

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on **Thursday, February 9, 2017**, at **6:00pm** in the courtroom. Those present were Chairman Walker T. Norman, Commissioner Virginia T. Williams, District One; Commissioner Larry Collins, District Two; Commissioner Cooper Cliatt, District Three; Commissioner H. Lamar Wade, District Four; Mr. Ben Jackson, County Attorney; Mrs. Traci Bussey, Finance Director and Ms. Sherry E. McKellar, County Clerk.

1.

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Norman called the meeting to order.

2.

Invocation

Rev. Deborah Griffith of Lincolnton United Methodist Church opened the meeting with prayer.

3.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Following the invocation Commissioner Williams lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

5.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the agenda was approved as presented.

6.

State of the County Address

As your Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to give our state of the county address. I appreciate our citizens once again giving me the opportunity to work for them. I first took the oath of this office 36 years ago in January 1981, and as I begin my 25th year presiding over this board, I am excited and ready for the challenges as I was then.

To the members of this distinguished body, I want to take this opportunity to thank each member of the Board of Commissioners for their willingness to serve our community and for your energetic leadership. I realize how many hours you spend preparing yourselves by studying and by attending many meetings, not only our meetings, but meetings that are provided to us such as mandated training classes held throughout the year by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia and by the Association of County commissioners of Georgia. I look forward to working with each of you as we work together to make a Lincoln County a better place.

I want to recognize our county department heads for the hard work and valuable contributions that you make to move our county forward for generations to come. To the county employees, thank you for carrying out the duties assigned to you, making our policies and goals a reality.

Public service is a calling and we as a board have to be willing to dedicate our time and individual talents in making a difference. The challenges of governing require us to be committed. In order for

us to be successful, we have to look far beyond our tenure in office. We must be willing to make difficult decisions that affect the lives of the people we serve. Recognizing the responsibility that we have, we will never be able to satisfy all our citizens on every decision made by this body. We must have the ability to examine problems and develop solutions that provide for the best interest of all our citizens and for the tax payers.

Let me assure you that I know, and this board knows, that government works best when it communicates and informs the public it serves. I encourage you to look often at the county's website, www.lincolncountyga.com, where we will provide you an informative, service-oriented point of access to all county government activities, and to watch the Board of Commissioners meetings, as well as other county and community functions, on Channel 13, LCTV.

We must be transparent in our duties and I state unequivocally that this board, under my leadership, will break the tradition of the last few years of executive sessions. State law only gives four reasons to go into executive session: (1) Attorney-Client privilege to discuss pending or potential lawsuits or claims against the county, (2) Discussion on the future purchase or condemnation of real estate, (3) Deliberation on employment, appointments or dismissal of an employee or officer, and (4) Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law. I am confident that we will at times have to go into executive session, but it won't be a regular agenda item.

A few things that I see that we are immediately challenged with are the upkeep of many county-owned buildings that have been neglected. The Grand Jury has recommended that the roof on the 26 year old Law Enforcement Center be replaced. This facility has been leaking for some time, and mold is in the cell block. The courthouse must be repaired as the roof leaks and damage to the building has already begun to show a lack of maintenance as well as the need to be painted. The courthouse has had very little upkeep since its remodeling in 1995-96, some 21 years ago. There are other buildings and parking lots that must be fixed as the budget allows. Additionally, we have several offices in the courthouse that do not have adequate space for the elected official to carry out the duties of their offices. We must look at these concerns at once.

Ladies and gentlemen, with that said I will now give the financial state of the county as of December 31, 2016.

General Fund:	\$ 1,788,002
Water Fund:	\$ 43,723
Solid Waste:	\$ 328,810
SPLOST Fund:	\$ 17,073
T-SPLOST:	\$ 458,805
Special Revenue accounts totaling:	\$ 315,066

The Office of Emergency Services:

1. Responded to 1,390 calls for assistance, including 70 fire incidents, 25 rescue and over 100 EMR (First Responder calls)
2. Received EMPG Grant to fund Code Red alerting system for additional 5 years
3. Moved into the new OES building
4. Taught multiple CPR/First Aid Courses
5. Sponsored the counties first NPQ1 fire fighter course
6. Taught EMR (Emergency First Responder) course – grant funded

The Planning & Zoning Office:

1. LMIG (\$ 305,726.51) & T-SPLOST (\$ 118,816.84): Resurfaced 3 new roads
 - Pistol Creek Extension
 - LBK Drive
 - Plantation Point Road
2. T-SPLOST (\$ 199,536.93) & SPLOST (\$ 446,167.42): Patched and repaired several County Roads
 - Total spent:

LMIG	\$	305,726.51	
T-SPLOST	\$	318,353.77	(\$118,816.84 + \$199,536.93)
<u>SPLOST</u>		<u>\$ 446,167.42</u>	
TOTAL	\$	1,070,247.70	
3. Received a Grant form GDOT for placement of Raised Pavement Markers on 18 County Roads for a total of \$ 53,032.50
4. Issued 730 building permits at a value of \$ 12,336,385.00 which is \$ 3,744,422.00 over 2015.

7.

Departmental Reports

A. Office of Emergency Services Department

Director Broom presented his monthly report and added that one of his employees, David Nicholson, was in a bad motorcycle accident. He has undergone surgery and will be out for a minimum of four to six weeks for recovery. He asks for prayers for David and his family.

B. Recreation Department

Director Glaze was excused as he had events for the recreation department.

C. Finance Department

Director Bussey presented the Finance report.

D. Public Works Department

Director Seymour presented his monthly reports. Commissioner Collins inquired if Director Seymour had contacted GA DOT about the intersection of Highway 220W and Highway 378 as there are vehicles that do not stop at that stop sign at the end of 220W. Director Seymour replied that he had but has not received a call back. He then informed the board that GA DOT is looking at the intersection of Highway 47 at 220 and they had denied the request for Highway 378 at Global Drive.

E. Planning and Zoning Department

Director Seymour presented his monthly reports.

8.

Ben Barron Ross Road Naming Request

Anniece Butler requested the board to name a section of Highway 47 Ben Barron Ross Memorial Highway in honor of his many years of service to this community. On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve her request. After the vote, Clerk McKellar read a Resolution to the Georgia General Assembly requesting to name a portion of Highway 47 from the intersection of GA Highways 43 & 47 in the city limits to GA Highways 47 & 220 at Cliatt Crossing.

9.

Proclamation for Garrison Hearst

Chairman Norman thanked Garrison Hearst and his parents Johnny & Mary Hearst for being in attendance. Clerk McKellar then read the proclamation after which each of the commissioners spoke to Garrison thanking him for giving back to his hometown community. On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to adopt this proclamation for Garrison Hearst. Garrison then thanked the board for this honor and stated that Lincoln County is home and always will be.

At this time the board took a three-minute recess.

10.

Budget for Furniture & Fixtures for the OES Building

Director Broom had informed the board at the Work Session last week that the new OES building is in need of lockers, shelving, tables and chairs, etc. On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to give Director Broom up to \$10,000 to be used to purchase furniture & fixtures for the OES building.

11.

County Legislative Coordinator Resolution

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution to designate Chairman Norman as the County Legislative Coordinator for Lincoln County.

12.

AC for Courthouse

Director Seymour presented two quotes for AC units that need to be replaced in the courthouse. They are in Judge Moss' office and the ladies restroom. On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the lowest bidder, Augusta Chiller Services, in the amount of \$6,175.00.

13. / 14.

Letters for Public Works Building & OES Building

Director Seymour presented quotes from AKO Signs for the lettering on the Public Works and OES buildings. On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to approve the quotes for the lettering for the Public Works building in the amount of \$2,136.55 and the OES building in the amount of \$2,710.07.

15.

CSRA RC Comprehensive Plan Contract

Director Seymour presented the Contract between The City of Lincoln and Lincoln County and the CSRA Regional Commission for the purpose of updating the Joint Comprehensive Plan 2018. Director Seymour informed the board that we had received a grant from DCA which will pay for CSRA RC services. On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously for the Chairman to sign this contract.

16.

Budget Adjustments

Director Bussey presented budget adjustments between projects to offset overage. On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the budget adjustments as presented.

17.

Board Appointments

Development Authority Board - Board of Commissioners

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mrs. Alana Burke to the Development Authority Board.

Development Authority Board - District 1

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Marcus Mason to the Development Authority Board.

Development Authority Board - District 3

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Jason Raiford to the Development Authority Board.

Development Authority Board - District 4

On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Chris Heitmann to the Development Authority Board.

Library Board - District 1

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mrs. Evelyn Norman to the Library Board.

Planning & Zoning Board - Board of Commissioners

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Jim Mattison to the Planning & Zoning Board.

Planning & Zoning Board - District 1

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Mrs. Loucklin Ellis to the Planning & Zoning Board.

Tax Assessors Board - District 3

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Troy Balliew to the Board of Tax Assessors.

18.

Appoint Department Heads

County Attorney

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Ben Jackson as the County Attorney.

County Clerk

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Sherry E. McKellar as the County Clerk.

Finance Director

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mrs. Traci Bussey as the Finance Director.

IT/LCTV Director

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Austin Dockery as the IT/LCTV Director.

OES/EMA Director

On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Casey Broom as the OES/EMA Director.

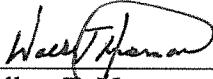
Public Works/Planning & Zoning Director

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Roby Seymour as the Public Works/Planning & Zoning Director.

19.


Adjourn

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm.



Walker T. Norman, Chairman

Attest:



Sherry E. McKellar
County Clerk