

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

November 2, 2010

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

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

1. Chairman Bell called the meeting to order.
2. There was a moment of silence in lieu of the invocation. Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Chairman Bell.
3. Amended the agenda by holding one (1) request from item #5 (Consider requests of Rod Gray, Director of Central Services); deleting item #10 (Resolution 2010-219 – Approving matching grant funds, in the amount of \$26,667.00, in cash and in kind on behalf of the Clayton County Solicitor’s Office to be used with the grant award for the STOP V.A.W.A. 2010 Violence Against Women Program [the “Grant”]); holding item #11 (Resolution 2010-220 – Authorizing Clayton County to accept wireless surveillance equipment donated by Lake Spivey Community, Inc. to be used by Clayton County and other authorized users); holding item #12 (Resolution 2010-221 – Authorizing Clayton County to enter into an agreement with the Clayton County Water Authority providing for the terms and conditions under which certain wireless surveillance equipment will be installed on the Water Authority’s Tower located in the Clayton County International Park); and adding an Executive Session on litigation and real estate matters. The motion carried 4-0.
4. Approved the October 19, 2010 Regular Business Meeting minutes. The motion carried 4-0.
5. Rod Gray, Director of Central Services, presented one item which resulted in the following action:
  - 1) Approved a purchase request to change and upgrade the County’s internet service provider, as requested by the Clayton County Information Technology Department. The motion carried 4-0.

The request is to waive the sealed bid requirement and enter into a service contract using the quotations for the County’s internet services with Deltacom, located in Huntsville, Alabama. These new services will provide an increase in the band width from 20 Mbps to 100 Mbps, and a decrease in connectivity costs by \$3,067.05 per month, which would result in a total savings of 110,413.80 over the term of the three (3)-year contract. Funds are available in the existing Information Technology budget (General Fund).

6. Renee Bright, Director of Human Resources, presented one item which resulted in the following action:

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

November 2, 2010

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

1) Approved a request from Warden Frank Taylor Smith (Clayton County Prison) to eliminate the vacant Senior Nurse position (Pay Grade 22/Step 1; \$41,257.00); create a Prison Senior Trades Specialist (Pay Grade 17/Step 1; \$32,181.00); and reclassify the Refuse Control Sergeant position to the rank of Lieutenant. The motion carried 4-0.

The Prison requires full-time maintenance which can overtax the Buildings and Maintenance Department. By creating a full-time maintenance position, the majority of the maintenance work can be performed in-house.

Upon the resignation of the Assistant Director of Refuse Control, a Prison Sergeant was moved to this position. After reviewing the duties and responsibilities of the position, the Warden finds that they are in line with that of a Lieutenant (supervisory responsibility of approximately 50 employees).

The County will realize a savings in eliminating the Senior Nurse position (\$41,257.00 – salary only). Creating a Prison Senior Trades Specialist position will cost \$32,181.00 (salary only), and reclassifying the Sergeant to Lieutenant will cost \$4,761.00 (salary only) – resulting in salary savings of \$4,315.00.

7. Approved Resolution 2010-216 authorizing Clayton County to enter into a grant agreement on behalf of the Clayton County Juvenile Court with the Georgia Department of Human Resources and, in accordance therewith, accept grant funds to be used in the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (\$42,546.00/\$14,182.00). The motion carried 4-0.

8. Approved Resolution 2010-217 authorizing Clayton County to enter into a subgrant award agreement with the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and, in accordance therewith, accept grant funds on behalf of the Clayton County Solicitor's Office for the Victim of Crime Act Assistance Grant Program (VOCA) (\$35,825.00/\$8,957.00). The motion carried 4-0.

9. Approved Resolution 2010-218 authorizing Clayton County to enter into a subgrant award agreement with the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and, in accordance therewith, accept grant funds on behalf of the Clayton County District Attorney's Office for the Victim Witness Assistance Program (\$77,192.00/\$19,298.00). The motion carried 4-0.

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

November 2, 2010

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

10. Approved Resolution 2010-222 authorizing Clayton County to enter into a contract for acquisition of right-of-way state-aid or federal-aid project reimbursable with the Department of Transportation State of Georgia providing for the terms and conditions under which right-of-way will be acquired and reimbursement made to the County for the Flint River Road Project; No. STP00-9107-00(002), PI No. 751810. The motion carried 4-0.

11. Approved Resolution 2010-223 authorizing Clayton County to enter into a construction agreement, Project No. MSL-0004-00(402), PI No. 0004402, with the Department of Transportation, State of Georgia for the ATMS Project. The motion carried 4-0.

12. Approved Resolution 2010-224 authorizing the County to collaborate with Atlanta Regional Commission to implement the “Lifelong Community” initiative in the County of Clayton, State of Georgia. The motion carried 4-0.

13. Approved Resolution 2010-225 to accept grant funds from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency in association with the FY2010 Performance Partnership award, in the amount of \$70,955.00, with a local match of funds in the amount of \$70,955.00. The motion carried 4-0.

14. Approved Resolution 2010-226 authorizing Clayton County to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Department of Housing and Urban Development providing for grant funds to be used in connection with the Economic Development initiative for the Frank Bailey Senior Center. The motion carried 4-0.

**Final Plat & Street Acceptance:**

15. Approved a request to accept the street of Warwick Drive Extension in the development of “**Warwick Drive Subdivision.**” The motion carried 4-0.

