

**Board of Commissioners Agenda Setting Meeting
Courthouse Commission Chambers
August 27, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present:

Chairman John Daniell
Commissioner Mark Thomas
Commissioner Chuck Horton
Commissioner William E. “Bubber” Wilkes
Commissioner Mark Saxon

Staff Present:

Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Mike Pruett, Attorney
Kathy Hayes, County Clerk
Tracye Bailey, Deputy Clerk
Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director
Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Diane Baggett, Communications Manager
Wes Geddings, Finance Director
Paula Nedza, IT Director
Alex Newell, Internal Services Director
Shawn Wheeler, Civic Center Director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Mark Saxon at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner William Wilkes led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion:	Chuck Horton
Second:	Bubber Wilkes
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Bubber Wilkes
Voted Against Motion:	None.
Action/Motion:	Motion Passed to Approve the August 27, 2019 Agenda.

Statements and Remarks from Citizens:

Lee Becker, Scott Terrace, thanked the Board for making committee applications available prior to the Board Meeting. He also asked that the agenda be modified with a link to the website page with the committee applications.

(Chairman John Daniell joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.)

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

Chairman John Daniell reminded the audience that County Government Offices will be closed on September 2, 2019 for Labor Day Holiday.

Georgia Forestry Commission Annual Forestry Report:

Presented by: Chief Ranger Orenthal Sanders and Sherry Morris, Georgia Forestry Commission.
Discussion: Chief Ranger Sanders and Ms. Morris presented the Georgia Forestry Commission Annual Forestry Report. The report included three counties (Oconee, Walton and Morgan) covering a total of 320,990 acres.

Schedule Public Hearing for Unified Development Code Text Amendments:

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director
Discussion: Mr. Herring requests that the Unified Development Code Text Amendments for Article 9-Environmental Protection; Article 10-Project Design and Construction Standards; and Article 11-Erosion Control and Stormwater Management be heard by the Board on September 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Advertising requirements have been met, and the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing for the text amendments on August 19, 2019.

Public Comment Period was opened and there was none.

Motion:	Mark Thomas
Second:	Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Bubber Wilkes, Mark Saxon
Action/Motion:	Motion Passed to Schedule a Public Hearing for the Unified Development Code Text Amendments for Articles 9, 10 and 11 on September 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Board’s Regular Meeting.

Mars Hill Road Widening Project, Phase II, Design Update:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Discussion: In order to begin Phase II of the Mars Hill Road Widening Project, design updates will need to be completed. Moreland Altobelli submitted a work authorization in the amount of \$216,257.60 to complete the work, and the Georgia Department of Transportation has scheduled January 2021 as the let date. Public Information Open

House will be held with an opportunity for citizens to make comments. Funding will be through SPLOST. Chairman Daniell clarified that the work authorization is only for updating the design plans, and additional funds will be needed at a later date when the project is let for construction.

Public Comment Period was opened and there was none.

On consensus, this item was placed on the Consent Agenda for September 3, 2019.

Alcohol License Application – Martino’s Italian Restaurant:

Presented by: Kathy Hayes, County Clerk

Discussion: Martino’s Italian Restaurant is a new restaurant that will be located at 2061 Hog Mountain Road (previously Bella Noche) and has made application to sell beer, wine and distilled spirits. The owner, Martin Canelo, will serve as the Registered Agent. The application is complete and recommendation is to approve the alcohol license for Martino’s Italian Restaurant.

Public Comment Period was opened and there was none.

On consensus, this item was placed on the Consent Agenda for September 3, 2019.

Oconee County Civic Center Renovations:

Presented by: Shawn Wheeler, Civic Center Director

Discussion: The Civic Center was built in the late 1990s and needs renovations to better serve the needs of Oconee’s citizens. Heating, air conditioning and electrical renovations are the top priority and then various other items will be considered, such as interior painting and flooring, bathroom and kitchen upgrades, theater upgrades, parking and landscaping improvement. Plans are to schedule renovations during the summer of 2020. Funding: SPLOST.

Commissioner Discussion: Further discussion continued regarding School System contributions to the project and the Facility Reserve Study that has been completed. A future discussion will be held with the Board of Education regarding the Reserve Study and potential assistance with funding the project.

