

Candler County Board of Commissioners
August 1, 2022
5:00 p.m.

The following is a summary of the subjects acted on during the August 1, 2022 meeting (Summary of an open meeting in compliance with O.C.G.A. §50-14-1 (2)).

Chairman Glyn Thrift presided with Vice-Chairman Brad Jones, Commissioners David Robinson and Blake Hendrix in attendance. County Administrator Bryan Aasheim, County Attorney Kendall Gross and attorney Cindy Delgado were in attendance.

Commissioner Thomas was unable to attend the meeting in person but was present on Zoom.

In attendance were: Jerry Lanier, Public Works Director, Robert Hendrix, Landfill Supervisor, Joe Reynolds, EMS Director, Jason Douglas, Metter Fire Chief

The Metter Advertiser was notified of the meeting, but no representative attended this meeting.

Guests attending this meeting included: Jason Grimes, Candler County Tax Commissioner, Agatha Grimes, 4H presenter, Susannah Lanier, 4H Coordinator, Bobby Odom, Angela Ford

1. Call to Order

Chairman Thrift called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation and *Pledge of Allegiance*

Agatha Grimes, Candler County 4H club delivered the invocation and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

3. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to approve the agenda with the following changes. Chairman Thrift provided a second. The motion carried 4-0

6.a. Dale & Rebecca Cooney – Request for Family Purpose Affidavit - Remove from Agenda;

6.b. Dennis Jones, Radio Jones, LLC – Request for a variance to section 4.3 SETBACKS AND SEPARATION of the Candler County Telecommunications and Towers Ordinance – Table until August 15, 2022;

10.e. Consideration of an increase in appropriations for the Tax Assessor (1550) for travel and training costs in the amount of \$11,912.00 associated with the Chief Appraiser position.

4. Department Reports

a. Metter Fire Department, Jason Douglas, Metter Fire Chief -Douglas reviewed his monthly report (attached).

b. Candler County EMS, Joe Reynolds, Director – Reynolds reviewed his monthly trip report and stated that monthly trips continue to be elevated. Attorney Gross asked about the status of the EMS/Hospital relationship and transports. Director Reynolds indicated that things are going ok and the two had cooperated on a couple transports where the hospital provided a nurse. Vice Chairman Jones asked if EMS has a full roster at this time.

He stated that COVID is continuing to be an issue and that the service has had a number of absences due to exposure or infection. Reynolds stated that they do not; they had hired a number of paramedic students (EMTA, B) in the hopes they would pass the exam, but none have done so yet.

- c. Candler County Landfill, Robert Hendrix, Landfill Supervisor – Hendrix asked about ongoing issues with residential trash pickup. He discussed with the commission the issues we have been having.
- d. Recreation, Mike Robins, Director – Robins was not present for the meeting due to vacation.
- e. Roads Department, Jerry Lanier, Supervisor – Lanier reported that the county dump trucks had been repaired and were in service. The rental truck had broken down and has been returned off lease to the leasing company. Vice Chairman Jones stated that he had received a message of thanks regarding the work done on Dekle Rd. He requested that Mr. Lanier look at an issue on Excelsior Church Rd with a beaver dam and culvert. Commissioner Hendrix requested that Mr. Lanier look at McNair Rd. Chairman Thrift requested Mr. Lanier look at the pecan trees on Mosley Rd.

5. Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

Mr. Bobby Odom approached the board and asked about the proposed tax increase. He stated that he had anecdotal information that some peoples tax assessment notices showed a tax increase of 19%. Administrator Aasheim explained that the proposed non-rollback millage rate is a 5.18% increase across the entire digest, but different parcels would have different changes. Some would increase and some may even see a decrease depending on their assessments.

6. Applications for Commission approval, permit or variance-

There were no citizens present requesting commission approval, permit or variance.

7. Financial Report – Financial report is deferred until the August 15, 2022 meeting

8. Approval of the Minutes –

June 20, 2022 Regular Meeting

June 27, 2022 Called Meeting

July 11, 2022 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve all minutes as presented. Vice Chairman Jones provided a second. The motion carried 4-0.

9. Old Business

Mr. Aasheim reported there is no old business to address in this meeting.

