

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting
7:00 P.M.

April 3, 2012

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Eldrin Bell, Vice-Chairman Wole Ralph, Commissioner Sonna Singleton, Commissioner Michael Edmondson, Commissioner Gail Hambrick, and Clerk Shelby D. Haywood.

1. Chairman Bell called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation was led by Rev. Lavioris Holloway of Total Grace Christian Center in Rex, Georgia. Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Chairman Eldrin Bell.
3. Amended the agenda by adding Resolution 2012-67 (Authorizing Clayton County to amend its PY2008 Annual Action Plan, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to provide available PY2008 Community Development Block Grant Funds for the purchase of video surveillance equipment to be used in various county facilities); adding three (3) Special Facility Use Requests (to be presented by Christie Barnes, Staff Attorney); adding one (1) request from County Manager Wade Starr to upgrade services for two (2) cell phones in the District Attorney's Office (also to be presented by Christie Barnes, Staff Attorney); deleting item #10 (Resolution 2012-65 – Authorizing Clayton County to enter into a merchant application with Elavon, Inc. providing for the terms and conditions under which services will be rendered as they relate to the acceptance of credit card payments by certain County departments and agencies; to authorize the Chairman to execute the application, etc.); and deleting item #11 (Resolution 2012-66 – Authorizing Clayton County to enter into a merchant agreement with Plug & Pay Technologies, Inc. providing for the terms and conditions under which services will be rendered as they relate to the acceptance of credit card payments by the Clayton County Parks and Recreation/Senior Services Departments; to authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement, etc.). Clerk Haywood also noted that the Executive Session held tonight pertained to litigation and a real estate purchase matter. The agenda was adopted, as amended, as all commissioners had copies before them. Vote unanimous.
4. Approved the March 20, 2012 Regular Business Meeting minutes. Vote unanimous.
5. Theodis Locke, Interim Director of Central Services/Risk Management, presented these items which resulted in the following actions. (NOTE: The Board voted on all of these items at once.)
 - 1) Approved rescinding an award for Clayton County Janitorial Supplies, Annual Contract (RFB Pkg. #11-36; 11/14/11) with Pollock Paper Distributors, located in Austell, Georgia, as presented and approved by the Clayton County Board of Commissioners during the February 7, 2012 Regular Business Meeting. Due to this company's failure to meet the deadline to sign/return the agreement to the Clayton County Central Services Department, it was declared "non-responsive." Vote unanimous.
 - 2) Approved a recommendation for Clayton County Janitorial Supplies, Annual Contract (RFB Pkg. #11-36; 11/14/11) which adds item #4 to the existing contract with Southeastern Paper of

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting
7:00 P.M.

April 3, 2012

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

College Park, Georgia and adds item #64 to Kaco Supply Company of Smyrna, Georgia. The Board of Commissioners approved the Janitorial Supplies Annual Contract in the Regular Business Meeting on February 7, 2012. Vote unanimous.

3) Approved a bid for Clayton County Firefighter Turnout and Protective Gear, Annual Contract (RFB Pkg. #12-04; 3/1/12) for the use and safety of county firefighters, as requested by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. The recommendation is to award a contract to Bennett Fire Products Company of Woodstock, Georgia, which is the sole bidder, with a renewable contract for two (2) additional one (1)-year periods. Funding is available through the Fire Fund. Vote unanimous.

6. Angela Jackson, Director of Finance, brought forth these requests which resulted in the following actions. (NOTE: The Board voted on all of these items at once.)

1) Approved Budget Amendment #2-27/Sheriff/FYE 6-30-12, in the amount of \$68,631.00, to recognize Federal drug revenue and allow for the purchase of vehicles and related equipment. Vote unanimous.

2) Approved Line Item Transfer Request #3-15/Roads & Recreation Projects/FYE 6-30-12, in the amount of \$152,275.00, to purchase a mobile performance stage system, commercial cleaning equipment, and closed circuit security system. Vote unanimous.

3) Approved Line Item Transfer Request #3-16/Reimposition SPLOST Projects 2009/FYE 6-30-12, in the amount of \$290,000.00, to amend the telecommunication and data services budget to cover cabling and data network infrastructure costs with Presidio Networked Solutions, as requested by Information and Technology. The Clayton County Board of Commissioners approved this purchase on March 20, 2012. Vote unanimous.

