

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting
7:00 P.M.

May 10, 2011

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

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

1. Chairman Bell called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation was led by Pastor Chris Reynolds of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Georgia. Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Chairman Bell.
3. Amended the agenda by adding a Budget Amendment by Dennis Johnson, Budget Manager, after item #8 (PROCLAMATION: "Clayton County Honors CASA Volunteers – presented by Vice-Chairman Ralph) and deleting item #13 (DISCUSSION ITEMS: a) Old Station 9 Property Use/Jeff Hood, Chief of Fire and Emergency Services; b) County Disparity Study/Rod Gray, Director of Central Services; and c) Frank Newton, Inc. – Use of County Name). The agenda was adopted, as amended, as all commissioners had copies before them. The motion carried 4-0.
4. Approved the May 3, 2011 Regular Business Meeting minutes. The motion carried 4-0.
5. PROCLAMATION: "Clayton County Observes National Drug Court Month" (presented by Chairman Eldrin Bell to Clayton County Court representatives). Court representatives from the DUI/Drug Court/State Court were Judge Linda Cowan, Ms. Katrina Hood (Coordinator), Dr. Richard Highland (Treatment Provider), Ms. Sasha Green (Probation Officer), and one (1) DUI/Drug Court/State Court participant. Additionally, representatives from the Adult Felony Drug Court/Superior Court were Judge Albert Collier, Ms. Raquel Gonzalez (Coordinator), Christine Van Dross (Chief Public Defender), Mr. Millard Hall (Treatment Team), Stacy Johnson (Probation Officer), Chief Chiquiti Dean (Chief Probation Officer, Morrow Probation Office), James Thomas, Intern (Treatment Team), and two (2) Adult Felony Drug Court/Superior Court participants. Lastly, Matthew Sorensen represented the Court Administrator Office.
6. PROCLAMATION: "Clayton County Honors E. W. Oliver Elementary Students as the Georgia Stock Market Game Champions" (presented by Commissioner Gail B. Hambrick). Honorees were Jaylen Thompkins (Student), Jacob Thomas (Student), Kenny Chong (Student), Mike Harrell (Coach), and Kathleen Truitt (Principal).
7. PROCLAMATION: "Clayton County Observes National Water Safety Month" (presented by Chairman Eldrin Bell to Detrick Stanford, Director of Parks and Recreation, and various Parks and Recreation personnel).

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8. PROCLAMATION: “Clayton County Honors CASA Volunteers” (presented by Vice-Chairman Wole Ralph to the 43rd class of CASA volunteers: Jacqueline Black-Polk, Obreziah Bullard, Carol Epton-Keitt, Rose Hall, Gwendolyn Hockley, Adriane Lawton, Jenna Lea Mimbs, Diana Peters, Latifa Riley, Griffin Shirley, Jennifer Smith, and Becky Galbreath).

[NOTE: Clerk Haywood read the aforementioned proclamations for the benefit of the audience. Group photos were also taken.]

9. Dennis Johnson, Budget Manager, presented one (1) budget amendment which resulted in the following action:

1) Approved Budget Amendment #2-39/Hotel/Motel Tax Fund for FYE 6-30-11, in the amount of \$10,000.00, to provide funds to Arts Clayton for a “Prints By Women” exhibit. The motion carried 4-0.

10. Approved Resolution 2011-69 authorizing Clayton County to accept a donation (\$700.00) from the Azalea City Chapter of Links on behalf of the Kinship Scholarship Program; to authorize the Chairman to accept the donation on behalf of Clayton County and execute any documents necessary, and otherwise perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; etc. The motion carried 4-0.

11. Approved 2011-70 authorizing Clayton County, through its Parks and Recreation Department, to allocate funds (NTE \$5,000.00) to pay the expenses for a site visit by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA); to authorize the Chairman and the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department to perform all other acts necessary to accomplish the intent of the resolution; etc. The motion carried 4-0.

12. Approved Resolution 2011-71 authorizing Clayton County to relocate a fire tower to the Reynolds Nature Preserve to promote the County’s regional identity; to authorize the Chairman to perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; etc. The motion carried 4-0.

13. Approved Resolution 2011-72 authorizing Clayton County to accept and satisfy the conditions of a reimbursable grant for \$100,000.00 by the Georgia Recreational Trails Program

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for the Parks and Recreation Department's Greenspace Division; to authorize the Chairman to perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of the resolution; to authorize the Finance Director to amend the budget where necessary to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense, all as may be required under the terms of the grant agreement; etc. The motion carried 4-0.

