

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

June 1, 2010

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

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

1. Chairman Bell called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation led by Rev. Will D. Hayes, III of The Greater Solid Rock Baptist Church in Riverdale, GA. Pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Chairman Bell.
3. Amended the agenda by adding a request to renew excess Workers' Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance coverage for Clayton County effective July 1, 2010 through July 1, 2011 (under item #9/Consider a request of Renee Bright, Director of Human Resources); holding item #11 (Ordinance 2010-122 – An Ordinance to amend the Code of Clayton County, Georgia, as amended, specifically, Code of Clayton County Georgia, Part II, Chapter 18 “Buildings and Building Code Regulations,” to enforce the Georgia State Minimum Standard Code for Construction and to adopt and enforce the International Property Maintenance Code and International Existing Building Code as adopted and amended by the State of Georgia; and to dissolve the four existing construction boards to be replaced by one board known as the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals); deleting item #12 (Approval of a request from Commissioner Singleton and State Representative Mike Glanton to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual East Clayton Community Day Festival at the Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center on June 19, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.); and holding item #13 (Appointments to the Clayton County Community Service Board. The terms of Priscilla “Pat” Schmidt, Ericka Brown Davis, and Michael Gilliam expire on 6-30-10. New terms are for three [3] years; expiring on 6-30-13). The agenda was adopted, as amended, as all commissioners had copies before them. Vote unanimous.
4. Approved the May 18, 2010 Regular Business Meeting minutes. Vote unanimous.
5. PRESENTATION: Dr. Alpha Fowler Bryan, District Health Director of the Clayton County Board of Health, will award a check to the county for the “Reduction in Tobacco Use Initiative.”

Dr. Bryan stated that the Clayton County Board of Health was very pleased to present a check to

the Board in the amount of \$7,500.00 tonight. This money will be used for the Parks and Recreation Department to implement signage and an educational campaign to promote tobacco use prevention. According to Dr. Bryan, Clayton County Parks and Recreation was #3 out of 197 parks and recreation departments in the State of Georgia that became “tobacco free.” This initiative occurred in September 2008 and, as a result of that, the Board of Health was able to secure some funding from the State for the purpose of doing this initiative. (NOTE: A group photo was taken following Dr. Bryan’s presentation.)

Chairman Bell thanked Commissioner Singleton for sponsoring the “no smoking in the parks” ordinance. He acknowledged that many disagreed with her action but, thankfully, it is receiving results.

6. PRESENTATION: Expression of Appreciation to the Board from Arts Clayton (presented by Ms. Linda Summerlin, Executive Director of Arts Clayton).

On behalf of Arts Clayton, Ms. Summerlin told the commissioners that she had left them mementoes of appreciation tonight for their support in bringing the Tubman exhibit to the Arts Clayton gallery. She was proud to share with everyone that over 800 visitors came to the gallery during the two (2) months that the exhibit was there. This exhibit generated more buzz and thought for the county and, overall, it was a very exciting event. Through the generous support of various sponsors, Arts Clayton was able to offer educational components as well. Several instructors participated by engaging one hundred students in math, literature, and humanity classes on scheduled days. These classes equipped the students with proper skills to find such educational components in the paintings. Thanks to such great support, arts are alive and well in Clayton County. Ms. Summerlin stated that counterparts in other communities have become envious and are beginning to realize that this county’s governmental body supports the arts in the manner in which it does. Due to this partnership, Arts Clayton has now met with the Georgia Museum on the University of Georgia campus and made plans to bring an exhibit next year from the Georgia Museum to showcase in this county. Additionally, the showing of the Tubman exhibit has parlayed and solidified a partnership with the National Watercolor Society to show at the Arts Clayton gallery in 2012. These future showings will greatly promote tourism in the county by bringing in a lot of people to stay at hotels and eat at restaurants. As a result, the county will benefit with moral and financial support.

