

PLANNING AND ZONING  
FIRST THURSDAY MEETING

February 7, 2008

The Jones County Board of Commissioners met for their First Thursday meeting at 6:30 p.m. February 7, 2008, in the Charlotte C. Wilson Conference Room at the Jones County Government Center. Members present were:

Preston Hawkins - Chairman  
David C. Gault – Vice-Chairman  
Larry Childs – District 1 Commissioner  
Mell Merritt – District 3 Commissioner  
Bert Liston – District 4 Commissioner

County Attorney, Frank Childs, was present.

Chairman Hawkins called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.  
(Chairman Hawkins exercises his voting rights in the case of a tie.)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Leila Brittain, Clerk of the Board / Human Resource Director, requested to amend the agenda to add NB#7, Letter of Support for the grant application to USDA for the efforts of Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails. Comm. Gault made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment as noted. Comm. Liston seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous.

Laten Boniol, Assistant Director of Public Works, opened the meeting with an invocation followed by the leading of the pledge.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Comm. Liston made a motion to approve the minutes from the third Tuesday meeting, January 15, 2008, and the Planning and Zoning Public Hearing, February 5, 2008. Comm. Merritt seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous.

**VISITORS:**

1. Ed Burns a resident of Clinton Crossing Drive gave the Board a handout and discussed drainage problems in detail. Mr. Burns requested for the Board to accept Clinton Crossing's roads and fix the drainage problem. Frank Childs, County Attorney, said the county can not legally accept a private road as a county road until the road meets county specifications. Frank Childs said the repairs are the responsibility of the home owners and suggested for the property owners to contact the developer concerning the drainage problems. No action was taken. See attachments for specifications.
2. Molly McInvale Haroni, a resident on Morton Road, discussed speeding problems on Morton Road. Ms. Haroni said new signs have been posted with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour and a blind driveway sign has been posted; motorists are still excessively exceeding the speed limit. Chairman Hawkins called for a motion to lower the speed limit to 25 miles per hour. Comm. Merritt request to postpone the motion in order to obtain advice from the Sheriff Department. Consensus of the Board was to postpone the speeding problem on Morton Road for the third Tuesday meeting, February 19, 2008.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Consensus of the Board was to postpone the sound system for the Charlotte C. Wilson Conference Room for the Third Tuesday meeting, February 19, 2008.
2. Freddie Wiggins, Water Superintendent, gave the Board a handout and discussed awarding the bid to lay 12" waterline from 375 Henderson Road to Rinker Materials on Lite-N-Tie Road. Mr. Wiggins recommended awarding the bid to Tommy Griffin Plumbing of Macon for a base price of \$147,359.75 to include alternate bid items 2, 4, and 7 for a total amount of \$177,059.75; Mr. Griffin was the low bid. The cost for materials is \$342,598.00 making the total expenses for the Henderson Road project \$519,657.75. The contractor will have 120 days from the date of the Notice to Proceed to complete the project, so that should have the line operating in time to send more water to Gray this summer to alleviate problems such as those caused by last year's drought. Comm. Liston made a motion to award the bid to Tommy Griffin Plumbing of Macon for \$177,059.75, to put in a new 16-inch water line along 375 Henderson Road to Rinker Materials on Lite-N-Tie Road and a 12-inch to tie into the existing line going to Gray. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. See attachments for specifications.
3. Michael D. Underwood, County Administrator, discussed changes in the Jones County Church Softball League Policy. The Jones County Church

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Softball League has requested to change tournament dates from April 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008 to February 1, 2008 through August 1, 2008. Comm. Merritt made a motion to change the Jones County Church Softball League tournament dates from April 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008 to February 1, 2008 through August 1, 2008. Comm. Childs seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. See attachments for specifications.

4. Jack Burnside, Project Administrator, discussed the contracts for project CSHPP-007-00(603) sidewalks and bike trails with the Board. Mr. Burnside will assist with the administration with the federally funded trail and sidewalk infrastructure project. The services will proceed from initial design through bid advertisement, selection of a contractor and construction. This will build a bicycle/ pedestrian trail from Gray Station Middle School down Highway 18 East to Allan Green Blvd and along it to a tract that is approximately 62 acres adjacent to the existing Highway 18 Recreation Complex. The county has a \$500,000 federal grant that Congressman Jim Marshall assisted with obtaining to use for the project and the county will pay \$125,000 in local funds. Comm. Merritt made a motion to award the contract with Jack Burnside for administration services and project engineering environmental studies for \$56,000. In addition, the motion also awards a contract with Ingram & Associates for engineering related services necessary to survey, design, and oversee construction for the TE Project for the Congressional Appropriation for \$95,000. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. See attachments for specifications.
5. Michael D. Underwood gave the Board a handout and discussed the appointment of the Jones County Recreation Committee members to serve on a recreation complex planning committee. The members will assist Kedrick Scott, consultant with Ingram and Associates, in planning the design and layout of the new recreation complex. Comm. Merritt made a motion to appoint the following Recreation Committee members:
  1. Brad Dupree
  2. Jamie Huckaba
  3. Dr. Todd Kelleher
  4. Curtis Lanford
  5. Frank Davis
  6. Bobby Wood
  7. John Trimmell
  8. Billy Moore

Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. See attachments for specifications.

