

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting
7:00 P.M.

October 19, 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 Chaplain (Major) Wally Woodcock of the Clayton County Police Department. Pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Chairman Bell.
3. Amended the agenda by holding item #9 (Resolution 2010-210 – Authorizing Clayton County to enter into a contract with Holland & Knight providing for the terms and conditions under which federal government relations consulting services will be rendered to the County). Clerk Haywood also noted that the Executive Session following the Regular Business Meeting was regarding litigation. The agenda was adopted, as amended, as all commissioners had copies before them. Vote unanimous.
4. Approved the October 12, 2010 Regular Business Meeting minutes. Vote unanimous.
5. PROCLAMATION: “Lights on Afterschool” (presented to Parks and Recreation representatives). Clerk Haywood read the proclamation for the benefit of the audience. Group photos were taken afterwards.
6. Rod Gray, Director of Central Services, presented the following request which resulted in this action:
 - 1) Approved a Request to Proceed with the Sale of Vehicles and Surplus Items at a County Auction. Vote unanimous. (NOTE: Mr. Gray presented to the commissioners separate lists of vehicles and surplus items to be sold in conjunction with Gov.Deals.com through its on-line auction platform. He emphasized that any surplus items not sold on Gov.Deals.com would be sold in a surplus sale.)

The Central Services Department is requesting the authorization to sell the listed items through either the on-line platform or surplus sale, and to dispose of any items that are not purchased. It is also requesting the authorization to sell any additional surplus items that are turned in between now and the posted surplus sale date.

The first phase of the vehicle auction will include all “salvage” and “parts-only” vehicles. The next phase will include vehicles that are still operative, and this list will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at the conclusion of the first phase.

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

1) Approved Budget Amendment #2-82 for Other General Government (FYE 6-30-10), in the amount of #31,411.00, to cover costs for additional "other contract" service fees. Vote unanimous.

8. Approved Resolution 2010-197 authorizing Clayton County to enter into an agreement with Trane U.S., Inc. providing for the terms and conditions under which an engineering analysis, associated with the Energy Services Agreement, will be administered for additional work at the H. R. Banke Justice Complex and Clayton County Landfill. Vote unanimous.

9. Approved Resolution 2010-211 amending the "Clayton County Board of Commissioners Group Medical and Dental Plan," Appendix "A," to allow medical and dental coverage for retired Tax Commissioners and retired Tax Commissioners office employees. Vote unanimous.

10. Approved Resolution 2010-212 to allow Caribbean Association of Georgia, Inc. to host the Second Annual "South Metro Caribbean Festival" at the Clayton County International Park. Vote unanimous.

11. Approved Resolution 2010-213 authorizing the rental of space by Clayton County to allow Clark Atlanta University to sponsor and host a cross country race at the Clayton County International Park. Vote unanimous.

12. Approved Resolution 2010-214 authorizing Clayton County to enter into a Transportation Agreement with the State of Georgia, Department of Human Services, providing for the terms and conditions under which transportation services related to the Clayton County Aging Program will be administered. Vote unanimous.

13. Approved Resolution 2010-215 authorizing Clayton County to amend the Georgia County Internship Program Subgrant Agreement with the Association County Commissioners of Georgia to extend the term; to authorize the County to apply for funding additional interns. Vote unanimous.

Michael Smith, Chief Staff Attorney, requested to conduct an Executive Session following the Regular Business Meeting to discuss litigation. By general consent, the Board agreed to do so.

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. David Evans expressed that he had appeared before the Board in the past concerning the transition from a four (4)-day work schedule to a five (5)-day work schedule for the T&D Public Works employees. Apparently, he had not fully explained the situation to Chief Cohilas (whom he had not seen at this meeting) and the Board. First of all, Mr. Evans stated he was a taxpayer (twice in Clayton County). When his taxes went up, he had to get a second job to afford to pay them. Several of his co-workers present tonight had to get second jobs as well. In order to pay his taxes and take care of his family, he works a four (4)-day work week and then goes to his second job on the fifth day. Per Mr. Evans, he and his co-workers are trying to avoid a five (5)-day work schedule due to the second jobs that they hold. The present four (4)-day work schedule saves on fuel, groceries, utilities, etc. He admitted that some bills can be pushed aside; however, when an employee has a child in college, he/she cannot stop paying that education tuition. All he was requesting was that the Board seriously consider keeping the four (4)-day work schedule. So far, everyone is satisfied with the work being done on the four (4)-day work schedule, and they were aware that it costs more money for the County to operate machinery/vehicles on a fifth day. Diesel fuel and mechanics are inevitable cost concerns for operation of such machinery/vehicles. There is also a problem with no one being around in case there are breakdowns; the equipment has to sit three (3) to four (4) days to get it up and running when everyone works a five (5)-day work schedule. Currently, the employees can work on the vehicles on their off days when they use a machine. Mr. Evans urged the Board to consider keeping the four (4)-day work schedule and to please let the employees know. Right now, the employees are working on a "flimflam." They were supposed to receive a decision from the Board last week and still have not heard anything.