County Administrator Justin Kirouac asked that the Board confirm the project. On consensus, the Board confirmed that it would like to move forward with the project.

2019 Tax Millage Levy - County:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: All requirements are in order, including three Public Hearings that were held, to adopt the 2019 millage rate of 6.686 mills and 7.626 mills with a tax increase due to overall growth of the tax digest.

Public Comment Period was opened and there was none.

Motion to Approve: Mark Saxon
Second: Bubber Wilkes
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Bubber Wilkes, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None.
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed to Approve** the 2019 net millage rate of 6.686 mills for unincorporated areas and 7.626 mills for incorporated areas.

2019 Tax Millage Levy-Schools:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: The Board of Education approved its 2019 millage rate of 16.5 mills on August 12, 2019, and Mr. Kirouac is in receipt of a letter confirming the approved rate.

Public Comment Period was opened and there was none.

Motion to Confirm: Chuck Horton
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Bubber Wilkes, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None.
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed to Confirm** the 2019 tax millage rate for county schools and operations of 16.50 mills, which was the amount levied by the Board of Education at its August 12, 2019 Board meeting.

Farmland Preservation Committee – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program 2019 Farm Recommendation:

Presented by: Dr. Carole Ludwig, Chairperson

Discussion: The Farmland Preservation Committee received five applications for 2019’s Farmland Protection Program. To date, over 800 acres have been protected in Oconee County. Dr. Ludwig thanked the Board for its support of the Program. The 2019 farm rankings are as follows: First, Jack Lewis; second, Marvin Green; third, Steve and Paula Nedza; fourth, Fred Hale; and fifth, House Quail Farm. County funding is no longer required by the Federal Government to protect farms. Chairman Daniell stated that the 2015 SPLOST provided \$500,000.00 for the Farmland Protection Program and the funds have been expended. The ranking information will be placed on the website.

Public Comment Period was opened and there was none.

On consensus, this item was placed on the Consent Agenda for September 3, 2019.

County Facilities Upgrades and Future Facilities:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: A Power Point presentation was given regarding future facilities and included:

- Courthouse Expansion Project of 9,000 square feet and Sally Port with funding from the 2004 SPLOST.
- Administration Building Project of 65,000 square feet on land purchased at US Highway 441 and Old 441 with funding from the 2004 SPLOST. Departments currently at the Government Annex will move to the Administration Building. The Watkinsville Library will partner with the County and move to the Library to the Administration Building, which will provide additional parking for the Library.
- Animal Services Renovation Project has been completed with funding from the 2015 SPLOST.
- Senior Center Expansion Project – Application has been made for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$750,000.00.
- Civic Center Renovation Project is planned for the summer of 2020 with funding from the 2015 SPLOST.
- The LAS Site Project will house field staff from Water Resources, Road Department and Fleet Maintenance.
- Future Fire Stations for the Eastville area and Barnett Shoals will be funded with 2021 SPLOST. The time frame has not been determined.
- The Ward Building, Watkinsville Library Building, Elections Office, Government Annex and Road Department may be repurposed or sold.

Economic Development Task Force:

Chairman John Daniell stated the meeting dates for the Economic Development Task Force as follows: September 17, September 23 and October 7 of 2019. All meetings will be held at the Oconee Chamber at 9:00 am. Agendas and Minutes will be kept in accordance with Open Meetings and Open Records and all are welcome to attend.

Executive Session:

Adjourn into Executive Session: 6:55 p.m.

Motion: Mark Saxon

Second: Chuck Horton

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Bubber Wilkes, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None.

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed** to Adjourn into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters and Potential Litigation.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Executive Session Adjourned: 7:08 p.m.

Adjourn into Regular Session:

Motion to Approve: Mark Thomas

Second: Mark Saxon

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Bubber Wilkes, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None.

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed** to Adjourn into Regular Session, and there was no further business.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting Adjourned: 7:10 p.m.

Motion: Bubber Wilkes

Second: Chuck Horton

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Bubber Wilkes, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None.

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed** to Adjourn the Meeting.

Chairman John Daniell

Kathy Hayes, County Clerk

Date: _____