6. Leila Brittain, Clerk of the Board / Human Resource Director, discussed the proposed ACCG Group Health Benefits program with the Board. The Association of County Commissioners in conjunction with Local Government Risk Management Services Health Promotion Services, will

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award the ACCG – GHBP Health Promotion Grants to the approved member applicants. The grant will be used to help establish a wellness program for county employees. To be eligible for funding, the county must meet several guidelines as described in the attachments. The county will need to designate a Health Promotion Leader to oversee the Health Promotion Program. This would entail Ms. Brittain or Whitney Stevens, Personnel Technician, attending the scheduled LGRMS Health Promotion Services Leadership Training. Ms. Brittain recommended Board approval of the ACCG Group Health Benefits Program contingent on the county receiving funds to assist with the cost of the Health Risk Assessment. The cost of the HRA is estimated at \$3,000 or more. This was not included in the budget this year and if financial assistance is not available, Ms. Brittain did not recommend pursuing the program at this time. Additional grant funds for the HRA portion only are available up to \$3,500 per applicant. Comm. Gault made a motion to approve the ACCG Group Health Benefits Program contingent the county receiving funds to assist with the cost of the Health Risk Assessment. Comm. Merritt seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. See attachments for specifications.

7. Earlene Hamilton discussed a request from the Executive Director for the Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails. The Executive Director is in the process of applying for a rural development grant from the United States Department of Agriculture and has requested letters of support from the surrounding communities and counties that the trails travel through. Comm. Gault made a motion to write a letter of support for the grant application being made to the United States Department of Agriculture. Comm. Merritt seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. See attachments for specifications.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Allan Green, EMA Director, was on the agenda to discuss the Public Assistance Pilot Project but was not present. Consensus of the Board was to postpone the Public Assistance Pilot Project for the third Tuesday meeting, February 19, 2008.
2. Michael D. Underwood discussed the resolution to establish staggered terms for the Board of Commissioners. In order to coincide with the school board, Districts 1, 3 and the Chairman would need to run for two years terms. Commissioners Merritt, Gault and Childs expressed their support for staggered terms. Comm. Childs and Gault said the job have become so complex that it takes new commissioners several months to several years to conduct county business, especially the budgeting process. Comm. Liston spoke in opposition; he feels all the commission elections should remain the same year as the presidential elections to bring out more voters. Comm. Childs said if it is not a unanimous decision by the Board it

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won't pass legislation. Frank Childs, County Attorney, said from a legal standpoint there does not have to be a unanimous vote; our legislative delegation will possibly not introduce it but they will need to be informed of what the vote is. Comm. Merritt made a motion to begin the process to adopt a resolution to establish staggered terms for the Board of Commissioners. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Comm. Childs, Comm. Gault and Comm. Merritt in favor. Comm. Liston opposed.

3. Comm. Childs discussed the proposed increase in Commissioner's salaries that if approved by the Board will go into effect after the new Board takes office. Comm. Childs said when these salaries were set when prices for gasoline were lower and the Board only had 24 to 36 meetings a year; they currently have 50 to 60 regular meetings, along with workshops and public hearings. Leila Brittain, Clerk of the Board / Human Resource Director, referred to the DCA Wage and Salary survey to obtain a list of the counties that are in the same C category as Jones. She contacted several counties to compare commissioner and chairman salaries. Ms. Brittain said Jones County currently is set at \$450 per month base salary for commissioners and \$550 base for chairman with a \$250 monthly travel allowance. Other counties ranged from \$550 per month to \$1,450 per month for base salary. The salaries must be advertised for three consecutive weeks prior to qualifying; this is the Home Rule Statue. Comm. Childs made a motion to begin the process to increase the base monthly salaries for the district commissioners from \$450 to \$800 and the chairperson from \$550 to \$1,000 to be established with the new Board. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote 3-1. Comm. Childs, Comm. Gault and Comm. Merritt in favor. Comm. Liston opposed stating he couldn't approve it when taxes keep going up each year. See attachments for specifications.
4. Comm. Gault received a letter from Ross King, with ACCG's Georgia Environmental Leadership, requesting his acceptance to the IGEL program. There are four sessions and IGEL pays for housing and meals. Comm. Gault requested the Board's approval for a one time tuition fee of \$2,850 and Comm. Gault will pay for his travel. Comm. Gault has joined the Georgia Regional Health Association and paid his annual fee of \$20 and requested the Board's approval to pay for his mileage. Comm. Liston said it is an honor to be chosen for the ACCG's Georgia Environmental Leadership program. For Old Business items 4 and 5, Comm. Liston made a motion to approve Comm. Gault's tuition for the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership and for travel expenses for the Georgia Rural Health Association. Comm. Childs seconded the motion. Vote 3-1. Comm. Liston, Comm. Childs and Comm. Gault in favor. Comm. Merritt opposed.
6. Leila Brittain requested permission from the Board to pay the \$600 corporation fee to Gray Athletic Club this will allow employees to choose from Elite Fitness, Curves and the Gray Athletic Club based on personal

