

JANUARY 11, 2021

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BEFORE THE MEETING, CLERK BISHOP SWORE IN ALL 9 JUSTICES FOR THE TERM OF JANUARY 1, 2021 THRU DECEMBER 31, 2022.

THE FULTON COUNTY REGULAR QUORUM COURT MEETING WAS HELD AT THE FULTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS MILLER-HICKINBOTHAM BUILDING. THE MEETING OPENED WITH PLEDGE AND SILENT PRAYER.

ROLL CALL BY THE CLERK WITH ALL 9 JUSTICES PRESENT.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT ELLIOTT AND SECONDED BY JOANNA DEFOE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 9 YEAS.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROGER KINDER AND SECONDED BY ROBERT ELLIOTT TO APPROVE THE CLERK'S REPORT. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 9 YEAS.

TREASURER ABNEY GAVE MONTHLY REPORT AS WELL AS OVERALL TURNBACK FOR 2020 GENERAL WAS DOWN 14%, ROAD 1%, AND LOCAL SALE TAX WAS UP 13%. A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY PHILLIPS AND SECONDED BY JACKIE PRIVETT TO ACCEPT THE TREASURE'S REPORT. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 9 YEAS.

IN OLD BUSINESS, JUDGE STATED WAS ALLOCATING CORONAVIRUS FUNDING. HE STATED WE APPLIED FOR A GRANT AND HAVE RECEIVED \$545,254.05. ONE PROJECT IS A COURTROOM. THERE HAS BEEN DISCUSSION ON RENOVATING THE OLD NURSING HOME. WE HAVE A PRELIMINARY MEETING NEXT WEEK WITH AN ARCHITECT TO SEE IF THAT IS FEASIBLE. JUDGE PROPOSES TO USE THE BULK OF THE MONEY FOR THAT. HE HAS CLEARED THAT WITH THE STATE CARES ACT COMMITTEE. THEY HAVE ENCOURAGED THE COUNTIES WHO RECEIVED MONEY IF THE APPLICATION WAS FILED PROPERLY TO USE IT FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS. JUDGE STATED THE PREVIOUS QUORUM COURT PASSED A RESOLUTION WITH CONTRACT THAT THE FULTON COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION BE PAID \$74,000 TO ASSIST THEM DUE TO LOST REVENUE. JUDGE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SMALL CONTRIBUTION TO EACH FOOD BANK IN FULTON COUNTY AND THE BACKPACK PROGRAM IN SALEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500 EACH. JUDGE STATED A CONTRACT AND RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE PASSED FOR THE MONEY TO BE SPENT. JUDGE ASKED IF THE JUSTICES WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED, OR IF ANYONE HAD ANY COMMENTS. SENIOR CITIZENS AND EMERGENCY RADIO SYSTEM WERE OTHER SUGGESTIONS. THERE WAS MORE DISCUSSION ON THE COURTROOM. JUDGE SAID THE ARCHITECT MEETING WILL BE AT 1 O'CLOCK PM ON JANUARY 20TH IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO COME, AND HE WOULD HAVE MORE INFORMATION AFTER THE MEETING.

JUDGE GAVE UPDATE ON THE MARIJUANA DISPENSARY THAT HE HAD SIGNED THE ANNEXATION AND THE CITY OF HARDY IS CURRENTLY IN THE 30 DAY WAITING PERIOD, SO BASICALLY THAT PROJECT IS COMPLETED.

JUDGE SAID SOME MEMBERS HAD ASKED ABOUT MOVING THE DATE AND TIME OF THE MEETINGS. JUDGE THOUGHT GIVING AN EXTRA WEEK WOULD HELP TO GET THE PACKETS OUT TO THE JUSTICES IN A TIMELIER MANNER. AFTER DISCUSSION, A MOTION WAS MADE BY JACKIE PRIVETT AND SECONDED BY JOANNA DEFOE TO CHANGE THE REGULAR MEETING DATE TO THE THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6 P.M. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 9 YEAS.

SHERIFF ROORK ADDRESSED THE COURT STATING HOW THE CURRENT PERSONNEL POLICY IS NOT APPLICABLE FOR A 24 HOUR JAIL FACILITY. SHERIFF WENT INTO LENGTHY DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW IT IS HARD TO KEEP QUALIFIED HIGHLY TRAINED PERSONNEL, AND HE GAVE SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW STRESSFUL THE JOB IS AS JAILER/DISPATCH. HE HAD 5 INDIVIDUALS HE WAS ASKING AN INCREASE IN THEIR SALARIES. SB WAS FIRED OVER A TIME SHEET DISCREPANCY THAT MAY OR MAY HAVE NOT BEEN HER FAULT BUT HAS REHIRED HER BACK. SHERIFF IS REQUESTING HER EXTRA 50 CENTS AND VACATION TIME BE REINSTATED. THIS WOULD COME FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND. SHERIFF REQUESTING TWO EMPLOYEES ON THE DAY SHIFT (JAILER/DISPATCH) AND HE HAS ADDED ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES (TACT) FOR LD AND MG GET AN ADDITIONAL \$1.00 AN HOUR RAISE EACH. LD WOULD COME FROM 911 FUND, AND MG FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND. SHERIFF STATED BL IS THE ONLY PERSON QUALIFIED TO INSTRUCT/TEACH 911. HE IS ASKING BL TO GET AN ADDITIONAL \$1.00 AN HOUR RAISE. BL WOULD COME FROM THE 911 FUND. SHERIFF STATED HE HAD PROMISED NOT TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR HIS DEPUTIES, BUT SOMETHING HAS COME UP. SHERIFF CREATED A LIEUTENANT POSITION AND JS IS NOW IN THAT POSITION LIEUTENANT. SHERIFF STATED HE SHOULD NOT BE MAKING LESS THAN THE SERGEANT. SHERIFF IS REQUESTING JS SALARY BE RAISED FROM \$32,067 TO \$35,000. THIS WOULD COME FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE PERSONNEL POLICY, SHERIFF ROORK ALSO STATED THERE HAS TO BE A SEPARATE PERSONNEL POLICY FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. CLERK BISHOP STATED A LIST OF ALL EMPLOYEES AND A COPY OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY WILL BE HANDED OUT AT THE NEXT MEETING. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JACKIE PRIVETT AND SECONDED BY GARY PHILLIPS TO APPROVE THE SHERIFF'S RAISE REQUESTS WITH THE APPROPRIATION AMOUNTS TO BE FURNISHED AT THE NEXT MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 8 YEAS 1 NO. JUSTICE KINDER VOTING NO.

SHERIFF HAD A DRUG CONTROL FUND REQUEST ON THE AGENDA, BUT AFTER SOME RESEARCH DECLINED THE REQUEST.

SHERIFF STATED WHEN HE LEFT THE CHIEF DEPUTY JOB TO SHERIFF, HE DID NOT REALIZE HE WAS ENTITLED TO VACATION AND SICK LEAVE PAY. A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY PHILLIPS AND SECONDED BY JACKIE PRIVETT TO APPROPRIATE \$4,113.74 COUNTY GENERAL SHERIFF SALARIES \$3,821.40/SS MATCH \$292.34. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 9 YEAS.

JUDGE INFORMED THE JUSTICES THE COURTHOUSE HAS BEEN CLOSED AGAIN TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO FULTON COUNTY BEING IN THE RED ZONE ON COVID CASES. EVERYBODY IS STILL WORKING AND ALL THE OFFICES ARE OPEN. THEY CAN BE CONTACTED BY PHONE OR APPOINTMENT.

JUDGE STATED THE FINAL TAX SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN COMPLETED, AND IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT TO COME BY HIS OFFICE AND COPY WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR THEM.

JUDGE INFORMED JUSTICES THAT IN REGARD TO STATE AID FUNDING FOR ROAD WORK, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO A SMALL PROJECT THIS YEAR TO UTILIZE THE MONEY WE HAVE ACCUMULATED IN OUR STATE AID ACCOUNT WHICH IS APPROX \$400,000. IN THE PAST, THEY HAVE USED THE MONEY TO RESURFACE THE ASPHALT ROADS. STATE AID PERSON IS TO BE HERE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, AND WE WILL SEE HOW MANY MILES WE WILL BE ABLE TO DO. THE WORST ROADS ARE THE LOWER END OF THE HEART ROAD AND THE UPPER END OF THE STURKIE ROAD. SOME OF THE MONEY IS ALLOCATED TO THE SPRING RIVER BRIDGE (HUMPHREY'S FORD BRIDGE). WE HAVE TO OBLIGATE WHAT WE HAVE LEFT BY JUNE 30TH OR WE LOSE IT.

JUDGE STATED HE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE STATE REGARDING THE SPRING RIVER BRIDGE (HUMPHREY'S FORD BRIDGE) PROJECT, AND THEY HAVE BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE RAILROAD. THE STATE HAVE PUT IT ON THE ADVERTISING DOCKET FOR FEBRUARY.

JUDGE STATED ON THE BOGGY POINT PROJECT HE HAS A MEETING WITH THE ENGINEER IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO TO GET THAT PROJECT ROLLING. THE DEADLINE IS JUNE 30TH.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY PHILLIPS AND SECONDED BY JACKIE PRIVETT TO APPOINT JUSTICE MARGE ROGERS AS THE FULTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT DELEGATE. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 9 YEAS.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY PHILLIPS TO STRIKE FROM THE PERSONNEL POLICY EFFECTIVE 01/01/2017, BASE SALARY FOR THE COUNTY GENERAL AND COUNTY ROAD WILL BE \$8.50 PER HOUR. EFFECTIVE 1/1/2010, DEPUTY SHERIFF STARTING SALARY WILL BE \$18, 500 FOR UNCERTIFIED AND \$19,000 FOR CERTIFIED. THIS CAUSES MOST TROUBLE FOR OUR JUDGE AND SHERIFF AS FAR AS RESTRICTING TO HIRING AND GIVING RAISES. IF THESE TWO ARE ELIMINATED IT WILL GIVE THE BUDGET MORE FREEDOM TO HIRE AND GIVE RAISES TO HELP KEEP QUALITY EMPLOYEES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JACKIE PRIVETT AND AFTER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 9 YEAS.

JUSTICE DEFOE ASKED IF A COMMITTEE COULD BE PUT TOGETHER TO UPDATE THE PERSONNEL POLICY. JUDGE REPLIED THAT WOULD BE QUIET AN UNDERTAKING, BUT LET'S GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. PERHAPS, WE CAN APPOINT SOME JUSTICES, OFFICIALS, AND COUNTY EMPLOYEES FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

KSAR RADIO REPORTER STATED TO THE JUSTICES THAT IT IS SO DIFFICULT TO HEAR WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE MEETINGS. HE ASKED IF THEY WOULD TAKE A LOOK AT A GOOD SOUND SYSTEM. JUDGE STATED HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT.

JUSTICE KINDER ADDRESSED THE COURT REGARDING SOME HEALTH ISSUES HE IS HAVING.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CRIS NEWBERRY AND SECONDED BY JACKIE PRIVETT TO APPROVE THE ABOVE APPROPRIATIONS ON ORDINANCE 2021-01. THE MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL 9 YEAS. (ORDINANCE 2020-01) (TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$4,311.74)

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY PHILLIPS AND SECONDED BY ROBERT ELLIOTT TO ADJOURN AT 8:22 P.M. THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE 9 YEAS.

ATTEST: Vickie Bishop
VICKIE BISHOP, CLERK