



Miller County Government
304 W. Pine Street
Colquitt, Georgia 39837
P: 229.758.4104 | F: 229.758.2229
Board of Commissioners



REGULAR SESSION MEETING
07/08/2024, 6:00 P.M., County Government Complex

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman Jeff Cox, Commissioner Niki Nixon, Commissioner Worsley. Others Present: Douglas Cofty, Faye Whittaker, Austin Lambert, Sheriff Holt, Claude Newsome and members of the Senior Center.

Chairman Calhoun called the meeting to order. Regular session 07/08/2024 and called for prayer then the pledge of allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING:

Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Calhoun stated we need to approve the Agenda, Anybody want to make a motion. Vice Chairman Cox made motion. Chairman Calhoun stated second? Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Calhoun asked has everybody looked at the minutes? If everybody thinks that the minutes are in order. I need a motion to approve them. Commissioner Nixon made motion, Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. (Commissioner Worsley abstain due t not being at the previous meeting)

Approval of Financial Report:

Chairman Calhoun stated Financial reports. They're long. All in order. I need a motion to approve the financial report. Vice Chairman Cox made motion. Chairman Calhoun stated second? Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

APPEARANCES:

Chairman Calhoun stated we do not have any appearances. Mr. Cofty stated we can move Mr. Claude up to appearances. Chairman Calhoun stated you want to go ahead and do it? Claude Newsome stated you want to go ahead and do it. Chairman Calhoun stated Yes, go ahead.

Mr. Newsome stated okay. You all have a copy of what I've come up with. It took me a long time to figure out this exactly. It's supposed to be. But what we're trying to do, you know, and I appreciate the county commission giving us a building to meet in. I appreciate that. I thank you all for that. But we haven't been able to generate any money. Both the title and the money, they won't donate to us. So, what we would want, or want to try to get, I asked you all if we could be put on a line item, like the golf course, and the library, and the park, and all that kind of stuff, where, we could receive money each month from the tax check. And this is what I come up with. Each of you got a copy of it. And like I say, these figures may not be exact. But just off the top of my head, this is the best I can come up with. We need a director to direct the down there. So, I've been working on this thing, what, three years? Maybe four. Close to four years. And I'm trying to get it going. But we don't have the money to pay anyone to do anything. So, it's, I mean, it's just, you know, Suzie does a good bit, and I do a good bit, and anybody else can do anything. But it's just sort of been hanging in the air. And we come up with this, and I didn't know if this would work or not. If you all can put it on the tax digest where we can receive some money. I tried to ask for grants, and they said the grants out there for equipment. You can get a grant for anything but pay somebody. And I mean, I haven't been able to find any grants or anything that would pay anybody to. But if I want to buy a computer, I can get a grant for a computer. I can get a grant for anything else but pay somebody. If I pay someone wages, I can't find, you know, I can't find anybody that can tell me what to do. And I'm not too good on the computer in no way. I just sort of play around on the computer. Commissioner Worsley stated well, maybe you need to buy some computers and have computer courses done. Mr. Newsome stated that's a good idea, but we've got to have the money first. Chairman Calhoun stated you've got to have somebody to direct it, don't you? Mr. Newsome stated you have to have a director. We need to direct somebody to carry on the programs, you know, to what the people at the center can expect to take place each day. Commissioner Worsley stated Doug, is all that legal to do this? Mr. Cofty stated You can put it on the line. Mr. Claude and I was talking about this. The county's already paying for about half of that already. The ACCG insurance will provide for the building, and we pay for the internet, the sewage, and the water. So, they would basically need the director's salary, the supplies, and the miscellaneous. But you can do that. What you'd have to do is, you'd have to hold public hearings. You'd have to have at least two public hearings for the public to come, and then you would vote on it. Commissioner Worsley stated well, I wouldn't have any problem with that whatsoever. Chairman Calhoun stated so, is that something we need to do at budget time, kind of? I mean. Mr. Cofty stated yeah, I mean, we need to go ahead, if you all want to proceed, you know, at least start holding the public hearings, and then we can go ahead. Mr. Newsome stated one other thing, I didn't know exactly what social security is. I put that at 7.8%. But, as I thought about it, if you issue it for 1099, you don't have to worry about that, right? We're going to do a contract. I got it at 1099. That

