

**Board of Commissioners Agenda Meeting
Administrative Building Commission Chambers
November 28, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present:

Chairman John Daniell
Commissioner Mark Thomas
Commissioner Chuck Horton
Commissioner Amrey Harden
Commissioner Mark Saxon

Staff Present:

Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Guy Herring, Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Justin Milligan, IT Director
Lisa Davol, Parks and Recreation Director
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Kari Giddens, Assistant Finance Director
Donna Norton, Budget Officer

Call to Order:

Chairman John Daniell called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance:

County Attorney Daniel Haygood led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the November 28, 2023 Agenda.
Second:	Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion:	None
Final Action:	Motion Passed.

Statements and Remarks from Citizens:

None.

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

Chairman Daniel announced an upcoming public hearing on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 3pm in Walton County for public input from residents from Oconee and Walton County for the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir Treatment Facility.

Discuss Heritage Park Naming Rights Agreement:

Presented by: Lisa Davol, Park and Recreation Director
Discussion: The request is to accept a donation from the Wayne Norris family for the Heritage Park improvement project of \$100,000 over the next four years, or \$25,000 per year for four years. In recognition of such a significant donation, the request is also to make an agreement between the county and the family recognizing this donor.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss a Resolution for Oconee County Authorizing the UOBWA to Submit a Joint Claim for Settlement Proceeds in the PFAS Litigation:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Discussion: Oconee County is a party to a lawsuit from a December 7, 2018 contamination where settlements have been filed on behalf of 3M and DuPont/Chemours to compensate public water systems for this contamination. The recommendation is to approve a resolution to authorize the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority, of which Oconee County is a member, to make the claim as they treat the water. Then, Jackson, Barrow and Oconee counties would share the settlement.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

1st Quarter Financial Update:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell presented the financial update for the 1st quarter of FY24 which is through September 30, 2023:

- General Fund revenues and expenditures as compared to budget
- SPLOST, TSPLOST, and LOST distributions as compared to prior fiscal year
- Water Resources Department revenues and expenses as compared to budget
- Capital and SPLOST budgeted expenditures update

Commissioner Harden asked about the status of the audit process.
Ms. Braswell explained the process is complete and the auditor will be at the next meeting to share their results before submission.

Discuss and Consider the Abandonment of Hillsboro Road – North High Shoals:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Discussion: County Attorney Daniel Haygood explained the discussion between the City of North High Shoals and the county in abandoning the portion of Hillsboro Road in the city limits. Since the last discussion, North High Shoals Council has met and voted by Resolution to accept this portion of road if abandoned by the Board. The recommendation is for the Board to declare that it is in the best interest of the public to abandon this road so that it can become the property of North High Shoals.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss Ground Lease Agreements with Prime Tower Development to Allow a 199' Cell Tower at 1030 Rankin Road (Butler's Crossing Collection Site) and 3500 Hog Mountain Road (Oconee Veteran's Park):

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Discussion: The county has received significant concerns about cell service deficiencies in the county. Prime Tower Development would like to lease property at the Rankin Road Collection Site and OVP to place 199' telecommunication towers for additional coverage. The request is to approve these lease agreements of \$17,400 annually for each tower. The Board will hear this request again at the December 5, 2023 Regular meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss the Annexation of the Thomas Property to the City of Watkinsville:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney

Discussion: County Attorney Daniel Haygood explained the City of Watkinsville has taken action to annex the approximately twenty acres of the recently purchased Thomas Property that is not in the city limits. The City of Watkinsville has notified the County of this request. Mr. Haygood states all is in order on this request.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss 2024 Alcohol License Renewal Applications:

Presented by: Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

Discussion: Alcohol License Renewals received for 2024 include nineteen for grocery and convenience stores; twenty-four renewals for restaurants; and twelve renewals for wholesale sales for a total of fifty-five renewals. Applications are complete and applicable fees have been submitted. One application (Trader Joe's) is pending updated RASS training of their registered agent, so that request for renewal is contingent upon that training being completed. Request for approval to issue 2024 Alcohol Licenses to these businesses.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss the Board of Commissioner's Meeting Schedule for 2024:

Presented by: Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

Discussion: County Clerk Holly Stephenson requests approval of the proposed 2024 meeting schedule to include the State of the County and Town Hall Meetings.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discussion of the Board of Commissioner's Vice-Chairman Schedule for 2024-2027:

Presented by: Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

Discussion: County Clerk Holly Stephenson requests approval of the proposed Vice-Chairman schedule for 2024-2027.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Executive Session:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters, and litigation.

Second: Mark Thomas

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Adjourn into Executive Session: 6:24 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Executive Session Adjourned: 7:18 p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn back into Regular Session.
Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Adjourned into Regular Session: 7:19 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Meeting Adjourned: 7:19 p.m.

John Daniell, Chairman

Date

Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

Date