the Board. The County received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest rating and indicates a strong financial position for the County. The audited financial statements were filed with the State on December 28, 2018 to comply with state law. The statements can also be found electronically on the County's website.

**Board of Elections Appointees from the Republican and Democratic Parties:**

Board of Elections Chair Fran Davis presented nominees from the Republican and Democratic Parties. The Republican Party appointed Pamela Hendrix to fill the term recently held by Hoyt Watson, and the Democratic party appointed Jonathan Wallace to fill the term recently held by Robert Wyatt. Both appointments will begin immediately and expire on December 31, 2022.

**Renaming of Dowdy Road to Ben Dowdy Road:**

Communications Director Diane Baggett presented a request to rename Dowdy Road to Ben Dowdy Road. Currently, there are two roads (located in Oconee and Clarke Counties) in the 30606 zip code with the name

of Dowdy Road. Ms. Baggett noted that correspondence was sent to property owners on Dowdy on three occasions with no negative feedback.

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment.

Dr. Ram Reddy, owner Reddy Urgent Care on Dowdy Road, spoke in opposition to the name change of Dowdy Road. Dr. Reddy stated that changing the address of his business would be costly with notifications to many insurance companies that send payments to his office. Mr. Reddy also presented a letter from Heidi Young, Nothing Bundt Cakes, who is in opposition to renaming Dowdy Road.

Chairman Daniell closed the Public Comment period.

Chairman Daniell noted that the original request to change the name of Dowdy Road came from Dr. Reddy's office.

**Senior Center Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Architectural Services Contract:**

County Administrator Justin Kirouac presented the Architectural Services Contract for the CDBG for the Senior Center expansion. The grant application requires a Preliminary Architectural Report regarding the Senior Center facility. After reviewing responses to a Request for Proposal (RFP), the Review Committee recommends awarding the contract to Carter Watkins Associates Architects at an amount not to exceed \$3,500.00. Should Oconee County receive the award, the fee will then be 6% of construction costs.

*By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting.*

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

**Policy Updates – Informational Technology (IT) Department and Social Media:**

Internal Services Director Alex Newell presented a summary of policy updates for the IT Department and Social Media. The new policy will update the existing policy to govern usage of County computers, software, emails/messaging, internet, ownership of data/files, security and consequences for violations. Mr. Newell stated that minor revisions had been included since posting the policy updates on the website, which include: IT Policy - Section 6.e. to remove "outside of IT"; and Social Media Policy – remove "offices" from sections entitled "Purpose," "Applicability," and "Procedures."

*By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting.*

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

**Budget Submittal Plan for FY2020:**

Finance Director Wes Geddings presented the FY2020 Budget Submittal Plan to include Public Hearings on April 23, May 21 and June 4, 2019 with the adoption the proposed FY20 Budget at the June 4, 2019 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

*By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting.*

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

**Declaration of FY19 Surplus Property:**

Finance Director Wes Geddings presented a list of surplus vehicles for sale to the highest bidder. Mr. Geddings provided a list of 10 vehicles to the Board. The vehicles will be presented on GovDeals for sale or used for

*By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting.*

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

**Courthouse Expansion Project – Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP):**

County Administrator Justin Kirouac gave an update regarding the Courthouse Expansion Project. Kevin Price Construction, as the Construction Manager at Risk, is working with sub-contractors to develop a GMP. Mr. Kirouac plans to present the GMP at the Board's Regular Meeting on February 5, 2019.

**City of Watkinsville – Fire Rescue Vehicles:**

County Administrator Justin Kirouac stated that two fire rescue vehicles utilized by the County have not been conveyed from the City of Watkinsville. The City discovered the oversight during its renewal of insurance coverage. The vehicles include a 1999 Ford Fire Truck and a 2009 Ford F-150. Both vehicles are included under the County's insurance coverage.

*By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting.*

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

**Alcohol License Modification - Cheddars Casual Café:**

County Clerk Kathy Hayes presented an application to modify the 2019 Alcohol License for Cheddars Casual Café. Due to a change in management, the current Registered Agent (Keith Timothy Garcia) is no longer employed at Cheddars. The modification will show Stephen C. Bell as the Registered Agent. The appropriate fees have been received and the application is complete.

*By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting.*

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

**Alcohol License Application – The Olive Basket:**

County Clerk Kathy Hayes presented a new application for The Olive Basket located at 8851 Macon Highway, Suite 401, in The Falls of Oconee Retail Center. The Registered Agent and part-owner is Charles E. Hay. The appropriate fees have been received and the application is complete.

*By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting.*

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

**Executive Session:**

On motion by Commissioner Saxon and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. to discuss potential litigation, personnel and property acquisition.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Thomas, the Board adjourned Executive Session at 6:49 p.m.

On motion by Commissioner Saxon and second by Commissioner Horton the Board adjourned back into Regular Session.

There being no further business, on motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Saxon, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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Chairman

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County Clerk

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Date