

PUBLIC HEARING FOR CDBG FOR PEACH COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF BYRON AND FORT VALLEY JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – BROADBAND UPDATE

Peach County Board of Commissioners
4:00 p.m., Monday, February 8, 2021

The Peach County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing at 4:00 p.m., Monday, February 8, 2021, in the Commission Chambers at 213 Persons Street, Fort Valley, Georgia, to brief the community on the process to be used to develop amendments to the Joint Comprehensive Plan for Peach County and the Cities of Byron and Fort Valley, opportunities for participation, and to obtain input on the proposed planning process.

Greg Boike, Director of Public Administration, Middle Georgia Regional Commission officially opened the public hearing at 4:10 p.m. and welcomed those present.

Mr. Boike stated that the purpose of this hearing was to discuss the Broadband Plan Element, Timeline & Public Involvement, Goals of Broadband Element, and to answer any questions or comments.

Mr. Boike presented a presentation outlining the Comprehensive plan and why broadband is important. Mr. Boike asked participants to give input on what does good broadband mean to their community, family, and employment.

Mr. Chris Viles stated that currently where he lives, cellphones are out of range and he is unable to work virtually due to the lack of broadband services.

Ms. Heather Miller stated that is a teacher and due to the lack of internet in her community, she cannot conduct her classes virtually also her son has to go to her elderly parents house in order to complete his school work.

Mr. Timothy Lacoé stated that he lives on Camp John Hope Road, and currently there are AT&T fiber optics at the end of his driveway but he cannot get access to internet service. Commissioner Lewis responded to Mr. Lacoé that AT&T is going wireless, so extending fiber optic services has been shut down.

Commissioner Lewis advised that home resale values are decreasing in the County due to the lack of Broadband Services. Citizens look for internet access when seeking real estate, and with the lack of Broadband Services in Peach County, it is hard to attract people to move to Peach County. Mr. Lewis added that it is important that if additional Broadband services are provided within the County, and the service provided is affordable.

Mr. Boike explained that with Peach County seeking to receive Broadband Designation from the State of Georgia, it will make the County more competitive and available to receive grant funding from the state for Broadband Expansion. At the next meeting, the group will look over maps showing served and underserved areas, set priorities and develop an action plan.

After discussion, the next meeting date was set for March 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Public hearing adjourned at 4:46 p.m.



PEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2021

The Peach County Board of Commissioners held its Regular monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2021, in the Commissioners Meeting room located at 213 Persons Street Fort Valley, Georgia with all members in attendance except for Vice Chairman Hill and Commissioner Bryant who attended via Go-to-Meetings video conference platform. Chairman Moseley called the meeting to order, welcomed those present and Commissioner Roy Lewis opened the meeting with prayer.

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CONSENT AGENDA – February 2, 2021:

1. Pecan Lease Agreement Renewal – Newt Hiley: Peach County’s current Pecan Lease Agreement with Mr. Newt Hiley expired December 31, 2020. The lease stated that Mr. Hiley would provide land maintenance, spraying, mowing, limb removal, shaking, sweeping, harvesting, and cleaning to eleven plus acres of pecan trees located in the 10th Land District, Land Lot #3, formerly owned by Elsie Davis, containing 112 pecan trees, said property being located on Clint Howard Road. Mr. Hiley would retain ownership of all pecans harvested from the property and would pay the sum of \$750.00 annually to Peach County in return for said crop. Mr. Hiley has requested that the five (5) year contract be renewed for an additional five (5) years, which will begin January 1, 2021, and will expire on December 31, 2026, or until the 2026 pecan crop can be reasonably harvested.