As a representative for the Arts Clayton staff and board of directors, Ms. Summerlin stated that she was proud of all of the things that make Clayton County great. Arts Clayton is even more proud to be a vehicle by which to introduce new people to this community, which is a special place called “home.” She reminded the commissioners that Arts Clayton will be kicking off its 17<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Camp program next week. Everyone is invited to join Arts Clayton on

Opening Day, which is Monday, June 7, 2010, at Suder Elementary School in Jonesboro, GA. Although it will be hectic, this will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet the parents and students. Everyone is also invited to attend the finale on June 18, 2010. Coincidentally, the theme chosen by the Arts Clayton staff this year was “Heroes Among Us.” Of course, a lot of heroes in this community will be participating that evening; i.e., Sheriff, Fire, and Police, etc. Ms. Summerlin concluded that the commissioners and other community leaders are all heroes to Arts Clayton.

Commissioner Hambrick asked Ms. Summerlin if she would be interested in having volunteers for this event. Ms. Summerlin replied yes and, if Commissioner Hambrick wanted to volunteer, all she had to do was call her for more information.

Chairman Bell noted that the county owes a great deal of gratitude to Commissioners Singleton and Hambrick for bringing the Tubman exhibit to Clayton County. Commissioner Hambrick added that Commissioner Singleton spearheaded this project.

7. Rod Gray, Director of Central Services, presented the following requests which resulted in these actions:

1) Approved a Wrecker Services proposal for Clayton County (RFP Pkg. #09-41; 2/9/10) – This proposal was requested by Interim Police Chief Tim Robinson. The evaluation committee, which consisted of department representatives from the Clayton County Police Department, Risk Management, Fleet Maintenance, and Fire Department, has reviewed and evaluated the proposals. All mandatory equipment requirements have been verified through site visits by staff members from the Police Department and Central Services. The recommendation is to issue a multi-award of contracts to the following firms:

<b><u>Vendor</u></b>	<b><u>District</u></b>	<b><u>Score</u></b>
<b>Sosebee’s Garage &amp; Wrecker Service</b> Hapeville, Georgia	<b>Wrecker District I</b>	<b>417.6</b>
<b>New Image Towing &amp; Recovery</b> Forest Park, Georgia	<b>Wrecker District II and North Side Heavy Duty Wrecker Area</b>	<b>432.6</b>
<b>Mac’s Wrecker Services</b> Riverdale, Georgia	<b>Wrecker District III</b>	<b>407.6</b>

**Tara Wrecker**  
Jonesboro, Georgia

**Wrecker District IV and  
South Side Heavy Duty  
Wrecker Area**

**461.4**

Vote unanimous.

2) Approved a request for an Insurance Broker for Property and Casualty Insurance/Annual Contract (RFP Pkg. #10-02; 3/2/10) – The County is seeking an Insurance Broker for its excess public entity package, including Commercial General Liability; Directors and Officers; Errors and Omissions; Employment Benefit Wrongful Act; Employment Practices Liability; Law Enforcement Liability and Public Officials Liability; Aviation; Crime and Blanket Public Officials Bond; Employment Practices Liability; Excess Workers' Compensation/Employers' Liability; Property and Boiler and Machinery; and Flood Insurance coverage. Evaluation committee members, comprised of County employees from the Human Resources Department, have reviewed all the bids. The recommendation is to award the contract to The McCart Group, located in Duluth, Georgia, with the highest score of 356.10 and the lowest fee of \$82,500.00. Vote unanimous.

8. Angela Jackson, Director of Finance, presented the following item which resulted in this action:

1) Approved a Request for Refund, from Sampson Electric of Lithonia, Georgia, in the amount of \$52.90, for an Electrical Permit. Vote unanimous.

9. Renee Bright, Director of Human Resources, brought forth the following two (2) items which resulted in these actions:

1) Approved a request by Warden Frank Taylor Smith (of Clayton County Prison) to delete two (2) vacant Custodian positions (Grade 8; \$20,577.00 – \$31,004.00) in Org. 6101 and create a Master Corrections Officer (Grade 20; \$37,354.00 – \$56,283.00) in Org. 2751. Vote unanimous.

The elimination of the two (2) custodian positions and creation of the Master Corrections Officer will increase efficiency and result in a net cost savings for the County (annual savings of \$47,621.00 for the elimination of the two [2] vacant custodian positions – based on the incumbents' annual salaries – and an annual savings of \$10,267.00 for the creation of a Master Corrections Officer). A Master Corrections Officer will supervise a group of approximately four (4) inmates who will clean numerous buildings throughout the day rather than one custodian supervising one inmate to clean one building. The County Corrections Department currently has

one cleaning detail that operates in this fashion, and it has resulted in a more efficient manner of cleaning the buildings and using inmate labor.