Chairman Bell responded that the Board had heard Mr. Evans' concerns, and it was thinking favorably about what he had said. He wanted Mr. Evans to understand that the process has to be allowed to work. Chairman Bell understood that Chief Cohilas had visited the Public Works employees and two (2) of them were out sick when he came; therefore, they did not get a chance to talk to Chief Cohilas. He requested that Mr. Evans wait to give the process an opportunity to work, and then if the Board needs to make a decision it will. (NOTE: There was applause from the Public Works employees.)

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2. Tracey Smallwood stated that she and her friend have noticed several problems that need to be addressed at the Gerald Matthews Park. They both run through the park as part of their exercise regimen on a weekly basis and have observed the following: 1) no water fountains are working – she recently took pictures of water flowing from the bottom of a water fountain onto the field, and she had to go into a bathroom which had broken spigots to get water. Ms. Smallwood said she had called the park and complained to an employee named Rico about the situation. Rico even met her at the park to assess the water fountain problem. A month has gone by, and the water fountains still have not been repaired. There are five (5) water fountains on the premises and every one of them is now shut off; 2) trash, Wal-Mart buggies, and pallets are in the lake – Ms. Smallwood noted that she personally pulled a pallet out of the lake yesterday; and 3) inmates are present near the lake site, but it is frustrating to see that they are not working. She acknowledged that maybe it is not the inmates’ job to clean the lake, but she had two kids at Jonesboro High School who needed twenty-five hours of community service. Ms. Smallwood wondered if graduating seniors from Lovejoy and the community could come together to clean up the park. Overall, the park is beautiful, but something needs to be done to keep it clean.

Chairman Bell apologized that the park’s appearance was like Ms. Smallwood had described it. He referred her to Detrick Stanford, Director of Parks & Recreation, who was in the audience. Per Chairman Bell, he and Mr. Stanford have walked the Gerald Matthews Park to inspect it, and he planned to walk it again with Mr. Stanford. He assured Ms. Smallwood that the park will be cleaned just like she wanted it to be cleaned, even if they have to clean it all by themselves.

Ms. Smallwood responded that this would not be fair. It is the community’s responsibility and she wanted everyone to come together to work on these problems. She added that she was willing to help pick up debris from the park grounds. Chairman Bell reminded Ms. Smallwood that she came tonight to ask for the park to be cleaned up, and her two (2)-minute time limit before the Board had expired.

3. Aucencia M. Thompson (friend of Tracey Smallwood) reiterated what had been stated about trash in the lake at the Gerald Matthews Park. Such trash includes debris, buggies, and pallets. The playground has a broken fence which is a potential hazard for children running through it. Ms. Thompson noted that there is no American flag flying at the park. She was told

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an order had been placed for a flag three months ago, but nothing has been forthcoming. Finally, the electronic sign is out at the park. A sign has also been posted for two (2) years on the soccer field stating that a recreation center will be built. Ms. Thompson then questioned the status of the recreation center.

Chairman Bell answered that the recreation center falls in Vice-Chairman Ralph's district. Vice-Chairman Ralph is presently working on the plans, and Ms. Thompson will see the recreation center starting very soon.

4. Joe Mack Eckler informed everyone that he is the new president of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers of Clayton County Local #702. Although he is not authorized as a spokesperson for any police agency, he is the only authorized spokesperson of the IBP Local #702. His organization's membership consists of servants to the community. According to Mr. Eckler, the members wear badges close to their hearts and not crowns over their heads. IBP Local #702 makes a commitment of loyalty to the community, the Board of Commissioners, and the county's new Police Chief Gregory Porter. It also strives to provide service to the community in the most caring and efficient ways possible. Mr. Eckler apprised the Board that IPB Local #702 looks forward to serving Clayton County's "bright future," and he thanked the Board for allowing him to speak on behalf of IPB Local #702.

5. Wayne Madden stressed that he has seen firsthand where some of the county's budget monies are going. He has been in court the last two days observing a highly publicized trial. Tonight, he was bringing a "low-hanging fruit request" to the Board. He urged Chairman Bell to authorize a committee or appoint someone to establish a committee to research the likelihood of getting a decent coffeehouse in this county. Mr. Madden opined that it was "unconscionable" that the county allowed Starbucks to get away last year. Having said that, Starbucks is just one of the fine coffeehouses. There has to be a committee somewhere in this county that can afford coffee. He knew the economy was affecting many businesses and citizens are hurting, but those who are not hurting have to do what they can. Mr. Madden concluded that the county needs to allow Jeff Gordon (4-time NASCAR Series Champion) and Jimmie Johnson (NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Driver) an opportunity to buy a cup of coffee when they come for that single race.