

**Upson County Board of Commissioners  
January 26, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Comm. Spraggins, with a second from Comm. Wilder, to adopt the minutes from January 12, 2016 regular meeting. The motion carries.

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

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

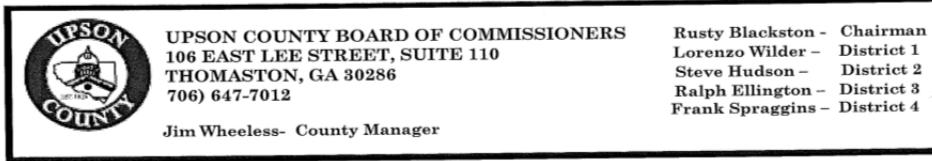
New Business

- a. The board discussed that in the past years the Vice-Chairman has gone in order of district. If the person serving for that district felt they were not ready to serve as vice-chairman someone else would be appointed. The district-2 Commissioner Steve Hudson is up to serve.

A motion was made by Comm. Wilder with a second from Comm. Ellington to appoint Distric-2 Commissioner Hudson as Vice-Chairman. The motion carries.

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

- b. Chairman Blackston explained that in 2015 the board appointed County Manager Jim Wheelless Human Resource Administrator. Renee Stephens has agreed to serve as the administrator relieving Mr. Wheelless of the duties except to handle any employee appeals.



The Board of Commissioners of Upson County hereby appoints and designates Mrs. Renee Stephens as the Human Resource Administrator. The Human Resources Administrator is responsible for administering the personnel policies as established in the Personnel Policies for the Employees of Upson County, Georgia. These policies apply to all employees of the Upson County Board of Commissioners and Elected Official Department Heads unless specifically excluded by these policies and procedures, other county ordinances, or by the laws of the State of Georgia. The Human Resource Administrator is authorized to develop, implement, and revise employment, disciplinary, and termination procedures consistent with applicable federal and state laws. This appointment includes the authority to sign all Human Resource documents related to appointments, promotions, disciplinary actions, suspensions, demotions, dismissals or separations.

Signed

This \_\_\_\_ day of January, 2016

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Chairman, Rusty Blackston

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Commissioner, Frank Spraggins

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Commissioner, Steve Hudson

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Commissioner, Ralph Ellington

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Commissioner, Lorenzo Wilder

A motion was made by Comm. Hudson with a second from Comm. Ellington to appoint Renee Stephens Human Resource Administrator. The motion carries.

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

- c. A motion was made by Comm. Ellington with a second from Comm. Spraggins to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session. The motion carries.

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

County Manager, Commissioners and County Attorney Comments

**County Manager Jim** stated that the ACCG annual conference in Savannah is open for registration and asked everyone that planned to attend to see Jessica Jones this week.

The Sun's Up Breakfast will be February 3 and anyone planning to attend needed to RSVP with Jessica Jones.

He will meet with the Garden Club on February 2, about the Christmas decorations. They want to discuss getting them replaced.

They are in the process of ordering AED of each building. In order for the Volunteer Fire Departments to get this same price they have been asked to submit a letter requesting the equipment. This will be paid for out of their SPLOST money.

The committee that has been working on the personnel policy has submitted a draft and he and Renee will be reviewing it. They will also have a committee of employees to review it and a final copy will be presented to the board.

**Commissioner Spraggins** stated that a piece of equipment needs to be put together at the Potato Creek Heights playground. He would also like for the County Manager to schedule a meeting with the City of Thomaston Council.

**Commissioner Hudson** had no comments.

**Commissioner Wilder** had no comments.

**Commissioner Ellington** had no comments.

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

**Chairman Blackston** stated the board will have a retreat on February 2 at the Airport. They had a successful meeting with Unite Upson.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Comm. Spraggins, with a second Comm. Ellington at 6:11 pm to recess regular session and go into executive session.

A motion was made by Comm. Wilder, with a second Comm. Hudson at 6:34 pm to exit executive session.

A motion was made by Comm. Ellington, with a second Comm. Wilder at 6:35 to enter back into regular session.

Adjournment

Comm. Spraggins made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm, with a second by Comm. Ellington to adjourn the meeting.

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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