

**Upton County Board of Commissioners  
January 27, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order

Chairman Blackston calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. All Commissioners are in attendance except Comm. Hudson. County Manager Jim Wheeless and County Attorney Heath English are also in attendance. The Invocation is led by Comm. Ellington and Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Blackston.

Minutes

A motion is made by Comm. Spraggins, with a second from Comm. Wilder, to adopt the January 13, 2015 regular meeting minutes. The motion carries 4-0.

Commissioner Spraggins – Yes Commissioner Wilder – Yes  
Commissioner Ellington - Yes Chairman Blackston – Yes

Public Comments

No public comments.

Public Hearing

Chairman Blackston opens the Public Hearing for a beer and wine pouring license for Mr. William M. Pollard on behalf of D's Rabbit Box LLC located at 1054 Highway 19 N. There were no public comments. The board discussed that this location has had a beer and wine license before and they were only changing owners. The Public Hearing was closed by Chairman Blackston.

A motion was made by Comm. Wilder with a second for Comm. Spraggins to approve the beer and wine pouring license for D's Rabbit Box LLC.

Commissioner Ellington – Yes Commissioner Wilder – Yes  
Commissioner Spraggins–Yes Chairman Blackston – Yes

New Business

- a. Chairman Blackston explained that Dr. Larry Derico gave his letter of resignation to the Board of Election effective December 31, 2014 he was appointed to the IDA board and thought that both would be too much to handle. In his letter he expressed his appreciation for allowing him to serve on the Board of Elections.

Chairman of the Board of Elections, Mr. Robert Haney submitted a letter nominating Mr. William Bill Westberry. Mr. Westberry has worked with the Election Board since 2006. This recommendation is to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Derico.

A motion was made by Comm. Spraggins with a second from Comm. Ellington to appoint Mr. Westberry to the Board of Elections to serve the unexpired term.

Commissioner Wilder – Yes Commissioner Spraggins – Yes  
Commissioner Ellington – Yes Chairman Blackston – Yes

- b. The double wide home located at Sprewell Bluff was in the past occupied by a Deputy rent free, which in return he did security at the park. The lease states the responsibilities and requirements of the tenant.

A motion was made by Comm. Ellington with a second from Comm. Wilder approving the Lease and the Resolution for the Lease.

Commissioner Wilder – Yes Commissioner Spraggins – Yes  
Commissioner Ellington – Yes Chairman Blackston – Yes

County Manager, Commissioners and County Attorney Comments

**County Manager Jim Wheeless** stated that Arbor Day will be February 18 at 1:30 at the Civic Center Gym, if planning to participate, RSVP at the City Manager's Office. The ACCG conference will be held April 17-20, 2015 at the International Convention Center in Savannah. Please see Jessica Jones if you are interested in attending. He stated that they needed to schedule a Town Hall meeting for each district to discuss the 2016 SPLOST. There had been some discussion about setting the meeting room up with audio and recording it is estimating to cost \$1500. A work order system has been setup for Dept. Heads and the public will also be able to use it. Robert Haney will have a presentation at the next meeting.

**Commissioner Spraggins** stated that Comm. Hudson was doing great after his surgery and his brother had surgery and he would be with him for the next couple of weeks.

**Commissioner Wilder** asked if the option to make a payment online for the waste and water bill was available. Mr. Wheelless stated they were still working on it.

**Commissioner Ellington** had no comments.

**County Attorney Heath English** had no comments.

**Chairman Blackston** stated that Comm. Hudson was in the office today and that shows his dedication. He added that the board would be working on 2016 SPLOST list. He hopes the community will continue to support the SPOLST because it helps to keep the community a float without raising property taxes.

Adjournment

Comm. Spraggins made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 pm, with a second by Comm. Ellington.

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Chairman Rusty Blackston

NOT IN ATTENDANCE  
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Commissioner Steve Hudson

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Commissioner Frank Spraggins

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Commissioner Lorenzo Wilder

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Commissioner Ralph Ellington

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Jim Wheelless, County Manager