

**MILLER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION MEETING
05/10/2021, 6:00 P.M., Courthouse Courtroom
MINUTES**

Present: Chairman Kreg Freeman, Vice-Chairman Ladon Calhoun, Commissioner Nicole Nixon, Commissioner Cristene Edwards.

Others Present: Sherrie Stewart, Faye Whittaker, Cody Hamilton, Doug Cofty, Whitney Butler, Sheriff Richard Morgan, Gail Johnson, Jennifer Jackson.

Chairman K Freeman called the meeting to order.

Chairman K Freeman asked for a moment of silence.

Chairman K Freeman led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Housekeeping

- Approval of Agenda-Chairman K Freeman made a motion for Paul Fryer to be added to Appearances and the Payroll Agreement to be added to New Business on the agenda. Vice-Chairman L Calhoun made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner C Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Approval of Minutes identified as Regular Session 04/12/2021-Chairman K Freeman asked for a motion to approve the minutes for Regular Session 04/12/2021. Chairman C Edwards Vice-Chairman L Calhoun made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Nicole Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Sherrie Stewart/County Clerk announced that the Special Called Meeting at 5:30 on 4/12/2021 was postponed due to Linda Westberry from USDA not able to come. Meeting was postponed to Friday, April 16, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. at the Courthouse Annex.
- There were items added to the agenda, which included, the Fueling Station, Animals in the Courthouse, Advanced Disposal, and Letters from Franklin Spring Creek Ford. Commissioner A Worsley made a motion to approve. Commissioner C Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Financials

- Approval of Accounts Payable-Chairman K Freeman asked for a motion to approve the accounts payable. Commissioner N Nixon made a motion to approve the accounts payable. Commissioner C Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Approval of Financial Reports-Chairman K Freeman asked for a motion to approve the financial reports. Commissioner A Worsley made a motion to approve financial reports. Vice-Chairman L Calhoun seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Appearances

- Suzanne Angell and Barbara Reddick appeared before the board to present the AARP Regional Age-Friendly Pilot. The pilot program will benefit the citizens of Miller County of all ages. S Angell and B Reddick

asked the board to approve and sign the Age Friendly Region Designation Resolution. Commissioner A Worsley made a motion to approve and sign. Commissioner C Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Angie Carter from Survival Flight appeared before the board to present the pros of being a member of the Survival Flight plan and its cost. No action taken.
- Doug Cofty/EMS Director appeared before the board to discuss his desire to switch billing companies. The new billing company promised to increase the EMS revenue and be more responsive. Board agreed to look over the contract. No action taken.
D Cofty reported that he has been contacted by Early and Seminole counties about the possibility of partnering with Miller County EMS and setting up a regional EMS service. D Cofty will meet with the counties and gather more information and report back to the board. No action taken.
- Brad Bell/Recreation Director appeared before the board to recommend Bruce Martinez for contract labor for the Recreation department. Commissioner C Edwards and Commissioner A Worsley asked if this was a position that should be ran in the paper. B Bell stated that he needed help now because it was just him right now working at the ball field. Chairman K Freeman recommended to hire B Martinez. Vice-Chairman L Calhoun made a motion to hire Bruce Martinez. Commissioner N Nixon seconded. Commissioners C Edwards and A Worsley abstained from voting. Motion carried.
- Paul Fryer/Congressional Staffer from Rep. Sanford Bishop's office appeared before the board to explain the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. P Fryer said that a manual will be sent to the county in the near future describing in detail how monies can be spent. No action taken.
- Steve Houston appeared before the board to make a complaint about water drainage on Grimsley Bridge Road and Hwy. 91. John Trawick was in attendance and stated that he would try to rectify the problem with S Houston. No action taken. Sam Miller also made a complaint about water drainage on Avenue Road. Stated that it was impossible to get to St. Mary's Church when Avenue Road was flooded with water. Stated that an irrigation system filled the road with water also. Chairman K Freeman asked S Miller if he would be willing to speak to the owner of the irrigation system and ask him to turn off the end guns of the irrigation system. S Miller agreed to do so. No action taken at this time.
- Andy Moore/Road Superintendent appeared before the board to discuss paving of Belview Road and the thickness of the asphalt desired by the county and the cost. The board asked A Moore to get exact cost and report back to the board. No action taken.