7. Renee Bright, Director of Human Resources, submitted the following requests which resulted in these actions. (NOTE: The Board voted on all of these requests at once.)

1) Approved a Request to Fill Vacancies as outlined below –

| POSITION TITLE | DEPARTMENT | SALARY GRADE | SALARY |
|---|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Sheriff Correctional Officer (13 positions) | Sheriff | 19 | \$35,543.00 |
| Deputy Sheriff II (5 positions) | Sheriff | 20 | \$37,354.00 |
| Assistant Permits/License Supervisor | Community Dev. | 19 | \$35,543.00 |

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting
7:00 P.M.

April 3, 2012

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|-----|--------------|
| Police Officer II | Police | 20 | \$37,354.00 |
| Investigator I | District Attorney | 24 | \$45,568.00 |
| Juvenile Court Officer | Juvenile Court | 18 | \$33,820.00 |
| Deputy Court Clerk | Clerk of State Court | P/T | \$ 9.45/hour |
| Library Youth Services Assistant | Library | P/T | \$ 8.56/hour |
| Courthouse Security Officer (2 positions) | Sheriff | P/T | \$10.69/hour |
| Program Aide | Parks & Recreation | P/T | \$7.95/hour |

Vote unanimous.

2) Approved a Request to delete the Risk Safety Coordinator position, Pay Grade 28, in the Central Services/Risk Division and create a Lead Code Enforcement Inspector, Pay Grade 28. This request will provide the Code Enforcement Division of the Police Department with additional support. The employee currently in the Risk Safety Coordinator position has been offered the Lead Code Enforcement Inspector position (a lateral transfer for the employee). Vote unanimous.

8. Approved Resolution 2012-63 authorizing Clayton County to grant a Special Facility Use Request by L.C. Reaves to facilitate a baseball league and practices at Arnold Park; to authorize the Chairman to execute any documents necessary and otherwise perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of the resolution; etc. The park will be used every other Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday beginning the second week in April 2012 through November 2012. Vote unanimous.

9. Approved Resolution 2012-64 authorizing Clayton County to allow Real Help Network, Inc. to hold a kite flying contest on April 21, 2012 at the Gerald Matthews Complex on the soccer field. Vote unanimous.

10. Approved Resolution 2012-67 authorizing Clayton County to amend its PY2008 Annual Action Plan, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to provide available PY2008 Community Development Block Grant Funds for the purchase of video surveillance equipment to be used in various Parks and Recreation/Senior Services facilities. Vote unanimous.

11. Approved the following three (3) Special Facility Use Requests, as submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department:

1) Request to allow the Clayton County Parks and Recreation Department to co-sponsor the **First Annual Empowering Young Men to Success Conference**, presented by Vice-Chairman Wole Ralph, on Saturday, April 14, 2012, at the Jim Huie Recreation Center. Vote unanimous.

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting
7:00 P.M.

April 3, 2012

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

2) Request from the Rotary Club of Lake Spivey to host a 5K Rotary Health Walk at no cost at the Clayton County International Park (“The Beach”) on May 5, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Vote unanimous.

3) Request from the Youth Under Construction, Inc. for use of the VIP Complex on April 29, 2012, from 12:00 Noon until 8:00 p.m. to hold *The Black Marriage Day* celebration. Vote unanimous.

12. Approved a request from County Manager Wade Starr to upgrade services for two (2) cell phones in the District Attorney’s Office so that the Assistant District Attorneys can perform their jobs at their maximum potential. Vote unanimous.

Christie Barnes, Staff Attorney, requested an Executive Session to discuss litigation and a real estate acquisition matter. The Board generally consented to hold an Executive Session afterwards.

13. Accepted/Approved a street light petition for Embassy Estates Subdivision (Coronet Drive) in District 3 – Vice-Chairman Wole Ralph. Vote unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Viki Adams Jones of Lawrenceville, Georgia stated she was representing her 91-year old father (William L. Adams) tonight along with her brother Stephen Adams. Although her father is not a Clayton County resident, he has several properties in this county that he has paid taxes on since the 1950’s. Per Ms. Jones, all of her father’s county property taxes have been paid via a trust fund with the exception of two (2). Unfortunately, at the discretion of the post office, her father never received the property tax bills for 590 Valley Hill Road and 0 Sandy Creek Drive. Apparently, they were dispatched to his old address and this oversight caused the Tax Commissioners’ Office to impose penalties and interest on these unpaid bills. Ms. Jones noted she had already talked to Tax Commissioner Terry Baskin about this matter, and he agreed to remove the interest charges. If Ms. Jones wanted the penalty charges taken off, however, Mr. Baskin informed her that she would have to get approval from the Board of Commissioners. Additionally, Ms. Jones stated she discovered that a lien had been placed on her father’s property and he had never been notified. On behalf of her father, Ms. Jones requested that the Board approve the removal of penalties and lien on her father’s aforementioned properties.

