

HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
August 24, 2021 - 6:30 P.M.

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on August 24, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Heard County Administration Building. In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Lee Boone, District 1 Commissioner Larry Hooks, District 2 Commissioner James Perry, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, District 5 Commissioner David Walls, and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner.

Agenda Item # 2 - Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge to the American Flag - Chairman Boone called the meeting to order, gave the invocation and welcomed everyone present.

Agenda Item # 3 - Public Hearings- a. Special Use Application – Butler Road Chairman Boone opened the Public Hearing by explaining the rules of a Public Hearing. Chairman Boone explained the special use application was for a wedding venue and you pick farm. Chairman Boone also read the Planning Commission’s recommendation; this recommendation was to approve the application with conditions. On motion (Hammond) and second (Walls), the Board unanimously voted to close this public hearing.

Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of Minutes – July 27, 2021 – On motion (Hooks) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes as presented for the July 27, 2021, meeting.

Agenda Item # 5 – Amend Agenda – Commissioner Perry requested adding item “d” to old business to discuss cares money work session. On motion (Walls) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved this amendment. Commissioner Walls made a motion to add item “e” to old business to discuss changing arena lights to LED. With a second from Commissioner Hooks, the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item # 6 – New Business – a. Special Use Permit – Butler Road – Commissioner Walls makes a motion to approve the pumpkin patch, Christmas tree, and other agriculture to condition number one. Also, under condition number four, change front of property to 100 ft. to meet setback requirements and 50 ft for other three sides.

1. Events at the location shall be limited to wedding ceremonies, receptions, rehearsal dinners, birthday and retirement parties, team building events, family reunions, and other activities similar in nature.

2. Occupancy of the property shall be limited to 150 and adequate parking shall be provided for 100 vehicles.

3. No alcohol shall be sold or consumed on the premises.

4. A natural vegetative buffer of 50 feet shall be maintained around the boundary of the property.

5. Hours of operations shall be as follows: Wedding Venue- Monday- Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. You pick farm- Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

6. No use permitted shall exceed a noise level of 45 dBa, as measured from the property line. A decimeter shall be kept on the property during events. All speakers shall be angled toward the interior of the property to limit sound.

7. Lighting shall be established in such a manner that adjacent properties are not adversely affected and to ensure that no direct light is cast upon adjacent properties or roadways.

8. Food shall not be prepared on the premises. However, outdoor grilling will be allowed subject to any applicable fire marshal or board of health regulations.

9. Adequate refuse collection containers will be provided.

10. The property will be served by a licensed port-a-potty company. If bathrooms are constructed, the septic system must meet board of health requirements.

11. All construction must meet ADA requirements.

12. All construction and activities conducted on the premises shall meet applicable requirements of the Heard County Building Department, County and State Fire Marshall's Office and the Heard County Board of Health.

With a second from Commissioner Hammond, the Board unanimously approved this request.

b. Discussion/Decision – Transit Plan Title VI – With no discussion- On motion (Hooks) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this request.

c. Appointment – Department of Public Health- Chairman Boone stated with Steve Wirth having retired, the Department of Public Health is missing a board member and he would like to recommend Chief Jim Short to take his place. On motion (Hooks) and second (Perry), the Board unanimously approved this request.

d. Decision- Set Milage Rate – Chairman Boone read the resolution into the record. The resolution set the milage rate at 6.75 mils. On motion (Hammond) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approves this request.

e. Discussion/Decision – Joint Development Authority – Commissioner Hammond makes the motion to appoint Kathy Knowles to the West Georgia Development Authority, with a second from Commissioner Hooks, the Board unanimously approved this request. Also, Commissioner Hammond makes the motion to reappoint Kathy Knowles and Wil Arnet to the Greater West Georgia Joint Development Authority, with a second from Commissioner Perry, the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item # 6 – Old Business – a. Glover Road Park- Kevin Hamby and Kathy Knowles spoke about the process for accepting bids on the Glover Road Park Project. Mr. Hamby asked the Board to approve the offer from Frontier (see attached) and allow Kathy Knowles and himself to be General Contractors for the rest of the project to save time and money. On motion (Hammond) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved this request.

b. Arena Committee Discussion- Commissioner Hooks asked the Board to wait for appointments to the Arena Committee to allow them time to look over the guidelines and find members that are willing to be on the committee without pay. After much discussion Commissioner Hooks makes the motion to table this discussion until the meeting in September and second from Commissioner Caldwell. With Commissioner Hooks and Commissioner Caldwell in favor of the motion and Commissioners Walls, Hammond, and Perry against the motion is denied. Commissioner Walls makes a motion to approve guidelines and find someone later to fill the spots, with B and redlines removed, with a second from Commissioner Perry, motion carries three to two with Caldwell and Hooks against.

c. Auction – Chairman Boone announced the County Auction made \$373,875.00 the auctioneer was paid a ten percent commission. The final check was \$336,451.50. Commissioner Perry asked if labor hours had been deducted from this. Chairman Boone stated “No”.

d. Work session- Executive Work session on Personnel and Cares Money- Commissioner Perry made the request for the Board to have an executive work session to discuss personnel and Cares money on September 7, 2021, he stated that several hours would be needed. Chairman Boone stated that he never receives communication from Commissioner Perry. Chairman Boone explained that amending the agenda was meant for last minute things that come up, not to blind side people with things. Chairman Boone stated he was not going to set a date for a work session.

e. Changing LED Lights at the Arena- Have SPLOST Manager put out an RFP for most efficient LED lights and complete electrical inspection. On motion (Perry) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item #7 – Public Comments – Mr. Randy Chesnut- 281 Eley Road- Spoke about the Cattlemen’s Association and money they have made and spent on local projects and hosting events at the arena.

Josh Carroll- 70 Yarbrough Road- Spoke about the arena keeping Franklin restaurants open later to accommodate arena events.

James Butler- 5441 Bevis Road- Spoke about the Board keeping an open mind and about how committees can have pros and cons.

Agenda Item # 8 – Executive Session – None

There being no further business, on motion (Caldwell) and second (Hooks), the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Hope Cole

County Clerk

Lee Boone

Chairman

Date 09-28-2021

