

**Upson County Board of Commissioners  
June 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order

Chairman Blackston calls the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. All Commissioners are in attendance. County Manager Jim Wheeless and County Attorney Heath English were also in attendance. The Invocation was led by Commissioner Ellington and Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Blackston.

Minutes

Comm. Ellington asked that the VFD be changed to VFDs to show that all of the Volunteer Fire Departments were included in the discussion in the regular meeting minutes from May 26, 2015. Chairman Blackston stated that in the June 2, 2015 work session minutes it should be changed from 4 animal control officers to 3 officers.

A motion is made by Comm. Spraggins, with a second from Comm. Ellington, to adopt the May 26, 2015 regular meeting minutes and June 2, 2015 work session minutes. The motion carries.

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

Public Comments

Mr. Reggie Smith 5595 Indian Trail stated that he would like to see the Commissioner Meeting Minutes update on the website in a timely manner. He stated that he would also like to see the Commissioners email addresses posted on the website so that the citizens could email them instead of calling. He would also like for the board to be looking into paving Indian Trail Road and the Upson County side of PoBiddy Road in the future.

New Business

- a. Mr. Doug Currier open the Public Hearing for the rezoning REZ2015-01 Ulysses Pickard and Willie Tigner located at 1449 Zorn Street requesting .23 acres MOL from R-5 to C-1. Mr. Currier stated that the applicants brought the request before the board about 20 months ago and it was denied. He stated that this property sitting on less than a quarter acre used to be ran as a grocery store was never zoned properly and when they didn't renew their license they lost the rights of being grandfathered in. Currently the property only meets two standards on R-5 or C-1 zoning districts, rear yard and minimum parking. It is currently the recommendation of the Zoning Director and the Planning Commission to approve the rezoning with a condition that it is limited to a grocery store use only.  
Chairman Blackston asked how they could only have three signatures when there were four owners. Mr. Currier explained that they only needed 51%. The public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Comm. Wilder with a second from Comm. Spraggins approving the rezoning REZ2015-01 with the condition that it is only used for a grocery store. The motion carries.

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

- b. Chairman Blackston did the first reading to amend code section 409 on sign postings on special exception. He explained that there had been concerns from citizens not knowing about certain events when someone had been approved for a special exception because nothing was posted. This amendment will require the administrative offices to post a sign at least two feet by three feet in size in a conspicuous place on the property, visible from all bordering public streets. This must be done at least 15 days but not more than 45 days prior to the date. The sign must set forth the fact that it is a "special exception notice". It must show the date, time, and place of the special event and any other information can be received from the administrative officer.

County Manager, Commissioners and County Attorney Comments

**County Manager Jim Wheeless** stated that he had spoken with Tyler Peek at the D.O.T. about the spelling of Tracey Dr. Currently it is spelled Tracey but on the deed it is spelled Traci. He stated that he would get more information about changing the spelling and get back with the board. He added that he had spoken with Patrick Comiskey about the upcoming 2016 SPLOST and they should be meeting within the next week. He added that Mr. Comiskey indicated that they would like to do a six year SPLOST instead of a five year. A certified letter was sent to the City of Thomaston about their SPLOST projects. He added that mid-year budgets are being put into packages and they are starting to work on Joint Project budgets.

**Commissioner Spraggins** stated that the board needed to look into the ordinance for travel trailer/homes.

**Commissioner Hudson** had no comments.

**Commissioner Wilder** had no comments.

**Commissioner Ellington** stated that he agreed with Comm. Spraggins that the travel trailer ordinance needed to be looked into and updated.

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

**Chairman Blackston** stated that when the pool was worked on a few years ago the reused some parts and those parts now need to be replaced which will cost \$60,000-\$70,000. He added that the pool probably won't open this year and they needed to look at the project for the upcoming SPLOST. He stated that he wants everyone to understand that Sprewell Bluff is not a tax burden to the citizens. He added that they had a meeting with Atkins who made some recommendations on some repairs that need to be done in order to get the Inert Landfill.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Comm. Spraggins with a second from Comm. Ellington to recess into Executive Session at 6:30. The motion carries.

A motion was made by Comm. Ellington with a second from Comm. Wilder to exit Executive Session back into regular session at 7:25. The motion carries.

Adjournment

Comm. Wilder made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 pm, with a second by Comm. Ellington to adjourn the meeting. The motion carries.

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Chairman Rusty Blackston

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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