difference between me and Internal Revenue when I paid the taxes and social security. Chairman Calhoun asked do you all have somebody in mind if this was to? Mr. Newsome stated no, we don't have anybody in mind. Until we get sure that we're going to be able to pay them. I mean that's the thing. If we're sure we're going to pay it, then we can advertise by starting to question people about would you like to take this job on. Mr. Cofty stated if you all want start, we can start getting with Mr. Claude, we can actually really come down with the right numbers and then he'll present it because like to Faye said, we're not, we've still got some to do up here whenever we're near that. Ms. Whittaker stated we don't have the revenue, we're not going to have the revenue numbers for at least another 45 days. Chairman Calhoun stated 45, Commissioner Worsley stated I'll make a motion we will proceed to go ahead and get this thing started. Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Newsome stated one other thing, I didn't figure, I don't know all that much about it, but I didn't figure that anything could be done, probably to the new taxes. I didn't figure that anything could be done before. Chairman Calhoun stated so even if this all passed it would not take place until January 1st. Ms. Whittaker stated Yeah, but so it would, they would start getting money. Mr. Newsome stated that would be nice. Then we can start searching. We can start a search process to search for something. Chairman Calhoun stated well, that's what we're going to have to find out. Like Faye, like usually everything's got a where it goes, what account it goes in. Mr. Cofty stated so we just have to do something. I mean, we've got to figure out. Does the money come here and then we cut you a check. We just got to make sure. Chairman Calhoun asked do you all have a checking account or do you all have an account? Mr. Newsome stated they have a checking account set up, I've had a few people, a few people donated to the checking account. Chairman Calhoun stated we probably just have to talk to ACCG. Ms. Whittaker stated and you may have donated separately. You may have to keep the tax money separate. Yeah, so like if y'all got some donation money, you all might have to have two accounts like some might have to go in that and keep it separate than the tax money. We just got to find out the logistics of what all got to go. Mr. Newsome stated but you are saying that we can probably take off that Georgia power line? Mr. Cofty stated I wouldn't even do that because I mean, we're already doing it. I would just whatever you all need. I would just figure out the director's salary, the supplies, you know, the clean that I can provide the clean. I mean, we've got to build a person that can clean. Chairman Calhoun stated we need to figure out. Everything is going to that line. Your total is going to go down. We'll discuss this again I'm assuming. So, we need to have another meeting to tie up some of this at one of our budget workshops or? Mr. Newsome stated I assume that the job is to maintain the building and the equipment within the building like refrigerators and stuff. Mr. Cofty stated like we always do. Mr. Newsome stated well, you all figure it out if you all, if I need to meet. Vice Chairman Cox stated yes, Ms. Faye and Doug, will reach out and find out. Mr. Cofty stated we'll get with ACCG and find out about the, like, if we can do the building

insurance. Like I told you before, it's all up under a blanket coverage. Not one building has a specific amount. We pay \$219,000 a year for buildings. You see how much that can be. It's probably best if that's left under the county. That would eat up your budget. Chairman Calhoun stated if you 'all broke it out, it might be more. Mr. Cofty stated so we'll get with them and just figure out what can and can't. Mr. Newsome stated the main thing that we are interested in is a director, is to carry on the day-to-day activities. Chairman Calhoun stated we just got to see if we can do that. Ms. Whittaker stated maybe everything but the building insurance. Everything else can. Vice Chairman Cox stated Yeah, everything else can, sort of like the library. Ms. Whittaker stated yeah, the library gets their own. Chairman Calhoun stated but we don't own that building though, do we? Ms. Whittaker stated No, we don't. No, I'm not talking, I'm just talking about them, we don't see that money. Vice Chairman Cox stated it goes to them. Chairman Calhoun stated right it just goes to them every month. Mr. Newsome stated so what you're saying is you all approve it and it passes. The money would come through you all and then you all would. Mr. Cofty stated well, not necessarily. Chairman Calhoun stated we don't know, that's what we. We got to find out. We don't know exactly. We suspect it might be like the library. Where it just goes every month and it just goes to the library where it's collected. Mr. Newsome stated well, we already have a bank account and we can set up another if we have to. What you're saying is that the money you all get has to be in one account and anybody that donates has to be in another account. Chairman Calhoun stated possibly. Mr. Cofty stated I saw you had CPA. You're probably going to need to get a CPA to do the audits and stuff like that. Person in audience stated or if we don't, if it was. Better to not donate money and maybe not, no other things. Chairman Calhoun stated no, we just we don't know about comingling money. Well, that's what we just got. What accounts to where? Right, right, right. Person in audience stated can you get a plan up pretty soon? Mr. Cofty stated Yeah, I had to find one, figure out what the schedule is and see what days you all are open. Mr. Newsome stated right now we open five days a week. That's a good schedule. And we know we'll be open in July, five days a week now. . Chairman Calhoun stated what time do y'all leave up there generally? Person in audience stated well, it depends, and I'm the last one out the door, so. It depends on- Chairman Calhoun stated Two o'clock, three o'clock, four o'clock. Person in audience stated yeah, it varies, actually. Chairman Calhoun stated no later than five, though. Person in audience stated we're having activities now, thanks to Sheila and Leigh. So, we're having activities so there's people, you know, and they're staying for that. Chairman Calhoun stated so y'all up there from 10 to 4? Commissioner Worsley stated are you all liking it around there. Mr. Newsome stated yes, getting used to it. Chairman Calhoun stated yeah, let them do their research and then we'll reach out to you and see where we need to go. Person in the audience stated we really appreciate it. We really do. Chairman Calhoun stated that be alright? Person in the audience stated so does that mean that y'all aren't saying, yes, we will do this? Chairman Calhoun stated so we'll have to have hearings before we can do this. Mr. Cofty stated they voted to proceed with it. Chairman Calhoun stated we voted to proceed but we have to have hearings to add something. Mr. Cofty stated that's right. And at the end of it they'll vote to do it. You got to do it. It's I think it's been two weeks, you got to have two. Chairman Calhoun stated we got to advertise it in two weeks. Is that right? Mr. Newsome stated That's about all I've got. I'm just going to say I don't know if they want to say it or not. Person in the audience stated