Following discussion among the members of the Board of Commissioners, Chairman Bell replied that

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting
7:00 P.M.

April 3, 2012

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

he would handle this matter personally (with the Board's indulgence). He requested that Ms. Jones give Interim Attorney Jack Hancock all of her father's property tax documents. Chairman Bell also told Ms. Jones that the Tax Commissioner mails out all property tax bills, takes the lien, and has authority to deal with all aspects of the property tax bills. Once he makes sure that the Tax Commissioner is very clear about this, Chairman Bell promised Ms. Jones that he would do his very best (on behalf of the Board of Commissioners) to assist her in every way he could. Chairman Bell emphasized that this matter is not generally the Board of Commissioners' responsibility. That is the reason why he asked Ms. Jones to turn over her father's property tax documents to the Interim County Attorney so that this matter can be handled appropriately and all errors can be corrected on the "side of right."

2. Bertha Ambler of Summit Village Subdivision in Riverdale, Georgia expressed that she has had a consistent increase in her property taxes for the last five or six years. This did not make sense to her because her next door neighbor's house short-sold for \$20,000.00; a house two doors from her sold for \$70,000.00; and another house sold for \$55,000.00 in November 2011. Yet, her property has consistently had a tax increase. Also, within a mile radius from her property, Ms. Ambler stated she was aware of residents who have had property tax decreases. According to the Tax Assessors Office, her house is still valued at the same price she bought it for in 2003 – and she is still paying taxes on that price. Ms. Ambler emphasized that she was present tonight to get some "tax relief."

Chairman Bell stressed that the county has a process by which property owners can appeal their property taxes. Ms. Ambler rebutted that she had already appealed them for the last three (3) years. The Tax Assessors Office has consistently told her that her property has been "correctly assessed." She disagreed because the house next door short-sold for \$20,000.00 and the county is still assessing her house on the price she paid for it in 2003.

Chairman Bell stated that the Georgia General Assembly purposefully set the law where the Board of Commissioners cannot interfere with that process. He reiterated that Ms. Ambler still has the right to appeal her property taxes, but none of that responsibility is in the hands of the Board of Commissioners. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Chairman Bell empathized and sympathized with Ms. Ambler. He added that he would be happy to have further discussion with her and set up an appointment for Ms. Ambler to meet with appropriate personnel (including the appraiser).

3. Bonnie Martin, a retired county citizen (Riverdale, Georgia), was very upset about increases in county property taxes, millage rates, and ad valorem taxes. Although Ms. Martin had

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting
7:00 P.M.

April 3, 2012

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

prepared statements to read to the Board tonight, she preferred to distribute them to the individual commissioners later. She understood that the county had a “deficit,” but she believed the citizens were being taxed on fair market value when the rate of foreclosures is horrendous and housing values have plummeted. Ms. Martin noted that if the home values were lowered, then the county would raise the millage rates again and the citizens would be caught in a “Catch 22.” She opined that raising the millage rate is not the solution and requested that the Board find another solution to fix this problem without cutting the police and fire departments.

Chairman Bell asked Ms. Martin to call his office and he would determine, if possible, what the Board of Commissioners’ Office could do to assist her.

4. Shirley Robinson, a county resident, waived her right to speak.
5. Katherine Morrison, a county resident, waived her right to speak.

6. Wayne Madden of Rivers Edge Subdivision expressed sympathy with the county citizens who had come before him with property tax concerns and urged them to take these concerns to court. On another matter, Mr. Madden requested that the Board consider putting the public comment section at the beginning of the business meeting so that citizens’ comments would have relevance on what is being debated/voted upon in the meeting.

Commissioner Singleton asked Chairman Bell to recognize the presence of Clayton State University American Government Class students in the audience. Chairman Bell thanked them for coming and invited them to return because this was a wonderful opportunity to see their government in action.