

**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 questioned why the minutes were published in the Miller County Liberal (MCL) before they were approved by the board. Chairman K Freeman stated that they were a rough draft and that the county has to release them if someone requests them. Commissioner C Edwards stated that the minutes should not be picked over as to what is printed in the MCL. Commissioner C Edwards was referring to the vote on 04/12/2021 on the bid for the tree trimming on the courthouse grounds. Commissioner C Edwards said that the minutes did not include her declining to vote, which was followed up with a discussion on whether or not Commissioner C Edwards actually did decline from voting. She said that she only seconded the motion [to approve the bid from Slow 'N' Easy Contracting]. Commissioner C Edwards stated that the MCL needs to come into the meeting and record it and take notes themselves if they want to print it. And furthermore should not call the County Clerk to get the minutes until the minutes have been approved. Chairman K Freeman asked Commissioner C Edwards what she felt needed to be changed in the minutes from 04/12/2021 and what she felt was not accurate. Commissioner C Edwards stated that nothing needed to be changed, but that there was no mention in the paper of her declining to vote on the matter. Commissioner C Edwards stated that the County Clerk, Sherrie Stewart, the Chairman Kreg Freeman, and Wanda Griffin, Miller County Liberal Editor picked over the words to be printed in the MCL to make it sound the way they wanted it to sound. Chairman K Freeman also asked Vice-Chairman L Calhoun and Commissioner N Nixon if they felt that there were any errors in the minutes. Both responded no. Chairman K Freeman then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Vice-Chairman L Calhoun made the motion to approve the minutes of 04/12/2021. Commissioner N Nixon seconded. Chairman K Freeman voted yes to approve. Chairman K Freeman

asked Commissioner C Edwards if she was going to cast a vote. She replied no. County Clerk, S Stewart asked Commissioner C Edwards if she was abstaining. Commissioner C Edwards asked County Clerk, S Stewart if she was going to print the minutes accurately. S Stewart replied that she did and would print the minutes accurately. Commissioner C Edwards responded that she is abstaining from voting. Motion carried.

Financials

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

Appearances

- Doug Cofty/EMS Director reported that he hired two new full-time employees and he is having an EMT class soon and encouraged everyone to spread the word. The classes will be free. D Cofty gave an update on the fuel shortage situation. D Cofty stated that he spoke to J.E. Sharber and reported that Miller County should be alright on fuel and that Sharber would shut down the local fueling station to only the county employees if fuel got too low.
- Faye Whittaker/Finance Director updated the board on the GBI investigation on the check fraud on some checks owned by Miller County. F Whittaker stated that there had been rumors that it had been an inside job at the Commissioner's office, but the GBI reported that it was a state wide ring and the ones involved with the county's checks had been arrested. GBI said they would release an official statement when the case is closed.
- Gail Johnson/Clerk of Court presented a quote for the historical imaging and indexing of Miller County Clerk of Superior Court's historical deed records. G Johnson told the board that the quote was good for only ninety days. Topic was tabled and no action taken.

New Business

- Paul Fryer/Congressional Staffer/Rep. Sanford Bishop appeared before the board to announce that the American Rescue Plan Guide Book had been released to the counties. He stated that questions could be directed to him and he would get the answers for us. P Fryer also mentioned that Sheriff R Morgan, the E911 director in Decatur County, and himself had met to discuss the radio system and new tower that the previous sheriff of Miller County had started with a USDA Grant. P Fryer said he would try to get that grant started back up again. Chairman K Freeman expressed

concern that the grant might not cover EMS, fire, sheriff department, and E911 to all be updated. No action taken.

- Keith Bowen appeared before the board and stated that the Miller County GA Republican Party met on April 17, 2021 and unanimously voted to adopt a resolution to encourage the Miller County Commissioners to make Miller County a Second Amendment Resolution Sanctuary County. Sheriff Richard Morgan stated that he supports the resolution and that under no circumstances would he or his employees take any firearms from the citizens of Miller County. Chairman K Freeman asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner N Nixon made the motion. Commissioner C Edwards seconded. Chairman K Freeman and Vice-Chairman L Calhoun both voted in favor. Motion carried.
- The Southwest GA Regional Library System sent letters to Chairman K Freeman asking the board of commissioners to approve Dr. Debra Jones and Carlton Thomas as appointees to the Miller County Library Board for another term. Chairman K Freeman asked for a motion. Vice-Chairman L Calhoun made the motion. Commissioner C Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- The revised Payroll Agreement was presented for discussion. F Whittaker/Finance Director stated that all county offices being under one payroll system would make things more efficient, that ACCG said that Miller County is the only county in Georgia that has five payrolls, and the county auditor, Perry Henry, would like for the county to begin with the revised payroll agreement on July 1, 2021 as this would be the beginning of a new quarter. There was discussion on who would be funding a program if the constitutional officers decided to do their own payroll. No action taken.

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-Save 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