2) Approved a request to renew Excess Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability Insurance coverage for Clayton County for the period July 1, 2010 through July 1, 2011. Vote unanimous.

The coverage protects the County in the event a Workers' Compensation claim exceeds \$500,000.00 and provides Employers' Liability coverage that would respond to suits filed by employees or third parties. Renewing coverage with the County's current carrier, Midwest, will continue the \$350,000.00/\$500,000.00 split retention and give the County additional coverage for Communicable Diseases with a slightly lower premium. Midwest's financial ratings remain high in the insurance and financial industries during recent economic downgrades of many insurance companies. It continues to provide the County with free training and Benchmarking Reports that give assistance to the Human Resources Department on workers' compensation issues. Midwest offers a possible premium credit if the actual payroll drops below the original estimate in the application. Renewal of the Excess Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability insurance with Midwest Employers Casualty Company at \$171,952.00 will constitute a .69% reduction in the premium from last year. The reduction in the premium cost, though minute, will impact the County financially in a positive manner and it will fall below the budgeted amount for this expense.

10. Approved Resolution 2010-121 authorizing Clayton County to enter into a lease agreement with Historical Jonesboro/Clayton County, Inc. providing for the lease of property (\$1.00 annually for 20 years) known as the Jonesboro Recreation Center site on Lake Jodeco Road upon which an historical and educational garden project will be developed; to authorize the Chairman to execute the lease agreement, and otherwise perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; to authorize the Finance Director to amend the budget where necessary to reflect the appropriations and expenses relating thereto; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. L. C. Thomas thanked the Board for its support of The Good Shepherd Clinic over the past few years. He also expressed gratitude for the Board's contributions last year. The Good Shepherd Clinic has been able to provide free medical care to the county's citizens, and he was proud of its record. In the last year, this clinic cared for approximately twenty-five people and 30% were new patients. These people were mostly unemployed, did not have enough money, or did not have insurance to provide for themselves. The needs of these people in the community have increased daily and monthly at the clinic. Presently, there is a very good staff of doctors and volunteers who provide this care. The average number of patients on a weekly

basis this year is sixty, and it continues to increase because of demand. Mr. Thomas stated he was also present tonight to invite the commissioners to a tomato sandwich party sponsored by the City of Morrow on August 7, 2010 at the new Morrow Center. He informed the Board that the clinic is now being moved to the Jim Woods Home in the First Baptist Church of Morrow. Mr. Thomas reiterated that the clinic is grateful for the Board's support and needs more support from the community. He requested that the Board consider The Good Shepherd Clinic as a possible payroll deduction for employees. This request has been made before, but he hoped the Board would consider it again. Mr. Thomas then distributed brochures about The Good Shepherd Clinic to the Board.

Commissioner Singleton acknowledged the presence of Dr. Deborah Honeycutt in the audience. Dr. Honeycutt volunteers at The Good Shepherd Clinic in Morrow, Georgia.

2. Mr. O. C. Williams was present to inform the Board about a property dispute between him and his neighbor in District #4. He wanted the Board to know that he had tried numerous times to contact Commissioner Edmondson through Constituent Aide Tina Howard, but to no avail. The dispute concerns his neighbor who was cited by the county for a fence violation. Mr. Williams stated that his neighbor attempted to put up a fence without following the proper procedure with the Community Development Department. There has now been fencing material on his property for almost 55 days, and Chief Inspector Paul Hardy has told him that the county is going through steps to correct the situation. He is still waiting for the material to be removed, and it is causing a problem with his wife having to drive out into the road on Rountree in heavy traffic with school buses. Nothing has been done, and all he hears from Mr. Hardy is that "it is going through the system." Mr. Williams noted that the county is now going to allow his neighbor to put up a fence there, and the same problem will continue to exist. He is not able to back-up on his property to turn into the highway because of the fence. No one in his community has put up a fence in the front yard in the last twenty-five years. Mr. Williams could not understand why his neighbor was cited and then the county turned around and granted him a permit to install a fence. He told Mr. Hardy that the problem is going to continue to happen with him and his wife having to drive into heavy traffic. Mr. Hardy advised him to bring the matter before the Board because it makes the law and that is why he was here tonight. He urged the Board to resolve this matter.