ACTION REQUESTED: To approve the Pecan Lease Agreement Renewal with Mr. Newt Hiley as requested to begin January 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2026, or until the 2026 pecan crop can be reasonably harvested, and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement renewal on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. *(A copy of said Agreement is attached to Page 473, Minutes Book M, for future reference.)*

2. Contract Renewal - Joe Collins - Smyrna Church Road Borrow Pit: Wayne Smith, Public Works Director, has presented a renewal for the Smyrna Church Road Borrow Pit Contract Agreement between Peach County and Mr. Joe Collins. It is now the intention of The County to close the Smyrna Church Road Borrow Pit and The County agrees to pay the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) per month until the closure of the site is completed and EPD has certified the mining permit closed. Mr. Smith has recommended the Board’s approval of the Agreement renewal.

ACTION REQUESTED: To approve the Smyrna Church Road Borrow Pit Agreement Renewal between Peach County and Mr. Joe Collins for the period January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, at \$300 per month, and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement renewal on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. *(A copy of said Agreement renewal is attached to Page 472, Minutes Book M, for future reference.)*

3. Request to Purchase AA Communications Phone for Splash Pads: David Parrish, Parks and Recreation Director, is requesting authorization to purchase and install two (2) AA Communications Outdoor Emergency Phones – 911 Only Emergency Land Line Phone System – Weatherproof Call Box’s for Splash Pads.

ACTION REQUESTED: To approve the purchase of two (2) AA Communications Outdoor Emergency Phones – 911 Only Emergency Land Line Phone System – Weatherproof Call Box in the amount of \$279.99.

4. Crepe Myrtles on Highway 49: Commissioner Yoder stated that the Crepe Myrtles in the median on Highway 49 past Vinson Road must be removed to eliminate the safety hazard created by their overgrowth in anticipation of Peach County High School traffic.

ACTION REQUESTED: To approve the recommendation made by Commissioner Yoder to remove the Crepe Myrtles on Highway 49.

5. Request for Engineering Review and Plan Approval: Commissioner Lewis has requested an Engineering Review and Plan Approval sign off for the Fullwood Road project as a formality to keep the project moving.

ACTION REQUESTED: To the approve the request from Commissioner Lewis to Review Engineering and Approve Plans for the Fullwood Road Project, and to authorize the Chairman to sign plans on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

6. Request for Liability, Diversity and Communications Training: Commissioner Bryant requested approval for Liability, Diversity and Communications Training through the ACCG for all Peach County Commissioners, Department Heads, and Constitutional Officers if they desire to do so.

ACTION REQUESTED: To approve the Liability, Diversity and Communications Training recommendation for all Peach County Commissioners, Department Heads, and Constitutional Officers if they desire to do so.

7. COVID-19 Sick Leave Extension Policy: Michaela Jones, County Administrator, requested for the extension of the COVID-19 Sick Leave Policy for an additional two (2) months.

ACTION REQUESTED: To approve the request from Michaela Jones, County Administrator, for the extension of the COVID-19 Sick Leave Policy for an additional two (2) months, expiring April 30, 2021, to make leave retroactive from January 1, 2021, and that only COVID sick leave is given to an employee with a positive test result.

8. Budget Amendment – Engineering: Michaela Jones, County Administrator, has presented the following Budget Amendment from the Closeout Engineering Budget to Contingency.

<u>Budget Amendment - Closeout Engineering Budget - FY2021</u>			
100.1575.51.1100	From: Regular Employees	\$	99,893
100.1575.52.1290	From: Other Prof. Serv.	\$	3,500
100.1575.52.1320	From: Motor Vehicle Maintenance	\$	855
100.1575.52.2325	From: Contract Copier	\$	600
100.1575.52.3209	From: Telephone Long Distance	\$	20
100.1575.52.3210	From: Telephone Landline	\$	167
100.1575.52.3211	From: Telephone Cellphone	\$	650

100.1575.52.3250	From: Postage	\$ 431
100.1575.52.3300	From: Advertising	\$ 250
100.1575.52.3400	From: Printing & Binding	\$ 225
100.1575.52.3600	From: Dues and Fees	\$ 900
100.1575.52.3700	From: Edu. & Training	\$ 2,728
100.1575.53.1101	From: Office Supplies	\$ 695
100.1575.53.1110	From: Uniforms and Clothing	\$ 270
100.1575.53.1120	From: MV Maint. Supply	\$ 360
100.1575.53.1270	From: Energy Gasoline	\$ 686
100.1575.53.1400	From: Books & Periodicals	\$ 254
100.1575.53.1780	From: Supplies- Engineering	\$ 900
		<u>\$ 113,384</u>
100.1599.57.9000	To: Contingency	<u>\$ 113,384</u>

ACTION REQUESTED: To approve the above stated Budget Amendment as presented by Michaela Jones, County Administrator.