10. New Business

- a. Consideration of a proposal from Lanier, Deal and Proctor, LLC to provide financial audit services to Candler County for fiscal year 2022

Aasheim presented the engagement letter from Lanier, Deal and Proctor.

Chairman Thrift made a motion to approve the engagement letter and agreement as presented. Commissioner Hendrix provided the second to the motion. The motion passed 4-0. (Exhibit A)

b. Consideration of an amendment to the Candler County Animal Control Ordinance

Aasheim presented a draft amendment to the Candler County Animal Control Ordinance which provides for law enforcement to inspect facilities if probable cause exists. This will allow code enforcement and law enforcement to inspect animal housing facilities if there is a belief or evidence that the facility violates the ordinance or state law.

Aasheim provided an anecdotal example of a current shelter in Candler County that had obtained a permit for 20+ dogs under the Animal Control Ordinance. Upon review of the file at the time of their application for renewal of their business license it was discovered that they did not have the required license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The County cannot issue them a permit if they cannot be permitted under State law. This entity has been issued a notification that they cannot receive a business license and their 20+ dog permit is revoked until they meet the state and local permitting requirements.

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to approve the amendment to the ordinance as presented. Vice Chairman Jones provided the second to the motion. The motion passed 4-0 (Exhibit B)

c. Consideration of a request for authorization to transfer \$2,796.58 to the Department of Community Health in order to receive payments from HHS for Medicare UPL Program

Aasheim presented the notice from the Department of Community Health regarding the local share portion of the UPL payment and requested authorization to remit those funds to the Department.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the transfer of the local portion funds as described. Commissioner Hendrix provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

d. Consideration of proposed projects for the 2023 LMIG grant

Aasheim presented four (4) potential options to be evaluated as the 2023 LMIG project. The projects were:

- Salem Church Rd – Resurface from Lake Church Rd to Rosemary Church Rd
- Lake Church RD – Resurface from Hwy 46 to Dutch Ford Rd
- St. Matthews Church Rd – Resurface from Hwy 46 to Salem Church Rd
- Canoochee Rd – Resurface from Hwy 46 to Hwy 121

The commission discussed and reached a consensus to have engineering estimates prepared for Salem Church Rd and St. Matthews Church Rd. No other action was taken on this item.

e. Consideration of an increase in appropriations for the Tax Assessor (1550) for travel and training costs in the amount of \$11,912.00 associated with the Chief Appraiser position

Aasheim presented the request and training schedule proposed by the Tax Assessors office.

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to approve the increase in appropriations as presented. Commissioner Robinson provided the second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

6. Report from the Chairman

Chairman Thrift had nothing to report.

7. Report from the Administrator

Aasheim commented on the following:

- Aasheim relayed a request from the Board of Tax Assessors for the Commission to consider funding for a policy to provide a financial stipend to employees upon achievement of certain levels of certification. The Board of Commissioners indicated they would be supportive, but requested the Board of Assessors provide a proposed schedule to be reviewed.
- Aasheim notified the commission that DOT has reached out regarding the TSPLOST2 E Hiawatha paving project and we are working on the application for local administration in the hope of getting a Notice to Proceed with engineering and surveying.

Aasheim requested executive session for personnel

8. Report from the County Attorney

Mr. Gross requested executive session for personnel and litigation.

9. Reports from the Commissioners

District 1, Gregory Thomas – Not present

District 2, Vice-Chairman Jones – Nothing to report other than road issues to Mr. Lanier

District 3, David Robinson – Nothing to report.

District 4, Blake Hendrix – Nothing to report

10. Executive Session – Personnel

Vice Chairman Jones moved to exit into Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation at 6:06 p.m. Commissioner Hendrix provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Vice Chairman Jones moved to exit Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 7:03 p.m. Commissioner Hendrix provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Robinson moved to authorize Chairman Thrift to sign the Closed Meeting Affidavit. Vice Chairman Jones provided the second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Hendrix moved to authorize EMS Director Reynolds to hire Ruby Martinez, EMT-A, to part-time status. Commissioner Robinson provided the second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

11. Adjournment

Chairman Thrift moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Vice Chairman Jones provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Maramba Lank

Kellie Lank, County Clerk

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