Old Business

- REM Tax Foreclosure Resolution was discussed and Chairman K Freeman stated that William H. Mills, the county attorney, said that the resolution was good. Commissioner A Worsley made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner C Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.
- Updates on the fueling station were presented. No action taken.

New Business

- A new checking account for the purpose of depositing the loan money for the purchase of new county vehicles for the BOC office, EMS department, Sheriff's office, the Road department and the Recreation department, with the USDA Grant. Commissioner A Worsley made a motion to approve. Commissioner C Edwards seconded.
- Road Department tractor bids on three tractors were opened by Chairman K Freeman and discussed by the board. It was decided that the county would get a better deal by trading in the three tractors instead. Andy Moore will get more information on the trade and report back to the board. No action taken.
- Bids for trimming the tree on the courthouse grounds were opened by Chairman K Freeman. The board discussed the bids and the need for the broken limbs to be trimmed before the Mayhaw Festival on April 17, 2021. Commissioner C Edwards asked Leroy Bush if he had put a bid in. Leroy Bush answered that he had and said that he could trim it the next day. Commissioner C Edwards suggested that the board accept Leroy Bush's bid. Leroy Bush's bid was not the lowest bid and Chairman K Freeman said he would vote for him if he lowered his bid to match the lowest bid. Leroy Bush refused to lower his bid. Commissioner N Nixon asked Jaymie Smith, an advisor on the Chamber Board, what the Chamber of Commerce main concern was. J Smith stated that they were concerned that broken tree limbs would fall on someone. Vice-Chairman L Calhoun suggested that the tree limbs should be trimmed before the festival and that the board would later discuss the possibility of cutting the tree down. Board decided to trim the tree for now. Chairman K Freeman brought up the fact that Leroy Bush being Commissioner C Edwards' brother was a conflict of interest. Commissioner C Edwards disagreed and stated that the board was usually concerned about keeping business in the county and this situation was no different. Commissioner A Worsley stated he had no problem with L Bush getting the bid. Commissioner N Nixon made the motion to accept Leroy Bush's bid to trim the tree on the courthouse grounds. Commissioner C Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Chairman K Freeman suggested that Faye Whittaker/Finance Director and Sherrie Stewart/County Clerk should run background checks for anyone applying for employment with the county, but not to include constitutional

officers departments. Vice-Chairman L Calhoun made a motion to approve. Commissioner C Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Margie Brown and Randy Brown seeking a waive of penalties on owed taxes on a mobile home in their possession. They were both in the hospital at the same time. Commissioner A Worsley made the motion to approve. Commissioner C Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- There was a complaint about a dog that was brought to work at the courthouse. There is nothing written in the county's policy and procedures. Faye Whittaker agreed to ask the lady if the dog is a service dog. No action taken.
- Commissioner A Worsley had concerns for our senior citizens being able to reach the tall roll-offs at the dump site. Chairman K Freeman asked Sherrie Stewart/County Clerk to contact Advanced Disposal and instruct them to swap two of our tall roll-offs for two lower ones. No action taken.
- The board agreed to give Franklin Spring Creek Ford a tax abatement starting at 50 percent and increasing 10 percent per year beginning in 2020. Commissioner A Worsley made a motion to approve. Commissioner N Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Commissioner A Worsley made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner C Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Department Heads, Board and Committee Reporting

- Road-L Calhoun/A Worsley-Andy Moore
- SGRITA Broadband Board-Doug Cofty/K Freeman
- Chamber of Commerce-Mandy Roland
- Family Collaborative Board-Sherrie Stewart
- Finance-L Calhoun/K Freeman
- E 911, Fire & EMS- Doug Cofty-K Freeman/N Nixon
- Tax Assessor-William Smith/Cody Hamilton
- Miller County Board of Health-Doug Cofty/Courtney Clanton
- Spring Creek Park-Steve Ard
- Hospital-K Freeman
- Personnel-K Freeman/N Nixon
- County Extension-C Powell
- ASPIRE-Darlene Cox
- GA Department of Behavior-Faye Whittaker
- Golden Triangle-Billy Roland/Andy Moore
- Golf Course-L Calhoun/N Nixon

MILLER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BY:

Kreg Freeman, Chairman

Sherrie Stewart, County Clerk

Ladon Calhoun, Vice-Chairman

Allen Worsley, Commissioner

Nicole Nixon, Commissioner

Cristene Edwards, Commissioner