



**MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2021**

**PLANNING SESSION
STEPHENS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

PRESENT FOR MEETING: Chairman Michelle Ivester, Commissioners Debbie Whitlock, James Addison, Dennis Bell, Dean Scarborough by phone,; County Clerk Beth Rider; County Administrator Phyllis Ayers; County Attorney Brian Ranck by phone

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Ivester called the regular meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and the following items were discussed.

1. BOARD OF REGISTRATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Board of Commissioners discussed the restructuring of Local Legislation and requested the County Administrator to poll other counties with our population for examples.

2. BUSINESS OCCUPATION TAX AND REGULATORY FEES

Board of Commissioners tabled Business Occupation Tax and Regulatory Fees ordinance

3. EMA RESCUE UNIT STORAGE BUILDING

Board of Commissioners discussed moving Rescue and EMA to the current Eastanollee Fire Station and building a new fire Eastanollee Fire Station

4. RELOCATION OF DRUG COURT AND PROBATION

Board of Commissioners discussed rental of a facility to make an offer

5. UPDATE ON OUTDOOR SENSORY PLAYGROUND

Commissioner Ivester gave an update on the sensory playground and will have a representative from Play World come to give a presentation. Ms. Ayers discussed relocating the Recreation Offices; discussion to move the green house and possibly give to 4-H or FFA

6. RELOCATION OF WHITE PINES CONVENIENCE SITE TO LANDFILL

Board of Commissioners discussed relocating White Pines to the Landfill

7. HOTEL/MOTEL TAX ON VRBO, AIRBNB, ETC.

Ms. Ayers stated at this time there is not a current law requiring local governments to require lodging facilitators to collect hotel/motel tax.

8. 2021 RESURFACING ROAD WORK

Ms. Ayers presented the 2021 proposed list for paving and resurfacing; the board approved the listing to be placed on an upcoming agenda.

9. GDOT/STEPHENS COUNTY HIGHWAY RAIL GRADE CROSSINGS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Board of Commissioners discussed upcoming changes and upgrades to rail grade crossings in the County; improvements will be made by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

10. CHANGES TO ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCES

Board of Commissioners discussed changes to the Animal Control Ordinance and will be placing on a future agenda to amend the ordinance.

11. HUMANE SHELTER FUNDING

Board of Commissioners discussed the Humane Shelter funding and funding will remain the same until June 30, 2021 and allow Jeff Roberts, Director to make the transition

12. COUNTY FIRE GYM MEMBERSHIP PLAN

Board of Commissioners discussed the request made by County Fire and the board's decision was not to fund as it would have to be open to all.

13. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FUNDING REQUEST

Board of Commissioners requested County Administrator to review Chamber financials and detailed spending. No extra funding was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Addison, seconded by Commissioner Bell to enter into executive session for discussion of future acquisition of real estate at 2:26 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Whitlock to reconvene regular meeting at 2:36 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Board of Commissioners directed Ms. Ayers to discuss offer with agent for rental of the former Convalescent Home Equipment building located 89 Falls Road, Toccoa, Ga.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Whitlock to adjourn the regular meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Approved this 9th day of March, 2021

Michelle Ivester
Michelle Ivester, Chairman

Attest:
Beth Rider
Beth Rider, County Clerk