9. **Budget Amendment – Fire:** Janet Smith, Assistant Finance Director, has requested the following budget amendment to appropriate funding for the rental of a large dumpster, as follows:

<u>Budget Amendment - General Fund - FY2021- Fire</u>		
100.5.1599.57.9000	From: Contingency	\$ 400
100.3500.52.2320	To: Rental of Equipment	\$ 400

ACTION REQUESTED: To approve the above stated Budget Amendment as presented by Janet Smith, Assistant Finance Director.

10. **Budget Amendment – Office Supplies:** Janet Smith, Assistant Finance Director, has requested the following budget amendment to appropriate funding from Contingency to Office Supplies for the Cooperative Extension Service, as follows:

<u>Budget Amendment - General Fund - FY2021- County Agent</u>		
100.5.1599.57.9000	From: Contingency	\$ 399
100.3500.52.2320	To: Office Supplies	\$ 399

ACTION REQUESTED: To approve the above stated Budget Amendment as presented by Janet Smith, Assistant Finance Director.

11. **Georgia Fireworks Sales Tax Grant:** Jeff Doles, Fire Chief/EMA Director, is requesting permission to apply for the Georgia Fireworks Sales Tax Grant for a new fire hose. Mr. Doles stated that his plans are to request 30 lengths (50-foot) of 1 ¼ attack line, 30 lengths (50-foot) of 3-inch supply line and 15 (100-foot lengths) of 5-inch large diameter supply line once the Tax Grant is obtained.

ACTION REQUESTED: To approve the request for Jeff Doles, Fire Chief/EMA Director, to apply for the Georgia Fireworks Sales Tax Grant for a new fire hose.

12. **SAFER Grant Application - Fire Department:** Jeff Doles, Fire Chief/EMA Director, has presented a request to apply for the FY2021 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant through FEMA. If awarded, the grant will provide funding for a three (3) year period, to hire four (4) new firefighters, as follows:

- First and Second Year of the grant - 75 percent of the usual annual cost (including benefits and cost of annual physical) of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application is submitted.
- Third Year of the grant - 35 percent of the usual annual cost (including benefits and cost of annual physical) of a first-year firefighter in that department at the time the grant application is submitted.

Mr. Doles advised that applying for the SAFER Grant will address staffing and overtime concerns within the Fire Department. If the Board wishes to pursue this grant, a letter of request needs to be submitted to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to provide assistance in preparing the grant application.

ACTION REQUESTED: To approve Mr. Doles request to apply for the FY2021 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant through FEMA to provide funding for a three (3) year period, to hire four (4) new firefighters.

Commissioner Yoder moved to approve the Consent Agenda with a change to Item #4 – Correct spelling of Vinson Road and #6 – Offering training to Elected Officials if they desire to do so. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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AGENDA:

Commissioner Bryant moved to add under Appearances, Item #1 – Nathaniel Rayford – Solar Farm Concerns. Commissioner Lewis moved to add under Old Business, Item #7 – Smyrna Church Road Borrow Pit, Item #5 moved to Appearances, under New Business add Item #1 – Janet Smith – Assistant Finance Director – Budget Amendment – Elections and Item #2 – Janet Smith Assistant Finance Director – Budget Amendment – Library. Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting – January 19, 2021 – Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES:

Chairman Moseley welcomed Angela Tharpe from Peach County E911 to the meeting and announced E911's Peach County Hidden Figures presentation for Black History Month.

