

August 6, 2024

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Walton County Courthouse. Those participating in the meeting included Chairman David Thompson, Commissioners Bo Warren, Mark Banks, Timmy Shelnett, Lee Bradford, Jeremy Adams and Kirklyn Dixon, County Clerk Rhonda Hawk, County Manager John Ward, Finance Director Milton Cronheim, Planning Director Charna Parker and County Attorney Chip Ferguson. A list of employees and citizens in attendance at the meeting is on file in the auxiliary file under this meeting date.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

The Board recognized the Walton County 4-H BB, Air Rifle, Shotgun and Archery Teams for their accomplishments at State and National Championships.

County Manager John Ward presented retirement plaques to Sherrie Beall and Milton Cronheim thanking them for their years of service.

## **MEETING OPENING**

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Shelnett gave the invocation.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

***Motion:** Commissioner Shelnett made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to adopt the agenda. All voted in favor.*

## **PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Planning Director Charna Parker presented the Planning Commission recommendations.

Approval with Conditions Z2405002 - Rezone 1.25 acres from A2 to B1 for indoor sports training - Applicant: Justin Pannell/Owner: Runelle G Laseter (Deceased) - Property located on Gratis Rd./Map/Parcels C1230006A00 - District 6

*Recommended Conditions: Fencing, plant Leyland Cypress, all lighting be directed downward and to meet with nearby residents.*

Chairman Thompson opened the public hearing on the matter. Applicant Justin Pannell spoke in favor of the rezone. He stated he had no problems with the Planning Commission recommendations and had met with the nearby residents who requested signage. There was no opposition present. Chairman Thompson closed the public hearing.

***Motion:** Commissioner Dixon made a motion to approve with the Planning Commission*

*recommendations of fencing, planting Leyland Cypress, lighting to be directed downward and signage requested by the nearby residents. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. All voted in favor.*

Approval with Conditions Z24050015 - Rezone 3.99 acres from A1 to A2 to create a buildable lot - Applicant/Owner: Joshua Thomas Parker - Property located at 1691 Dry Pond Rd./Map/Parcels C1200166 - District 5

*Recommended Conditions: Only Megan Ross or her parents are eligible to apply for a permit.*

Chairman Thompson opened the public hearing on the matter. The applicant was not present to speak. Larry Thompson spoke in favor of the rezone. There was no opposition present. Chairman Thompson closed the public hearing on the matter.

**Motion:** *Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the rezone with no conditions. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.*

Approval of LU24050017 and Z24050018 - Land Use Change from Village Center to Hwy. Corridor and Rezone 5.13 acres from A2 to M1 for outdoor storage of commercial vehicles - Applicant: Lee St. Germain/Owner: Red Sea Transportation LLC - Property located on Hwy. 81/Map/Parcel C0510209 - District 3

Chairman Thompson opened the public hearing on the matter. Applicant Lee St. Germain spoke in favor. There was no opposition present. Chairman Thompson closed the public hearing.

**Motion:** *Commissioner Shelnutt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Banks to approve the land use change and rezone. All voted in favor.*

Denial of LU24050020 and Z24050021 - Land Use Change from Rural Residential/Agriculture to Suburban and Rezone 39.82 acres from A1/R1 to R1OSC for a residential subdivision - Applicant: Adam Ewing/Owners: Jeffrey Bell and Joe Harrison - Property located on Hwy. 78/Locklin Rd./Map/Parcels C1780012X00 and 12Y00 - District 4

Planning Director Charna Parker stated that the applicant had requested that the matter be tabled to allow time to explore options with the community.

**Motion:** *Commissioner Bradford made a motion to approve the request to table. Commissioner Shelnutt seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.*

## **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Acceptance of Right of Way for the following subdivisions: Alcovy Springs, Pinewood Estates, River Station, Woodland Hills Phase 2, The Preserve at Good Hope Phase 2, Lake Varner Landing, Stillwater Springs Phase 1, Stillwater Springs Phase 2, A. B. Martin Estates, Red Oak Ridge Phase 2, Red Oak Ridge Phase 3, and Hawks Crossing.

**Motion:** *Commissioner Adams made a motion to accept the right of way on the named*

subdivisions. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of July 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes
2. Contracts & Budgeted Purchases of \$25000 or Greater
3. Declaration of Surplus
4. Maulding & Jenkins – Engagement Letter
5. Acceptance of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Message Board Grant - EMA
6. Acceptance of Walton County Health Care Foundation Grant – Parks & Recreation – Gym Equipment
7. Contribution Agreement – Georgia Association of Conservation Districts

**Motion:** Commissioner Adams made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shelnett, to approve the Administrative Consent Agenda. All voted in favor.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Finance Director Milton Cronheim presented the following Resolutions:

### Resolution - Adoption of 2024 Millage Rates for Walton County

**Motion:** Commissioner Warren made a motion to adopt the 2024 county-wide millage rate of 10.413, and a fire district millage of 02.100. Commissioner Banks seconded the motion. Chairman Thompson, Commissioners Warren, Banks, Shelnett, Adams and Dixon voted in favor with Commissioner Bradford opposing the motion. The motion carried 6-1.

### Resolution - Adoption of 2024 Millage Rate - Walton Co. Board of Education

**Motion:** Commissioner Adams made a motion to adopt the 2024 Millage Rate of 16.176 for maintenance and operations and a millage rate of .790 for debt service for the Walton County Board of Education. Commissioner Shelnett seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### Joint Development Authority

**Motion:** Chairman Thompson made a motion to re-appoint Mike Owens to the Joint Development Authority. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

### Voting Delegate - ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference

**Motion:** Chairman Thompson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Banks to appoint Commissioner Warren as voting delegate for the upcoming ACCG Legislative Conference. Chairman Thompson, Commissioners Banks, Shelnett, Bradford, Adams and Dixon voted in favor with Commissioner Warren recusing himself. The motion carried 6-1.

## **DISCUSSION**

### County Manager's Report/Update

County Manager John Ward introduced Gretchen Thurmond as the new Assistant Purchasing Director and gave a report and update on county matters to the Board.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***Motion:** At 7:01 p.m., Commissioner Shelnett made a motion to reenter into Executive Session to continue discussion on a personnel issue. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion and all voted in favor. There were no votes taken in Executive Session.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion:** Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.*

All documents of record for this meeting are on file in either the addendum book or auxiliary file under this meeting date.

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DAVID G. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN

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RHONDA HAWK, COUNTY CLERK