

CHARLTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021
BOC CONFERENCE ROOM
6:00 P.M.

9/16/2021 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Those present were: Chairman James Everett, along with Commissioners Alphya Benefield, Drew Jones, and Luke Gowen; County Administrator Hampton Raulerson; County Clerk Jenifer Nobles; HR Clerk Becky Harden; County Attorney John Adams; and visitors as recorded hereafter. Commissioner Jesse Crews was absent.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Everett led the Invocation and Pledge to the Flag.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Gowen made motion to adopt the September 16, 2021 Agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gowen made motion to adopt the September 2, 2021 Minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT (SECOND MEETING)

Commissioner Gowen made motion to adopt the Financial Report. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

6. DISCUSS ARPA FUNDS

The Board discussed the American Rescue Plan Funds. The Board will consider using funds for E911 and radio issues, and may also be used for loss of revenues as long as national state of emergency, due to COVID. The Board may also consider premium pay for county employees. No action was taken.

Sheriff Robert Phillips discussed upgrades and computers for E911. He presented proposal to the Board for their consideration. No action was taken.

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THIRD STREET BID

Upon advertising and opening of bids, Commissioner Gowen made motion to award bid to East Coast Asphalt for \$141,405.89 for resurfacing of North Third Street. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (PLEASE LIMIT TO 3 MINUTES)

Antwon Nixon thanked the Board for consideration given to Laura Street Basketball Court upgrades. Mr. Nixon asked the Board to consider naming the park after Mr. Raymond Roberts. The Board asked that a Resolution be provided for the Board's consideration. Once approved, Mr. Nixon will provide signage for the Park, in memory of Mr. Raymond Roberts.

Elaine Bailey informed the Board and the public of Family Fun Day, scheduled for Saturday, September 25, to be held at the Depot, sponsored by Peach State Atlanta, Champ Bailey, Chamber of Commerce, and McKinney Center. Promotion of COVID tests, vaccines, blood pressure monitoring and glucose checks will be available. Mrs. Bailey asked for the Board's support.

Kelly Taylor, Okefenokee Club, gated community, 20 acres or more, informed the Board that since May, 2 horses, that look neglected have been coming onto his property, has called the Sheriff's Department twice and they stated this is a private matter. Mr. Taylor informed the Board that he visited the county website where there was no information concerning animal control. Mr. Taylor asked that the County provide better information to the community.

Sheriff Robert Phillips was present and stated that Department of Agriculture was here today and will issue citation concerning horses running at large. If home owner doesn't respond, the county may bill the home owner and pick the horses up. Sheriff Phillips will keep the Board posted and will bring solution back to the Board for their consideration.

9. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Jones made motion to use ARPA funds to pay Public Safety employees (Police, EMS, Firefighters), and also to include Building Maintenance employees \$1500.00 for employees that have worked March 2020 - present. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen for discussion.

Commissioner Benefield stated that she didn't feel this was fair to leave anyone out - that she would like to pay \$2000.00 straight across the board for all employees. Board voted; Commissioners Jones and Gowen voted yes, and Commissioners Benefield and Everett voted no. Motion failed.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

None.

11. NEXT BOC MEETING, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021, BOC CONFERENCE ROOM - 6:00 P.M.

12. ADJOURN

Commissioner Gowen made motion that meeting be adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

James E. Everett, Chairman

Jenifer Nobles, County Clerk

