

MINUTES
Liberty County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
July 7, 2020

1. The meeting was opened by Chairman Lovette with Commissioners Stevens, Thrift, Gilliard and Walden in attendance. Commissioner Frasier joined by teleconference.
2. The County Administrator certified compliance with the Georgia Open Meetings Act. Prayer was offered a Mr. Joseph Mosley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. The Board considered minutes of their June meetings. A motion was made by Commissioner Walden to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.
4. The Board considered new business:
 - A. Mr. David Lucas appeared before the Board to discuss specifics associated with refinancing of series A and B bonds for Liberty Regional Medical Center and refinancing of bonds for the Liberty County Justice Center. Mr. Lucas advised the Board that due to current market rates he expected substantial savings to be achieved in both issues. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to move forward with refinancing of hospital bonds in an amount not to exceed \$16,500,000, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance. A motion was made by Commissioner Walden to move forward with the refinancing of bonds for Liberty County Justice Center in an amount not to exceed \$12,700,000, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.
 - B. The Board considered a Lease with Ameris Bank to purchase certain equipment for the Liberty County Road Department. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to approve the lease, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.
 - C. The Board considered a resolution authorizing a special election to consider an expansion of the Freeport exemption for e-commerce fulfillment centers. County Attorney, Mr. Kelly Davis, answered questions from the Board associated with the matter. The Board emphasized the need to provide education to the public associated with Freeport exemptions and the proposed e-commerce fulfillment exemption. A motion was made by Commissioner Walden to accept the resolution calling for the local referendum, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.
 - D. The Board entered into discussion concerning the possibility of adopting a mandatory masking ordinance. The County attorney appeared before the Board to discuss legal matters associated with the possible adoption of such an ordinance including enforcement. The County Attorney noted that any such ordinance would only be applicable in the unincorporated areas of the County. Following discussion, the County Attorney was asked to draft a proposed ordinance for Board review at its next regular meeting.
 - E. The Board considered a contract for website redevelopment with Civics Plus. IT Director, Mr. Clint Stanley, appeared before the Board to highlight specifics associated with the redevelopment process and asked the Board to consider approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to move forward with the project, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.
 - F. The Board considered a resolution amending Worker's Compensation coverage through ACCG for CERT volunteers. A motion was made by Commissioner Walden to amend the coverage through ACCG, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.
 - G. The Board considered an agreement with the City of Midway to provide election support for the upcoming City special election. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.
 - H. The administrative report was presented:
 1. The Board considered options associated with the possible start-up of Fall sports programs through the Liberty County Recreation Department. The County Administrator informed the Board that he had followed up on the Board's request to seek guidance concerning the matter by contacting the Georgia Department of Public Health district office and review of CDC guidelines. Based on these findings their recommendation was not to proceed with sports programming at this time. The Board decided to postpone Fall sports programs at the recreation

department.

2. The Board considered the replacement of Mr. Shawn Parker with the new director of the EMS services, Mr. Richard Lambeth on the region nine EMS Council. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to appoint Mr. Lambeth, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

3. The Board set the ribbon-cutting date for the Isle of Wight Fire Substation for August 28, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

I. Chairman Lovette advised the Board that he was going to designate the Liberty County historical cultural committee along with Ms. Sarah Hine and Miss Rebecca Standard to look into the matter of possible relocation of the Confederate Monument at the old courthouse. Chairman Lovette asked that the committee present a status report on the matter during the August midmonth meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to adjourn regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

Signed:

Donald L. Lovette, Chairman

Marion Stevens, Sr., Vice Chairman

Justin L. Frasier, Commissioner

Connie Thrift, Commissioner

Pat Bowen, Commissioner

Gary Gilliard, Commissioner

Eddie J. Walden, Commissioner

Attest:

Joseph W. Brown, County Administrator
Signed:

Donald L. Lovette, Chairman

Marion Stevens, Sr., Vice Chairman

Justin L. Frasier, Commissioner

Connie Thrift, Commissioner

Pat Bowen, Commissioner

Gary Gilliard, Commissioner

Eddie J. Walden, Commissioner

Attest:

Joseph W. Brown, County Administrator