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preference. Ms. Brittain has \$600 covered in the budget this year. Ms. Brittain proposed allowing employees to pay half of their portion of the annual fees up front and deduct the other half from their pay checks in installments. The response from the memo circulated indicated at least 50 employees interested in Gray Athletic Club. Comm. Gault made a motion to approve the \$600 corporation fee for Gray Athletic Club and allow employees to pay half of their portion of the annual fees up front and deduct the other half from their pay checks in no more than three installments. If the employee leaves employment before the balance is paid, the remainder will be deducted from their final paycheck. Comm. Liston seconded the motion. Vote 3-1. Comm. Gault, Comm. Liston and Comm. Childs in favor. Comm. Merritt opposed to the portion of the motion that allowed payroll dedications. See attachments for specifications.

7. The Board discussed the approval of the Capital Improvement Elements Resolution. The Capital Improvement Elements Resolution outlines projects to be funded by possible impact fees for the county to the Central Georgia Regional Development Center for a 60-day review. Michael D. Underwood discussed Public Hearing dates with the Board. The dates are March 18, 2008, and April 15, 2008, both to be held at the Charlotte C. Wilson Conference Room at 5:30 p.m. Comm. Childs made a motion to adopt the transmittal resolution for the Capital Improvement Elements to the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center for Regional and State review. Comm. Merritt seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. See attachments for specifications.

At 8:24 p.m. Michael D. Underwood and Comm. Liston left the meeting. Comm. Liston returned to the meeting at 8:25 p.m. and Michael D. Underwood returned to the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

1. Freddie Wiggins, Water Superintendent, discussed the Environmental Protection Division guidelines needed to abandon the well at the Highway 18 Recreation Center. The only alternative is to use the well for irrigation purposes or the well must be abandoned by a certified well driller. If left as it is, the county would have to monitor the well and the Environmental Protection Division would have to collect samples. Mr. Wiggins recommended for the Board to abandon the well according to Environmental Protection Division standards; this would cost an estimated \$2,385. Consensus of the Board was for Mr. Wiggins to check irrigation options. Mr. Wiggins discussed the Masseyville Road well system needing repairs to the vertical turbine pump. Greene's Water Wells Inc. removed the subject pump and gave an estimated

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\$102,520 for repairs. Mr. Wiggins discussed a three stage sand filter at River North that is not being used and proposed to move it to the Masseyville Road well and possibly drilling a new well at least 1,000 feet back from the current well. Comm. Childs made a motion to award the bid to Greene's Water Wells, Inc. to install a 75 horsepower pump at the Masseyville Road well and rebuild the old pump to be used for a back up with the cost not to exceed \$18,000. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. See attachments for specifications.

2. Bobby Wood requested to advertise for bids for a sprinkler system for one field at the South Complex and all of the fields at the Central Complex. Comm. Merritt made a motion to advertise for bids for a sprinkler system on one field at the South Complex and all of the fields at the Central Complex. Comm. Liston seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**Comm. Childs:** Comm. Childs discussed additional sewer service in Clifton Ridge. Michael D. Underwood said Clifton Ridge currently pays tap on fees to the Macon Water Authority. Comm. Childs said Jones County is going to take over Clifton Ridge sewer service and will charge them \$1,700 for tap on fees. No motion was needed because the current ordinance covers the tap on fees; Comm. Childs just wanted the Board to be aware of the cost for Clifton Ridge. Comm. Childs said the Board needs to meet with the City of Gray to discuss the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. Comm. Childs discussed the repairs needed for the backhoe at Public Works.

**Comm. Gault:** Comm. Gault discussed establishing a water and sewer capital improvement fund and a water and sewer maintenance fee fund to be accounted for in a special account with funds set aside from each water and sewer bill as discussed under the previous board when rates were increased. Consensus of the Board was to postpone water maintenance fees for the third Tuesday meeting, February 19, 2008.

**Comm. Liston:** Comm. Liston said he had reconsidered and didn't want to be the only one stopping the change to staggered terms.

**Comm. Merritt:** Comm. Merritt rescinded his motion to begin the process to adopt a resolution to establish staggered terms for the Board of Commissioners. Comm. Gault rescinded his second motion. Comm. Merritt made a motion to begin the process to adopt a resolution to establish staggered terms for the Board of Commissioners. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote was 4 – 0; Chairman Hawkins did not vote.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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Comm. Liston made a motion to adjourn into an executive session to discuss litigation. Comm. Childs seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

**RECONVENED:**

The meeting reconvened at 9:26 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Comm. Merritt made a motion to adjourn. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

**APPROVED**

Jones County Board of Commissioners

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Preston Hawkins, Chairman

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David C. Gault, Vice-Chairman, District 2

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Larry Childs, District 1 Commissioner

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Mell Merritt, District 3 Commissioner

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Bert Liston, District 4 Commissioner

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Leila Brittain, Clerk of the Board