14. Approved the appointment of Sophia Haynes of Hampton, Georgia to the Water Authority Board. The term of Dr. Don McMillian, Jr. expired on 2-28-11. Ms. Haynes' new term is for five (5) years; expiring on 2-28-16. The motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Cheryl Espy-Dalton asked Chairman Bell if Dr. Don McMillian, Jr. had been removed from the Water Authority Board. Chairman Bell answered yes, and Sophia Haynes had been appointed to take his place. Ms. Espy-Dalton questioned if she could find out what type of position this was, what this position was paid, what the duties of this position were, and what the reason was for having this position for a five (5)-year term. As a business woman operating for many years, Ms. Espy-Dalton stated she had never heard of anyone being on such a board for such a long term of five (5) years. Chairman Bell directed Ms. Espy-Dalton to turn over her questions and contact information to Chief Staff Attorney Michael Smith, and he assured her that her questions would be answered.

2. Wayne Madden mentioned that he would be having a medical procedure tomorrow and, if he came through it alright, he would still want an answer to his previous question concerning the benefit of Vice-Chairman Ralph's trip to Amsterdam, Holland on behalf of the county. Specific questions he wanted answered were as follows: "Who paid for it (the trip)?"... "What was the purpose?"... "Was Vice-Chairman Ralph the right person to represent the county?"... and "How was Vice-Chairman Ralph selected to go to Amsterdam?" Mr. Madden asserted that Vice-Chairman Ralph had chosen not to answer these questions in the past. Following his procedure tomorrow, Mr. Madden promised to come to the Board of Commissioners' Office with whatever legal documents necessary to get those questions answered. He stressed that Vice-Chairman Ralph was obligated to answer these questions because he works for Clayton County. Mr. Madden could not say that he was proud of Vice-Chairman Ralph because he, too, had visited Amsterdam and all he saw were "girls in the windows." (NOTE: At this point, Chairman Bell cautioned Mr. Madden about raising his voice. Mr. Madden apologized and stated he did not mean any harm. Commissioner Singleton asked Chairman Bell to "cut that off." Mr. Madden then ceased speaking and sat down.)

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3. John Larris, a new Clayton County resident, expressed his pleasure in being present tonight and stated he had addressed his issue to the Clayton County Police Chief (Greg Porter). According to Mr. Larris, he had recently moved from the state of Florida to the Rivers Edge Subdivision in Clayton County. Not too long after he moved into his house, Mr. Larris said he was robbed. He acknowledged that the police have been monitoring the neighborhood since that incident, and he appreciated their efforts. Mr. Larris was present tonight to publicly thank the police for what they were doing in his neighborhood, and he hoped there would not be any more incidents. He also wanted to meet Chairman Bell and the commissioners and let them know that he, too, is a fellow officer and is ready to assist the county whenever necessary. Mr. Larris concluded that he was looking forward to working with the Board and the police.

4. Deidre Williams did not respond when her name was called.

5. Superior Court Judge Albert Collier introduced Ebonecke, a Drug Court participant, to the Board. Per Judge Collier, Ebonecke wanted to address the Board tonight about her experience in the Drug Court program.

Ebonecke greeted the board and stated she was a participant in the Clayton County Adult Felony Drug Court program. She emphasized that she “absolutely loved this program” and had accomplished so many things. For 15 months, Ebonecke acknowledged she has been “clean and sober.” With this newfound experience, Ebonecke stated she is now the “lead person on her job in her department and an inspiration to others as well.” According to Ebonecke, the Drug Court program is composed of a team and Judge Collier is the “head man in charge.” Participants have to comply with requirements of this very structured program, and the program teaches everyone a sense of responsibility. By helping each other, participants are motivated and inspired. Personally, Ebonecke stated her life has changed dramatically. One of her major accomplishments has been to establish a healthy relationship with her children and her family. Ebonecke stressed that the Drug Court program has honestly “saved her life.” She sincerely thanked Judge Collier, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Hall, Captain Gavel, Ms. Van Dross, and the rest of the team for helping her regain control of her life. Ebonecke concluded that she is now living her life to the fullest. Although she experiences stress and frustration at times, that is life. She is now dealing with her life responsibly and cleaning up in recovery and treatment – the acronym for Drug Court. Ebonecke expressed that it has been an honor and a privilege to tell the Board about her Drug Court program, and she thanked everyone for allowing her to speak.