Michael Smith, Chief Staff Attorney, requested an Executive Session following the Regular Business Meeting to discuss litigation and real estate issues. The Board consented to hold an Executive Session as requested.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. David Evans stated he was present again to speak about the proposed five (5)-day work week (starting November 8, 2010) for Public Works employees. He has yet to receive a reply

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting  
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November 2, 2010

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

and has left his telephone number several times. It has been a month now since he first asked if the Board would consider maintaining the present four (4)-day work week. Mr. Evans apologized for having to repeat his request, but he needed a response. He was here on behalf of his co-workers, but his biggest issue was he did not have enough money to meet his family's needs if he had to work on Mondays. Mr. Evans understood that the other co-workers had issues with fuel and truck maintenance; however, his concern was his family and he worked at another job on Mondays.

Chairman Bell responded that this matter is still in the hands of the Chief of Staff (Alex Cohilas), and Chief Cohilas was not present in this business meeting. He assured Mr. Evans that Chief Cohilas would contact him about this issue tomorrow morning.

2. Employee 12797 (Edwin Hendry) acknowledged that he had prepared some comments to present to the Board tonight. First, however, he wanted to clear up a matter. Mr. Hendry informed the Board that someone had told him earlier not to say anything derogatory about his department (T&D/Public Works), and he took that message as a threat with repercussions. Instead of verbalizing his comments to the Board tonight, he would distribute them in written form. Mr. Hendry admitted that he loved his department, and he was sorry that the employees were having some problems. Since he felt threatened, he would not say anything else other than he loved T&D and this county. It was shameful to be in this situation, but that was all he could say right now. Mr. Hendry then distributed his comments to Chairman Bell and the commissioners.

3. Rosa C. Mason reminded Chairman Bell that he had made a promise to her in May of this year to address the issue of *Atlanta Journals* being thrown in the streets and neighborhood yards. So far, she had not heard anything from him. Chairman Bell asked Ms. Mason if she had followed up with a phone call to him since May. Ms. Mason emphasized that she had been contacting his office periodically, but he was busy every time she called – so she came out tonight to remind him about the matter in person. Chairman Bell admitted that he stayed busy, but he would not be too busy for Ms. Mason. He assured Ms. Mason that he had been consulting with the Legal Department about this issue, but he had not received a definitive answer from the attorneys. Per Chairman Bell, he did not like the newspaper clutter in the streets/yards either. He would continue to ask the Legal Department (including Chief Staff Attorney Michael Smith) about what could be done to stop the newspaper clutter. Chairman Bell thanked Ms. Mason for reminding him about the issue tonight, and he publicly apologized for not responding to her sooner. He was concerned about the problem, and he promised to do better.

Ms. Mason stated she was also present tonight to speak on behalf of former Police Chief Jeff Turner. She just wanted to say he was a good police chief during his tenure. Although problems

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

November 2, 2010

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

do come up occasionally, the Board should take time to think about when it lets “good people” go. According to Ms. Mason, all of the commissioners work for the public and Jeff Turner was innocent of many allegations brought against him. As a Clayton County resident, it was difficult for her to say that a “good person” lost his job, and she knew that each and every one of the commissioners present tonight had something to do with Jeff Turner leaving his post. Ms. Mason concluded that she wanted to meet with Chairman Bell to discuss this matter further. Chairman Bell agreed to meet with Ms. Mason in the future.

4. Wayne Madden, a concerned citizen and resident, stressed that he, too, loved Clayton County. He was still concerned about an incident that happened over a year ago regarding a physical altercation between a White male and a black female at the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Morrow, Georgia. Racial implications and much controversy still remain after the trial for this incident. Mr. Madden stated that he was more convinced than ever that the District Attorney’s Office needs a public relations person because anything the present District Attorney (Tracy Graham Lawson) says about this incident can be taken out of context. The county comes first, and justice has to be served on everybody. People’s perceptions do not always match reality. It is very competitive among counties now to get businesses to locate in them, so the Board should put its best foot forward. He certainly hoped the Board would re-visit the possibility of hiring a public relations person for the District Attorney’s Office because Ms. Lawson needs all the help she can get.

5. Terry Baskin, Clayton County Tax Commissioner, appeared before the Board on behalf of the Waverly Homeowners’ Association to personally and professionally say that the Clayton County Police Department and Fire EMS did an outstanding job in locating the young man who drowned at the Clayton County International Park two (2) weeks ago. Mr. Baskin was proud to say that Police Chief Porter along with Fire EMS performed a great job and, on behalf of the Waverly Subdivision homeowners, he thanked them for their tremendous efforts.

On another issue, Mr. Baskin questioned if the Board of Commissioners conducted property tax collections. Chairman Bell responded, “Excuse me?” Mr. Baskin replied, “I’m glad you asked that question.” He had read an article in the October 22, 2010 metro section of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* about prison trustees cleaning up foreclosed properties. Mr. Baskin referenced a quote in this article which stated the monies collected would be through property taxes. He asked if this Board were sending out property tax information, since that is what Commissioner Sonna Singleton had quoted. Chairman Bell said Mr. Baskin’s question sounded like a legal one that would probably need a legal answer. Mr. Baskin said he would love to hear it, and he was willing to wait on it.