Ms. Tharpe stated that Peach County E911 wants to honor and pay tribute to past and present African American local leaders. Ms. Tharpe recognized Assistant County Administrator/County Clerk, April H. Hodges, as the inspiration behind the presentation and stated that Ms. Hodges encourages community and department involvement in the community.

Ms. Angela Tharpe introduced E911 Communications Officer, Latisa Sims and announced that she would be presenter of the Presentation. Ms. Sims thanked the Commissioners on behalf of E911 for giving her the opportunity to present. Ms. Sims announced that E911 would like to recognize the Hidden Figures of Peach County Public Safety.

Chairman Moseley stated that the Peach County community has so much to thank its African American leaders for and he is proud of Peach County's diverse leadership.

Ms. April Hodges, Program Manager and Ms. T'Umbia Ashman, Program Coordinator, for the Peach County Youth Commission Program, advised that the Program invests in young leaders of high school age while familiarizing the students with the function of local government. Ms. Ashman introduced the four (4) Youth Commissioners, Alyssa Lunsford, Alisa Horton, Keenon Solomon, and Andre' Thomas, who attended the meeting virtually.

Each Youth Commissioner introduced themselves to the Board and stated why they hoped to learn from being a part of the Youth Commission Program.

Chairman Moseley welcomed all students and expressed the importance of the Youth Commission Program and how beneficial it is to teach the Youth more about local government and challenging them to be more involved in their community.

Chairman Moseley introduced Mr. James Lasseter from the Peach County School District and presented a Proclamation honoring the month of February as Career Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) month in Peach County.

Mr. Lassiter advised that the purpose of the CTAE program is to get students prepared for life after graduation. Currently the CTAE program has courses designed to help students that want to be in professions such as Teachers, Healthcare, Sports and Medicine, Agriculture – Vet Science, Business Education, Banking, Insurance Automotive Technology. Each course has partnerships within the community to plug each student into the industry to be more hands on.

Chairman Moseley thanked Mr. Lassiter and the Peach County School System for their hard work and investing their time into this program. *(A copy of said Proclamation is attached to Page 472, Minutes Book M, for future reference.)*

APPEARANCES:

Commissioner Bryant introduced Mr. Nathaniel Rayford and advised the board that Mr. Rayford had concerns about the 100-acre solar plant being built near his house. Mr. Rayford explained that he and his

family have been residents of Peach County for many years and he has several ecological concerns regarding the solar plant interfering with his family's work in agriculture.

Rickey Blalock, Planning and Zoning Director, advised that the 100 acres of land belongs to Fort Valley State University and that Peach County Planning and Zoning is not privy to any activity with University property. Any concerns with University property would have to go through the Board of Regents.

Vice-Chairman Hill stated that she was not aware that Fort Valley State University property was located nearby Mr. Rayford's area. Vice-Chairman Hill questioned if the property was for a fact owned by the University. Mr. Rickey Blalock advised that according to the Tax Commissioner's website, the property was owned by Fort Valley State University.

Chairman Moseley stated that from what he understands, the solar farm project is a partnership/lease agreement between Fort Valley State University and Georgia Power.

After further discussion, Commissioner Bryant moved to send a letter to Georgia state representatives bringing the community concerns to their attention. Vice-Chairman Hill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

W.L. Brown, Tax Commissioner, presented a Resolution to Conduct Judicial Tax Sales. Mr. Brown advised that Judicial Tax Sales serve as a vehicle through which taxes can be collected that may not be collected otherwise as well as dissolve issues with their property.

Commissioner Bryant expressed her concern with establishing a Resolution based on one property that has the potential to affect other properties in the future. Ms. Bryant advised that the board needs to make sure they are keeping Checks and Balances as a priority.

After further discussion with Mr. Jeff Liipfert, County Attorney, Commissioner Lewis moved to give W.L. Brown, Tax Commissioner, authority to conduct Judicial Tax Sales on properties when necessary. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The motion carried three to two with Vice-Chairman Hill and Commissioner Bryant opposing.