Really do appreciate the job done. The building is smaller, but it's all right. At least we have a place to go. And we really appreciate it. Vice Chairman Cox stated we appreciate you all. Person in the audience stated you know what people need to remember is that everybody, if they have a chance to get old, gets older. And you may be there one day. Vice Chairman Cox stated I sure hope so. Commissioner Worsley stated all you have to do is keep living. Person in the audience stated I think you would like to be with people. There are people in this community that have nobody. So, this is an outlet for them. Right. And so that's one of the reasons that we want to do this. Mr. Newsome stated I'm going to have to sort of back out of here a little bit because my wife is getting more disabled than I ever think. And I may wind up staying home, so I'm going to have to sort of back out of here a little, bit. Chairman Calhoun stated well you do what you need to do, you got some good people around there and we will get back with you in a week or two. Ms. Whittaker stated we can but we will not have the revenue numbers for a while to be able to figure them out. Mr. Newsome stated Anytime he needs me to come over here or anything, I can read the text or call me or something. And I'll come if anybody needs me. Y'all need the gospel, I'll come. Person in audience asked is there anything we can do to promote it. Chairman Calhoun stated get out and tell people about it I would imagine. Vice Chairman Cox stated especially with a public hearing. Chairman Calhoun stated we are good if you all are good. Mr. Newsome stated they're good and we appreciate you all.

Chairman Calhoun stated old business, Fueling Center report

OLD BUSINESS

Fueling Center Report:

Mr. Cofty stated if you look at it, we were down a little bit because of the school being closed. But we still, above average, did have a few. Can we all be dismissed? Yeah, y'all go ahead. Yeah, yeah, we did have a few hiccups as far as the tank monitoring system and the battery died, so we had to replace them, but now we're back to where we need to be. Chairman Calhoun stated fueling tanks, nothing. You through with that? Mr. Cofty stated yes, sir.

DNR Shooting Range

Mr. Cofty stated so the ball is back in their court. If you look at the initial drawing with the side-by-side on it, that's what they came up with. And they were like, well, you know, we can't really find the 900-foot radius that we've got to have. But then I kind of threw it out there, well, what if we just moved the road a little bit? And that'll give us 900. They said, well, we were going to ask you that anyway. So, they're looking over that, the last drawing, and it's kind of got the shooting range superimposed on it. So that's what it could look like. Chairman Calhoun stated So what they're going to do is they're going to move this, so this road goes right by there. They're going to bend the road. Mr. Cofty stated you had to pull it back where the A in the highway is, back it down. I don't know how far it is, but you just back it down the road a little bit. Otherwise, that's what they're shooting at. But like I said, they've got several thousand acres that they're looking at on 91, but these are the two main ones that they sent over to me. Chairman Calhoun stated How long before they'll come back with the issue, like a month or so? Mr. Cofty stated yeah, probably. I

don't know if y'all know Brian Vickers. He's the local supervisor. He's now handling it. Chairman Calhoun stated Okay any questions on that? Alright. Moving on to new business. We did the Senior Center deal.

