

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: **ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, DAVID SIKES, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS.**

Call to Order: Chairman Sikes called September Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Chairman Sikes announced that Commissioner Nobles is Chairman of our landfill committee and was attending an annual meeting with SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America) in Jekyll Island and Commissioner Rollins was out sick and could not come to the meeting. Also his mother passed away last week, so please keep his family in our prayers.

Invocation: Commissioner Cason gave the Invocation.

Approve Agenda: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to accept the Agenda to accept the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the August 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting:
Regular Board Meeting:

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the August 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Development Authority Report: Michele Johnson announced that they were happy to report that they were in the new building. They will hold their very first Greater Vidalia® Chamber (GVC) & Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) in the new building on September 20, 2024 at Noon. After the meeting she will be headed to the Chamber's Annual Meeting through Friday in Savannah. The following Thursday the Chamber will be hosting the Summit Event and will be held at Southeastern Technical College from 8:00 A.M. until Noon. Afterward there will be a Lunch and Learn at the center to talk about Tax Allocations for Tax Districts with Andrew Carnes with Georgia Power. Starting October 3rd the Chamber will host State of Education Event at the First Baptist Church from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM. There will be a ribbon cutting event on October 9th at 4:00 PM for Edenfield and Sons Heating and Air, 401 Church Street, Vidalia, GA. On October 10th will be the Business Expo at the Community Center. Wednesday, October 16th at 4:30 PM, Oxford will be doing a presentation on their milestone of their expansion.

Department Reports: None

Public Participation: **David Giddens**, 378 Darrell Thompson Road. Addressed an issue with his road that every time the Road Department scrapes the road it gets worse. He request ditches to be pulled on Darrell Thompson. Whispering Pines Road has four washouts when it rains that ditches would help on that road as well. Chairman Sikes got Mr. Giddens phone number where he could get in touch with him after he had a chance to look at both roads.

Consideration of Approval to Authorize for the Approval Process to Continue for the Adoption of Cryptocurrency and Data Mining Ordinance: Manager Jones stated that in last month's Board Meeting was a proposed draft of this ordinance for the board to consider. Additionally, there is a draft permit application that was included in this month packet for the boards review. At this meeting the board must decide if to move to the next step. Once continuing to the next step, a Public Hearing would need to be held before the next board meeting on October 15, 2024 to receive comments from the public. Management recommended that the Board authorize the process to continue with a public hearing for public input on this ordinance.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to continue with the process of adopting the Cryptocurrency and Data Mining Ordinance and hold a public meeting on October 10, 2024 at 4:00 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Resolution of Moratorium on Acceptance of Applications for Toombs County Building Permits, Land Disturbance Permits or Any Other Approval Regarding New Solar Energy Generation Operations or the Expansion of Existing Operation That Produce Solar Power: Manger Jones stated given that the county is in the stages of adopting an ordinance regarding Solar Energy Generation. The County's Attorney has prepared a ninety day Resolution of Moratorium to give the Board time to work on an Ordinance to address such issues. Management recommended the Board to approve this Resolution of Moratorium and authorize the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to sign. Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to authorize Chairman Sikes and Vice-Chairman Nobles to sign the 90 day Resolution of Moratorium on acceptance of Applications for Toombs County Building Permits, Land Disturbance Permits or any other approval regarding New Solar Energy Generation Operations or the expansion of existing operation that produces solar power. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval to Authorize for the Approval Process to Continue for the Adoption of A Solar Energy Ordinance: Manger Jones stated as was presented at the last meeting; in your packet you have the proposed draft of this ordinance for the board to consider continuing the process. Additionally, there is a draft permit application. A Public Hearing would need to be held before the next board meeting on October 15, 2024 to receive comments from the public. Management recommended that the Board authorize the process to continue

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to continue with the process of adopting a Solar Energy Ordinance and hold a public meeting on October 10, 2024 at 4:30 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

**Manager Report
Financial Report:**

Manager Jones stated, Sales Tax improved 4.46% from last year. This is now two months in a row we have had four percent increase from the prior year. Prior to this year the county had double digit increase from previous year of 2022. M & O (Maintenance and Operation) Expenses are still under budget for the year. The landfill revenue is fourteen percent above budget, they are moving forward in doing all of the studies for the Landfill expansion.

Miscellaneous: EMS is still running strong, with approximately 600 runs per month. Workman Comp Report is also included in the Commissioner Packet as well as all the fire calls during the month of August.

Commissioners Comments: None

Adjournment: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 PM.

Chairman Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk