

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

March 4, 2014

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner, Vice-Chairman Shana M. Rooks, Commissioner Michael Edmondson, Commissioner Sonna Singleton, and Clerk Shelby D. Haywood. [NOTE: Commissioner Gail Hambrick was absent.]

1. Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation was led by Pastor Isaiah Waddy, Sr. of Greater St. Peter A.M.E. Church in Jonesboro, Georgia. Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Chairman Turner.
3. Adopted the agenda, as is, as all commissioners had copies before them. Clerk Haywood announced that an Executive Session would be held tonight to discuss real estate and personnel matters. The motion carried 4-0.
4. Approved the February 18, 2014 Regular Business Meeting minutes. The motion carried 4-0.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT: Citizens will be given a three (3)-minute maximum time limit to speak before the Board of Commissioners about various topics, issues, and concerns. Following thirty minutes of hearing from the public, the Board of Commissioners will allow the remainder of citizens who have signed up to be heard at the next Tuesday business meeting.

1) James Crissey, Southern Regional Medical Center President and CEO, came before the Board regarding the county's ailing hospital. Mr. Crissey affirmed that Southern Regional has served the health and medical needs of Clayton County residents for forty-three (43) years. He noted that a third of Georgia's counties, including those in metro Atlanta, supplement local hospitals' budgets to offset the burden of providing uncompensated care. Mr. Crissey stated that the hospital has pledged to cut its expenses by \$12 million a year and is asking the county to help with an additional \$12 million in long-term funding annually. He said that the SPLOST Referendum is the first step to ensure continued support to Clayton County residents. Mr. Crissey further stated that failure of Southern Regional would be catastrophic to Clayton County's citizens and its economy. He stressed that the county would lose more than 1,850 jobs and its only hospital which is a key asset in metro Atlanta supporting Hartsfield Jackson International Airport and the Centers for Disease Control. In conclusion, Mr. Crissey thanked the Board for its consideration and continued support of Southern Regional by approving the 2015 SPLOST Resolution.

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

2) Paulette Willis, a Clayton County resident and employee, came before the Board regarding the passage of House Bill 399. Ms. Willis expressed that she and other Clayton County citizens are holding the Board accountable for allowing this bill to pass in the House and Senate. She noted that the Clayton County Public Schools System has made a positive comeback in regaining its accreditation and now the passage of House Bill 399 would create a major hit on tax revenues for the county's government and school system. Ms. Willis emphasized the economic impact to the County would be devastating, and it would add to an already declining tax base. Since the bill has already passed in the House of Representatives, she asked Chairman Turner how he planned to get Governor Nathan Deal to veto it. Ms. Willis expressed concerns regarding how the County would fund transit and replace lost revenue due to the impact of House Bill 399. She concluded by asking the Board to review the curfew times for children under the age of seventeen due to an increase in gang activities.

3) Robbie Moore voiced his concerns regarding SPLOST. Mr. Moore stated that he supported two previous SPLOST campaigns in 2004 and 2009, and the County did not need another round of capital projects when many projects from the previous years have not been completed. Mr. Moore concurred with James Crissey that Southern Regional Medical Center has been an asset for forty-three (43) years; however, when he had the privilege of sitting on the Board of Commissioners the Board had a say in hospital operations. In the past, this hospital has continually asked for the Board and county taxpayers to bail it out, while the SRMC President/CEO is compensated half a million dollars a year. Mr. Moore further stated that in the private sector a President/CEO being compensated that kind of salary in the midst of the hospital losing \$24 million a year should not stand. He noted that Mr. Crissey said the hospital is going to need \$12 million a year to continue forward, and Clayton County has Public Safety employees (police, sheriff deputies, and firemen) who have not received a pay increase in eight (8) years. So far, no one is bailing their families out. Mr. Moore affirmed that everyone can agree that the hospital is good. He reiterated that the Board needs to ensure it has a role in the hospital operations since it will have to raise Clayton County residents' taxes to support it. In closing, Mr. Moore suggested that public hearings be held regarding the hospital to keep Clayton County citizens aware of what is going on and asked the Board to suspend the 2015 SPLOST. He then thanked the Board for its time and attention.

4) Terry Baskin, Clayton County Tax Commissioner, voiced his concerns about customer complaints over long tag office lines. Mr. Baskin stated that too many people are confused about the new Title Ad Valorem Tax law which deals with changing titles, and his workers are spending more time explaining the changes to customers. He expressed that his employees work diligently to serve Clayton County residents and are overwhelmed, overworked and underpaid. Mr. Baskin also said he is severely understaffed and does not have the money to pay overtime, which is why he is closing the doors early to get his workers out on time. He further stated it would help if more customers used

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

online services to get their tags, but he said even that option is taxing his workers. Mr. Baskin finally asked the Board to assist him so that he can help his employees to do the best job possible.

5) Jeffery Benoit, a twenty (20)-year resident of Clayton County, told the Board he was shocked with the results of the Forensic Audit. Mr. Benoit stated lack of policies, procedures and controls were not in place to guide this county in the right direction to prevent potential fraud and abuse. He expressed that such mismanagement can still be instituted without any foundation. Mr. Benoit stated that he has visited several county departments and is still finding the same situations where there are no policies and procedures in place. He stressed that Clayton County taxpayers are fed up with the Board of Commissioners and this County. Mr. Benoit urged the Board to take the forensic audit seriously and establish policies and procedures to govern the County. He again stressed that the Board put in place policies and procedures necessary to instill confidence in Clayton County citizens that their County leaders can be responsible and trustworthy.

PRESENTATION: Contribution for Southern Crescent Habitat for Humanity (presented by Greg Hecht, Principal, Hecht Walker Attorneys-at-Law).

Mr. Hecht thanked the Board for approving a project a few months ago that provided eight (8) to ten (10) jobs in Commissioner Hambrick's district. He presented the Board of Commissioners with a check for \$1,000.00, with Jeff Henderson of The Dupps Company contributing \$500.00 and Hecht Walker Attorneys-at-Law contributing \$500.00.

[NOTE: Group photos were taken of Greg Hecht, Principal, Hecht Walker Attorneys-at-Law, Jeff Henderson of The Dupps Company, and the Board of Commissioners.]

6. PROCLAMATION: "Clayton County Recognizes March 2014 as March for Meals Month" (presented by Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner).

7. PROCLAMATION: "Clayton County Recognizes Sydney-Alyce Bourget, 2014 Science Adventure Student Scholarship Recipient" (presented by Commissioner Michael Edmondson).

8. PROCLAMATION: "Clayton County Recognizes STEM Superheroes Team" (presented by Commissioner Michael Edmondson).

[NOTE: Group photos were taken of the honorees and Board of Commissioners. Clerk Haywood read the proclamations for the benefit of the honorees, Board, and audience.]

9. Theodis Locke, Director of Central Services/Risk Management, presented seven (7) items that resulted in the following Board actions.

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

(NOTE: The entire Purchasing Ordinance for Clayton County, Georgia can be viewed on the MuniCode website. Citizens can access this website via the following website address: <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=10562>.)

1) Approved **Purchase of Vehicles and Equipment Package for Clayton County Police Department** (*State Contracts with Hardy Chevrolet SWC40199-373 located in Dallas, Georgia; State Contract with Wade Ford SWC #99999-Es40199409-003, located in Smyrna, Georgia; \$174,892.00. Funding is available through the General Funding Replacement account*), as requested by the Police Department. O.C.G.A., § 50-5-100 states, “The Department of Administrative Services is authorized to permit local political subdivisions, on an optional basis, to purchase their supplies through the state.” This allows the purchasing agent to utilize statewide contracts when this practice serves the best interest of Clayton County. The Clayton County Board of Commissioners make the final award for the state contract purchases of \$35,000.00 and greater. The motion carried 4-0.

This purchase requisition is for eight (8) new vehicles; four (4) 2014 Impala Sedans (Black) and four (4) 2014 Ford Utility Interceptors.

2) Approved **RFQ Pkg. #2014-D Window Cleaning Services at Clayton County Justice Complex** (*AAA National USA, Inc., located in Norcross, Georgia; \$2,800.00. Funding is available through the 2014 Justice Complex Maintenance budget*), as requested by the Building and Maintenance Department. Per Section 2-136 (4) of the Clayton County Purchasing Ordinance, the written quote method is used for all purchases from \$500.00 to \$24,999.99. Buyers are required to solicit quotations and receive written response from vendors. All reasonable efforts will be made to obtain three written quotations for each item solicited. Awards for written quotations are given strictly on a lowest quote. The motion carried 4-0.

Building Maintenance Director Les Markland approves this purchase request in the amount of \$2,800.00. This request is for window cleaning services at the Clayton County Justice Complex at 9151 Tara Boulevard, Jonesboro, Georgia.

3) Approved **RFP Pkg. #10-30 Commissary Services at the Clayton County Jail, Annual Contract, Request for 90-Day Contract Extension, First Amendment** (*Aramark Correctional Services, LLC, located in Philadelphia, PA*), as requested by the Sheriff’s Office. Per Section 2-136 (2) of the Clayton County Purchasing Ordinance, Clayton County utilizes the competitive sealed proposal method when the competitive sealed bid method is neither practical nor advantageous and when cost is not the primary consideration. The competitive sealed proposal method

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

will be used when the costs of goods and services exceed \$25,000.00. The Clayton County Board of Commissioners makes the final award for all non-budgeted proposals of \$35,000.00 and greater. The motion carried 4-0.

The amendment is for a ninety (90)-day extension period from May 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014 for the rebid process of Commissary Services, as requested by the Sheriff's Office. ARAMARK Correctional Services, LLC was awarded this contract by the Board of Commissioners on January 14, 2011 and has agreed to accept to this amendment.

4) Approved **RFB Pkg. #10-33 Construction Materials Testing/Inspections/Soil Bores, Annual Contract, Request for Contract Extension, First Amendment** (*Nova Engineering and Environmental, LLC, located in Kennesaw, Georgia*). Per Section 2-136 (1) of the Clayton County Purchasing Ordinance, Clayton County utilizes the competitive sealed bid method when the costs of goods and services are in excess of \$25,000.00. The Clayton County Board of Commissioners has the final award approval for all non-budgeted bids \$35,000.00 and greater. All approved budgetary goods and services and annual contract purchases can be authorized by the Finance Director and purchased by the Director of Central Services without Board of Commissioners' approval. The motion carried 4-0.

The recommendation is for a ninety (90)-day extension to permit the County adequate time to complete the procurement process for a new contract for these services for other projects. Additional time is required to permit the contractor to complete the following projects: Police Precinct NE, the Animal Kennel, the Multipurpose Fire Building and the Fueling Center. This request is also for an extension for these projects only until April 30, 2015. The Board of Commissioners approved this bid on January 8, 2011.

5) Approved **RFB Pkg. #11-39 Clayton County Central Services Batteries, Annual Contract, Request for First Annual Renewal, First Amendment** (*Batteries Plus of Stockbridge, located in Stockbridge, Georgia and Pyramid School Supplies, located in Tampa, Florida*). Per Section 2-136 (6) of the Clayton County Purchasing Ordinance, Clayton County has developed annual contracts for frequently used items and services. These contracts are a result of a sealed bid. The contract allows the county to order goods and services directly from the awarded suppliers through the use of an annual contract document. The motion carried 4-0.

The renewal period will be from March 17, 2014 to February 28, 2015. The remaining renewal on this contract is for one (1) additional one (1)-year period. The Board of Commissioners approved this bid on January 3, 2012.

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

6) Approved **RFB Pkg. #12-55 Remanufactured Training Ammunition for Clayton County Police Department, Annual Contract, Request for First Annual Renewal, First Amendment** (*Atlanta Arms & Ammo, located in Social Circle, Georgia*), as requested by the Police Department. Per Section 2-136 (6) of the Clayton County Purchasing Ordinance, Clayton County has developed annual contracts for frequently used items and services. These contracts are a result of a sealed bid. The contract allows the county to order goods and services directly from the awarded suppliers through the use of an annual contract document. The motion carried 4-0.

The renewal period will be from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. The remaining renewal on this contract is for one (1) additional one (1)-year period. The Board of Commissioners approved this bid on March 5, 2013.

7) Approved **RFB Pkg. #14-14 Clayton County Transportation & Development Guardrails, Annual Contract** (*Martin Robbins Fence Company, Inc., located in Snellville, Georgia. Funding is available through the 2009 SPLOST funds*), as requested by the Transportation and Development Department. Per Section 2-136 (1) of the Clayton County Purchasing Ordinance, Clayton County utilizes the competitive sealed bid method when the costs of goods and services are in excess of \$25,000.00. The Clayton County Board of Commissioners has the final award approval for all non-budgeted bids \$35,000.00 and greater. All approved budgetary goods and services and annual contract purchases can be authorized by the Finance Director and purchased by the Director of Central Services without Board of Commissioners' approval. The motion carried 4-0.

10. Ramona Thurman, Chief Financial Officer, presented one (1) request which resulted in the following actions.

1) Approved Budget Amendment #2-38/Other General Government/FYE 6-30-14 – to replace a Sheriff's Office vehicle, in the amount of \$32,000.00, where repair cost exceeds the value of the vehicle. The motion carried 4-0.

11. Renee Bright, Director of Human Resources, presented four (4) requests which resulted in the following Board actions.

1) Approved a Request to revise the class specification for Police Chief to bring the minimum requirements to the level of other County Director classifications and to national standards. The motion carried 4-0.

Requirements include a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, Business Administration, Public

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

Administration, or related field; supplemented by ten (10) years of progressively responsible law enforcement experience, of which at least five (5) years are in a management capacity; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities of this job. The applicant must be Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.) certified and qualified to operate firearm. Must have and maintain a valid Georgia's driver's license.

2) Approved a Request to revise the class specification for Fire Chief to bring the minimum requirements to the level of other County Director classifications and to national standards. The motion carried 4-0.

Requirements include a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science, Business Administration, Public Administration, Fire Prevention Engineering or related field; supplemented by ten (10) years of progressively responsible law enforcement experience, of which at least five (5) years are in a management capacity; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities of this job. The applicant must have a State Firefighter certification and EMT certification. The Must have and maintain a valid Georgia's driver's license.

3) Approved a Request to revise the class specification for Warden to bring the minimum requirements to the level of other County Director classifications and to national standards and to include duties related to Refuse Control responsibilities. The motion carried 4-0.

Requirements include a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Criminal Justice or related field; supplemented by six (6) years of progressively responsible experience in a prison or jail environment or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities of this job. Must hold a Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.) certification. The applicant must be qualified to operate firearm. Must have and maintain a valid Georgia's driver's license and be approved by the Georgia Board of Corrections.

4) Approved a Request to revise the class specification for Director of Indigent Defense to bring the minimum requirements to the level of other County Director classifications and to national standards. (NOTE: All of these requests will provide consistency of requirements for Director positions within the County and with national standards. The motion carried 4-0.

Requirements include a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration,

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

Criminal Justice, Political Science, or related field; supplemented by three (3) years of progressively responsible experience in an Indigent Defense Office, Public Defenders Office, law office, or related area which includes budget, human resources, and office management responsibilities; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities of this job. The applicant must have and maintain a valid Georgia's driver's license.

12. Approved Resolution 2014-51, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to apply for and, if awarded, accept grant funds from the Association County Commissioners of Georgia ("ACCG") for the Georgia County Internship Program; to authorize the County to enter into a Grant Agreement with ACCG providing for the terms and conditions under which the program will be administered; to authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement and to otherwise perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense; etc. The motion carried 4-0.

13. Approved Resolution 2014-52, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to enter into two (2) License Agreements with Challenger Sports Corporation to utilize the volleyball area at Clayton County International Park to host a Beach Soccer Camp and a Beach Soccer Tournament; to authorize the Chairman to otherwise perform all other acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. The motion carried 4-0.

14. Approved Resolution 2014-53, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to accept a seized vehicle (2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee) pursuant to a Clayton County Superior Court Judgment and Order of Forfeiture and Disposition of Property; to authorize assignment of such vehicle to the Sheriff's Office fleet; to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget where necessary to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense; etc. The motion carried 4-0.

15. Approved Resolution 2014-54, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to accept a forfeited vehicle (2004 Dodge Ram Truck) from a Clayton County Police Department drug investigation; to authorize the sale of such property in a manner as will be in the best interest of the County; to provide for the disbursement of sale proceeds; to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget where necessary to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense; etc. The motion carried 4-0.

16. Approved Resolution 2014-55 – A Resolution to call for the placement of the ballot on May 20, 2014 of the 2015 SPLOST Resolution. The motion carried 3-1 in favor. Commissioner Singleton opposed.

Commissioner Singleton opined that the continued presence of Southern Regional Medical Center as a financially stable hospital in the County is vital to the community. She expressed her support for the

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

hospital; however, she was making it very clear within her unwavering support for the hospital that she would also have to balance her responsibility to ensure that she is a good steward of the taxpayers' sales and property taxes. Commissioner Singleton further stated that her position is and continues to be that the Board of Commissioners wait until there is a long-term plan for sustainability for Southern Regional Medical Center. She stressed that Clayton County residents need to know that when they vote for the SPLOST, there will be a vote to raise the property taxes for an additional \$8 million. Commissioner Singleton concurred with Commissioner Hambrick's statements from the last meeting for the Board to wait for the SPLOST vote until November 2014, and have a viable plan for the hospital to sustain itself. She read an excerpt from the **Atlanta Journal Constitution** (dated March 5, 2014) quoting, "***Dr. Davis urged Turner to perform a thorough financial audit and review of Southern Regional Medical Center financial decision-making practices before committing county residents to a potential tax increase.***" In the past few weeks, Commissioner Singleton stated she has contacted representatives from the Good Shepherd Clinic, which the Board supports annually with local grants. She suggested that there are opportunities at the clinic that the Board could explore, and the clinic could take some of the overload from Southern Regional Medical Center. In closing, Commissioner Singleton reiterated that she wanted to make it very clear to Clayton County citizens that she is only urging for a delay for the SPLOST vote until November 2014 so the Board can obtain a plan to sustain Southern Regional Medical Center.

17. Approved Resolution 2014-56 – A Resolution approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between Clayton County and the cities for the distribution of 2015 SPLOST proceeds. The motion carried 3-1 in favor. Commissioner Singleton opposed.

[NOTE: The final versions of the previous two resolutions are pending information from Clayton County cities.]

Interim County Attorney Jack Hancock requested an Executive Session to discuss real estate and personnel matters. The Board generally consented to have an Executive Session for the aforementioned reasons.

Motion by Vice Chairman Rooks, second by Commissioner Edmondson, to go into Executive Session in the Commissioners' Conference Room at 7:50 p.m. to discuss real estate and personnel matters. The motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Chairman Turner, second by Vice-Chairman Rooks, to go out of Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Commissioner Edmondson, second by Chairman Turner, to reconvene the Regular Business Meeting in the Commissioners' Boardroom at 8:16 p.m. The motion carried 4-0.

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

Motion by Chairman Turner, second by Vice-Chairman Rooks, to appoint Christie Barnes as Chief Staff Attorney effective April 1, 2014. The motion carried 4-0.

There being no further business to discuss, motion by Commissioner Edmondson, second by Chairman Turner, to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting of March 4, 2014 at 8:18 p.m. The motion carried 4-0.