EMA Vehicle Financing

Let's move on to EMA vehicle financing. Mr. Cofty stated you just need to approve that. I sent out that text message and I responded back to go with the lowest, which was Peoples. We just need a formal vote on it. Chairman Calhoun stated so we just need a motion to go with Peoples Bank for the financing of the EMA vehicle. Mr. Cofty stated and then y'all just still need to decide what you're going to do with that truck. Vice Chairman Cox made motion, Commissioner Nixon seconded, all in favor. Motion carried. Commissioner Worsley stated on the old truck I spoke to Andy this morning, and he's got one that's going down, a black truck. And he can use that truck. Ms. Whittaker stated you all just need to decide it. Debbie had got to have the money for it to be able to afford the payments because she didn't get very much SPLOST. So, her getting the truck was all dependent on her being able to. Chairman Calhoun stated and how much did she want for it then. Ms. Whittaker stated \$20,000. Chairman Calhoun stated so he would have to pay \$20,000, not SPLOST. Commissioner Worsley out of TSPLOST or somewhere. It would cost you a whole lot more to get him another one. Chairman Calhoun stated you need to work on that. We need to make a motion to do it. Ms. Whittaker stated I need to work on that because I have to get with Perry and see how exactly. Chairman Calhoun stated I need a motion for favor. Do whatever she's got to do to transfer the truck. Do you need a motion to do something or do we need to. Ms. Whittaker stated I can just call Perry and find out. Chairman Calhoun stated Okay. So, you don't need a motion? Ms. Whittaker stated I do know she's going to have to have the money though if she can't. Chairman Calhoun stated yeah, well I knew she told me that. She told me about what she wanted for it. Commissioner Worsley stated while we are on Andy, Andy is sick as a dog, he is not going to be here tonight. Mr. Cofty stated he is sitting right behind you. Commissioner Worsley stated oh he came in. Chairman Calhoun stated You don't look that sick to me. Mr. Moore stated he had a cold and was trying to stay away from everybody.

SPLOST Percentages

Chairman Calhoun stated ok, now we're going to move to the percentages. Mr. Cofty stated at that budget workshop, this is what you all talked about with the sheriff. You all agreed at the workshop, but you can't vote at a workshop, so you'd have to need a vote to proceed. Chairman Calhoun stated so we need a motion to adopt all of this? That's right. I need a motion to adopt these SPLOST percentages. Commissioner Nixon made motion, Vice Chairman Cox seconded, all in favor. Motion carried.

Semi and Trailer

Chairman Calhoun stated All right. The semi and trailer. We need a formal vote. Mr. Cofty stated that is correct. That's correct. Chairman Calhoun stated So, we just need a motion?

Mr. Cofty stated motion and a vote. Chairman Calhoun stated I need a motion to adopt. For the semi and the trailer for the road department to come out of to come out of TSPLOST. Commissioner Worsley made motion. Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Cofty stated Andy it has been delivered. We have the truck. Does it run well? Mr. Moore stated yes but I'm going to drive again. Chairman Calhoun stated you got insurance on? Mr. Cofty stated Yeah, it's got it.

Beer and Wine Renewal

Chairman Calhoun stated we've got a beer and wine license renewal, for Kwik's place. I need a motion, to renew it. Commissioner Nixon made motion, Commissioner Worsley seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Library Board reappointment

Chairman Calhoun stated ok, Library board appoint. So, we need a motion to appoint Deborah Jones. Mr. Cofty stated she just wants to be reappointed. So, we just need a motion to reappoint Dr. Jones to the library board. Is that what it is? Mr. Cofty stated that's right. All right. We need a motion to reappoint Dr. Jones to a three-year term. Commissioner Nixon made motion, Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Mr. Cofty stated and then there's your normal department reports. The sheriff turned his in, so you all have his as well. It looks like you added one to it, too. Sheriff Holt stated We're doing some much. Mr. Cofty stated I see that. So y'all have those reports. That's about it. We did submit two RFPs today for debris cleanup. You remember Debbie was talking about that. So, we did submit that to the Georgia procurement site, so we're going to have a pre-bidding meeting on July the 18th to see who all is going to be interested in it so that has been done. We passed our GBI audit. Chairman Calhoun stated They do that every year, right? Mr. Cofty stated every two years. Mr. Cofty stated anything Andy? Chairman Calhoun stated Sheriff, anybody? Mr. Cofty stated No, other than the other line items that they were talking about. That's on Corey, and I'm going to let Corey come up with that. That's kind of me. Chairman Calhoun stated when we're going to do that. Mr. Cofty stated whenever he comes up with. Chairman Calhoun stated this month, it needs to be the end by the end of the month. Mr. Cofty stated I did want to say thanks for getting those fireworks because all I heard was that the best of this being in years. Chairman Calhoun stated I think it was a good crowd. Mr. Cofty stated yeah, it was a lot more than we thought. So, that turned out great. Vice Chairman Cox stated it was nice. Chairman Calhoun stated I've heard only positive. I hadn't heard anything negative. Mr. Cofty stated all we have to do is collect the money for them. Chairman Calhoun stated all I need are the invoices.

Executive Session

None

Chairman Calhoun stated All right if nothing else. We need a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Cox made motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

SIGNATURE PAGE:

Cristene Edwards, Commissioner – District 1

Jeff Cox, Commissioner – District 2

Allen Worsley, Chairman – District 3

Niki Nixon, Commissioner – District 4

Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman – District 5

Douglas Cofty, County Manager