David Parrish, Parks and Recreation Director, provided an update regarding the North Peach Park pavilion. Mr. Parrish presented the following quotes for the new pavilion to be built at North Peach Park:

Vendor	Concrete	Kit Build	Total
W-R Properties and Landscaping, Inc.	\$9,300.00	\$8,800.00	\$18,100.00
Prime Construction Resources, LLC.	\$14,232.00	\$13,200.00	\$27,432.00
S&S Builders, Inc.	\$12,000.00	\$9,500.00	\$21,500.00
Sam Hall & Sons, Inc.			\$35,660.00

Mr. Parrish stated that the kit for the North Peach Park Pavilion was previously purchased for \$17,510.00. Mr. Parrish advised that he recommends going with the proposal from W-R Properties and Landscaping, Inc. due to the company's success with previous projects for Peach County. Vice-Chairman Hill moved to approve the proposal from W-R Properties and Landscaping, Inc. as recommended by Mr. Parrish in the amount of \$18,100.00. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Michaela Jones, County Administrator, presented a Tax Levy Resolution for the Peach County Board of Education for General Obligation School Bonds – Series 2021 – on behalf of Mr. Cory Kirby of the Peach County School District. Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the Tax Levy Resolution presented by Ms. Michaela Jones. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Doles, Fire Chief/EMA Director, presented a proposed site plan from Triple Point Engineering for the Peach County Fire Station #7 in the amount of \$19,150.00. Vice-Chairman Hill moved to accept the recommendation from Chief Doles for the proposed site plan from Triple Point Engineering. Commissioner Bryant seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Daniel Garcia-Flores, Purchasing Manager, presented the following request for a budget amendment to appropriate funding to purchase two (2) tractors under state contract from the Perry or Milledgeville Kubota Dealership for the Public Works department.

Budget Transfer - General Fund - FY2021 - Public Works

100.1599.57.9000	From: Contingency	\$ 97,080
100.4220.54.2500	To: Other Equipment	\$ 97,080

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the above stated budget amendment to purchase two (2) tractors under state contract from the Perry or Milledgeville Kubota Dealership for the Public Works Department. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Michaela Jones, County Administrator, presented a contract for the Smyrna Church Road Borrow Pit project. The contract serves as a change order to complete the project. Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the presented contract for the Smyrna Church Road Borrow Pit project. Vice-Chairman Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Janet Smith, Assistant Finance Director, presented the following budget amendment for Elections, to transfer funds from Contract Labor to Travel and from Computer Service Maintenance to Postage:

Budget Transfer - General Fund - FY2021 - Elections

5.1400.52.3850	From: Contract Labor	\$ 350
5.1400.52.1310	From: Computer Service Maintenance	\$ 600
		<u>\$ 950</u>
5.1400.53.1600	To: Travel	\$ 350
5.1400.52.3250	To: Postage	\$ 600
		<u>\$ 950</u>

Commissioner Yoder moved to approve the above stated budget amendment as presented. Vice-Chairman Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Janet Smith, Assistant Finance Director, presented a request for a budget amendment to transfer funds from Contingency to Alarm Monitoring for the Byron Library as follows:

Budget Transfer - General Fund - FY2021 - Library

100.1599.57.9000	From: Contingency	\$ 231
100.6500.52.3208	To: Alarm Monitoring	\$ 231

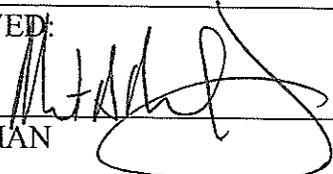
Commissioner Bryant moved to approve the above stated budget amendment as presented. Vice-Chairman Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

--EXECUTIVE SESSION--

None

There being no further business to come before the Board at this Regular Meeting on this date, Commissioner Bryant moved to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. Vice-Chairman Hill seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED: _____

CHAIRMAN

PEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
COUNTY CLERK