

Regular Meeting
January 18 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Macon County Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with Commissioner George, Commissioner Felton, Commissioner Haugabook, County Attorney Coogle and County Manager Starling in attendance. Chairman Oliver and Vice-chairman Melvin joined via cell phone.

Commissioner George called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer.

Commissioner Haugabook made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2024, meeting as presented, seconded by Commissioner Felton and carried unanimously.

NRSC Representatives

Eric Harris, representative from NRCS, came to discuss the Beaver Creek Watershed and Whitewater Creek Watershed Projects that has been awarded by NRCS. Each award was for \$7,055,000 and included in the award was funds to hire an engineering firm that could help identify potential projects for the watershed program. He stated the list of engineering firms that qualify for this type of work is very limited. He stated Georgia Water and Conservation has information on the firms that qualify for this type of project. Commissioner Felton suggested looking at Winchester Road to see if it will qualify. Mr. Harris stated the Board needs to compile a list of potential projects and secure an engineering firm to help in the process.

Lainee Dupree- Air Evac Presentation

Lainee Dupree, representative from Air Evac, gave a presentation on their service and the cost for the service. She stated that Macon County had the 2nd highest call volume in this region for their service. Commissioner Haugabook asked what she wanted Commissioners to do. She stated that some cities would do payroll deductions for the service and that the Board of Education pays for all of its employees. No action was taken by the Board.

Mary Haigler- Oglethorpe Garden Club

Mary Haigler, representative from Oglethorpe Garden Club, stated they would like to help with the restoration of Whitewater Creek Park. She stated they could apply for a \$5,000 grant from the National Garden Club Incorporated to replant trees, shrubs and do landscaping at the park. She stated the garden club would do all the work to apply for the grant, they would just need some information from the county. Commissioner Felton made the motion to support the Oglethorpe Garden Club's grant application, seconded by Commissioner Haugabook and carried unanimously.

Board of Elections- Vacancy & Board appointments

Janice Poole, chairperson for Board of Elections, came to inform the Board that Ms. Addie had taken a job with Sumter County and that with elections coming up they would need another person to help part-time until after the election; then they would advertise for a full-time person. She stated the members of the Board of Elections had agreed to help until a full-time person is hired. She stated that Jerome Kendrick and Dorothy McKenzie's terms were up on December 23, 2023, and that her term and Shirley Rice's term would be up in August and that everybody had agreed to be reappointed at the expiration of their current term but they did not want to serve after December 31, 2024. Commissioner Haugabook made the motion to reappoint Jerome Kendrick, seconded by Commissioner Felton and carried unanimously. Vice-chairman Melvin made the motion to reappoint Dorothy McKenzie, seconded by Commissioner Haugabook and carried unanimously.

Change order Whitewater Creek Park

County Manager Starling stated that the change order from BMS Cat totaling \$15,420.15 was for the installation of a split HVAC system, hot water tank, additional lights for the new building; electrical; plumbing updates. Commissioner Haugabook made the motion to approve the change order, seconded by Commissioner Felton and carried unanimously.

Discuss SR49/26 Round About letter to Rep Patty Stinson

Commissioner Haugabook made the motion to table item 5- Discuss SR49/26 round about letter to Representative Bentley, seconded by Commissioner Felton and carried unanimously.

Discuss abandoned/dilapidated property procedures

County Manager Starling gave an overview of the two parcels that had been notified that they were in violation of the nuisance ordinance. She stated that currently if someone is in violation of the ordinance and they do not clean up their property, the county can cite them in court and the judge could order the county to clean up the property and then he would place a lien on their property. This does not solve the problem, there needs to be a penalty and fine assessed to strengthen the ordinance to make people clean up their property. Commissioner George asked how long it would take to update the ordinance. County Attorney Coogle stated that the county would have to give 45 days' notice before approving the update. Commissioner George instructed County Attorney Coogle to update the ordinance and bring it back to the Board for review.

Discuss Hammond Drive status

County Manager Starling stated she had not had an opportunity to address the issue on this road yet.

There being no further business, Commissioner Haugabook made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Felton and carried unanimously.



Carl Oliver, Chairman