

MINUTES  
Liberty County Board of Commissioners  
June 2, 2020  
Regular Meeting

1. The meeting was called to by order by Chairman Lovette with all Commissioners in attendance.
2. The County Administrator certified compliance with the Georgia Open Meetings Act.
3. Prayer was offered by Pastor Richard Hayes followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. The board considered a proclamation proclaiming May 25 as George Floyd Day in Liberty County. Pastor Richard Hayes appeared before the board to update them on matters involving the proclamation and on a local rally planned for June 4 at 6 PM. Pastor Hayes went over the proposed agenda for the event including its origination point with a march planned to the Justice Center. A motion was made by Commissioner Walden to adopt said Proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard and carried unanimously.
5. The board considered minutes of their May meetings. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Frasier and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Bowen was excused from the meeting.

6. A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier and seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, to adjourn to a public hearing to discuss the proposed FY 21 budget carried by all Commissioners in attendance. Ms. Kim McGlothlin, financial officer for Liberty County, appeared to present the FY 21 proposed budget for Commission and public for review. Ms. McGlothlin, through presentation, reviewed several revenue items and proposed expenditures for the board noting that most of the budget increase from FY 2021 was related to the commitment to fund full-time salaries for firefighters. Ms. McGlothlin reported collection rates from the tax commissioner's office had been around 95% and that she was receiving regular payouts from that office. Ms. McGlothlin fielded questions related to the budget concerning fees collected in various departments and information on tax collections. A motion was made by Commissioner Walden, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, to adjourn public hearing and return to regular meeting with all Commissioners present voting in favor.

7. The board considered new business:

- a. Dr. Lawton Davis, District Health Director for the Coastal Health District, provided the board with an update on Covid-19 as it relates to Liberty County. Dr. Davis presented statistical information for the period of March 18, 2020 to March 23, 2020 and advised that the county was averaging 2.1 cases per day. Dr. Davis informed the board that there were three types of vaccine currently in clinical trials and answered questions from the board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to adjourn to public hearing for a rezoning matter, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

- b. The board considered rezoning request 2020 – 011 – LC, a request to rezone 2.47 acres of land from A-1 and AR-1 to B-2. Property is further described as LCTM – 121 – 077. Following the presentation of staff reports, a motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

- c. The board considered adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan work program as presented by Mr. Nirav Gandhi. No comments were offered from the public. A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to adopt the work program, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with all Commissioners present voting in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to adjourn public hearing and return to regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

- d. The board considered approval of a preliminary plat for Auburn Ridge Phase II as presented by Ms. Mardee Sanchez. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the

preliminary plat, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

e. The board considered approval of a resolution requesting CARES ACT funding from the Georgia Department of Transportation. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to approve the resolution, second by Commissioner Thrift, with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

f. Ms. Krystal Hart, Liberty County Census Coordinator, appeared before the board to present a Census 2020 update. Ms. Hart reported returns for the 2020 census information is currently at 50.1% countywide, but that efforts were being stepped up to increase percentages. Ms. Hart also informed the board that the new date for census completion had been set for October 31, 2020. Ms. Hart answered various questions from the board including how military members were being counted.

g. The board considered adoption of plan amendment number two with the Association of County Commissioners in Georgia related to certain changes to the defined benefit plan. A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to approve the amendment, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

h. Mr. Joseph Mosley, Assistant County Administrator, updated the board on the Liberty County Youth Commission activities. Mr. Mosley informed the board that he had met with the program coordinator to establish a new planning calendar for upcoming events. Mr. Mosley also reported that he had held a Zoom meeting to keep the youth engaged and that they were very excited about moving forward even in the Covid-19 environment.

i. The board considered an intergovernmental agreement for tower space with the Georgia Department of Public Safety. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

j. The administrative report was presented on construction projects involving the Isle of Wight / Islands Fire Stations and Sunbury boat ramp. The board also reviewed proposed guidelines for the reopening of offices to the public effective June 15, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to adjourn regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, with all Commissioners present voting in favor.

Signed:

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Donald L. Lovette, Chairman

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Marion Stevens, Sr., Vice Chairman

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Justin L. Frasier, Commissioner

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Connie Thrift, Commissioner

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Pat Bowen, Commissioner

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Gary Gilliard, Commissioner

Attest:

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Eddie J. Walden, Commissioner

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Joseph W. Brown, County Administrator