

Upson County Board of Commissioners
May 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

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

Minutes

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

Commissioner Wilder – Yes Commissioner Ellington – Yes

Chairman Blackston – Yes Commissioner Hudson – Yes

Commissioner Spraggins – Yes

Public Comments

Mr. Gary Self, 226 Roberts Loop, stated that the Board of Commissioners let him and his neighborhood down with the zoning situation on one of the lots. He feels the lot should have been under the land disturbing act and an erosion control plan because it is in R2 zoning. He stated that the ordinances are interpreted differently and would like the board to let him participate when they start working on this ordinance so he can tell how he interprets it. He hopes that the ordinance will be worked on soon so that other lots in his neighborhood won't experience the same thing.

New Business

- a. Chairman Blackston told the Board to look over the Occupational Tax Ordinance and get with Mr. Wheelless on any changes. Mr. Wheelless and Mr. Carrier will be reviewing the ordinance and getting back with the board.
- b. Commissioner Hudson stated that since the County took over Sprewell Bluff they have made significant improvements and he would like to see an advisory council created to help with plans for the future, improvements and operations of the park. The council would consist of 8 to 20 people depending on the number of applicants that has the best interest of the Bluff. He hope there will be some people with event planning and fundraising experience to apply. He suggest the council be only advisory because the Commissioner is responsible to the people of Upson County and and money spent on the park. He would like the board to give Mr. Wheelless and his staff permission to come up with policy and procedures for the council and begin advertising.
Chairman Blackston stated he liked the idea of a coucil because it gives the citizens and opportunity for put their input in.
The board discussed letting Mr. Wheelless create some by-laws outlining the application process, job discriptions, how long an applicant can serve and the removal of an applicant.

County Manager, Commissioners and County Attorney Comments

County Manager Jim stated that bids have been received for the electrical project at the Civic Center. Only one bid was in on time and another one came in after the deadline. J.M. Clayton will be awarded the project at \$509,651.27. This is only and update the project has already been approved. The Civic Center may be down some during this update. He believes there is around \$1 million left in the SPLOST for renovation projects. The fire protection sprinkle system, the company is coming in to do a review and he should have an update soon. IT will have to install some new cable to upgrade the computer system.

The state will be providing equipment, labor and do the landscaping for the Logtown Park. The will County will only have to purchase the gas. This project will begin soon.

The electrical and filter system is almost completed at the pool. They are hopeful to begin filling the pool by the end of the week and begin testing. The pool is expected to open June 1 and the entrance fee will be \$3.00 per person.

ACCG policy committee will be having meetings in June. They would like the board to send a representative. The meetings will be in McDonough on June 2, Warner Robins on June 6 and in Morrow on June 20.

It is time for mid-year budgets. He will be meeting with the financial officer and sending letters to get joint project budgets.

Commissioner Spraggins had no comments.

Commissioner Hudson stated that they have had 3 meetings with F.E.M.A. after reviewing the damages the F.E.M.A will pay approximately \$200,000 and the county approximately \$30,000.

Commissioner Wilder stated work has been started Lincoln Park Volunteer Fire Station and the metal for the building will be delivered on May 23.

He stated that early voting has started and encouraged everyone that could to participate.

Commissioner Ellington had no comments.

County Attorney Paschal English had no comments.

Chairman Blackston stated that he has spoken with the Tax Assessor and the digest is down another \$20 million about 4%. He is asking all department heads to be very conservative because he does not want a tax increase.

Adjournment

Comm. Spraggins made a motion to adjourn at 6:28 pm, with a second by Comm. Wilder to adjourn the meeting.

Chairman Rusty Blackston

Commissioner Steve Hudson

Commissioner Frank Spraggins

Commissioner Lorenzo Wilder

Commissioner Ralph Ellington

Jim Wheelless, County Manager