Chairman Bell told Mr. Williams that Chief Alex Cohilas is the director of Community Development and he is away on vacation at this time. As soon as Chief Cohilas returns to work, Chairman Bell said he will have his assistant schedule a day for him and Chief Cohilas to visit with Mr. Williams and investigate his property issue. He promised to report his findings back to the Board.

3. Terry Baskin, Clayton County Tax Commissioner, admitted that he had a problem in his office and needed some guidance from the Board on what he could do. Currently, Mr. Baskin stated that he has very little office supplies to last him until August 1, 2010. As everyone is aware, the system is locked down as of June 1, 2010 and he is at the point where he cannot copy anything. The State is demanding information and he does not know what he can do. His line item for the 2010 budget is now down to \$50,000.00, and the liens that he has placed in the county are right at \$49,000.00. Bottom line, his office supplies are being debited from the liens that he collects for the county's General Fund. He desperately needed the Board's guidance on what he could do in order to get office supplies.

Commissioner Edmondson asked Mr. Baskin to further explain what he meant about not having any copy paper. He wondered if the county were not giving Mr. Baskin any copy paper or not giving him enough copy paper to do his job.

Mr. Baskin explained that he had a present deficit of \$24,000.00 in his office supply budget. His line item is \$50,000.00 for 2010. The liens that he has placed on properties to collect taxes came in at \$49,000.00, which was debited from his office supplies. Presently, he has a deficit of \$24,000.00.

Commissioner Edmondson responded that he did not understand why the county would take a lien and subtract it from Mr. Baskin's office supplies. Mr. Baskin answered that he did not understand it either.

Chairman Bell asked Mr. Baskin if he had made a request to Angela Jackson, Director of Finance. Mr. Baskin replied that he had made a request to her several times. When he had talked to Ms. Jackson, she had told him she would contact him (and that was last week on Tuesday).

Commissioner Edmondson inquired if Ms. Jackson could give the Board an explanation (since she was present in the Boardroom). Commissioner Hambrick objected by saying that requesting Ms. Jackson to respond was not appropriate in a business meeting.

Chairman Bell stated that he would like to discuss this issue with Ms. Jackson (with the Board's permission) at the appropriate time. He would be happy to report back to each individual Board member as to what the results will be. Per Chairman Bell, this matter could be resolved once the situation is clearly understood. This has never happened before and should not happen again. He advised Mr. Baskin to work with him and Ms. Jackson tomorrow to get this issue resolved.

Mr. Baskin responded that he was only asking for \$2,500.00 right now.

4. Ms. Lisa Tinch stated that she had an Open Records Request (#158070) requiring all text messages from Commissioner Sonna Singleton, Wade Starr (Fleet Maintenance Director and Interim Director of Policy & Planning), Interim Chief of Staff Alex Cohilas, Vice-Chairman Wole Ralph, and Commissioner Gail Hambrick. Things have been going on in her house since these text messages were sent, so she was asking for a record of these text messages from the period of January 1, 2007 until May 31, 2010. Chairman Bell requested that Ms. Tinch give all Open Records Requests to Chief Staff Attorney Michael Smith, and the Board would be happy to receive the paperwork through him. Ms. Tinch complied with Chairman Bell's request.

5. Wayne Madden voiced that he had good news tonight. He asked the Board to please give the Clayton County School Board some guidance. A teacher was recently accused of an alleged impropriety with a student, and Mr. Madden expressed that this incident should never have happened. A lawsuit is probably pending. The Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office need to investigate the so-called incident to determine its validity because it makes no sense. He added that he had been falsely accused of stealing light bulbs at a Georgia Power sponsored Chamber of Commerce Meeting this year, and his daughter was incensed. Mr. Madden concluded that this Board should give the School Board some guidance in this matter so that Clayton County Public Schools can get off probation and move forward.