

CHEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
August 25, 2020 - 6:30 P.M.

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on August 25, 2020 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 James Perry, District 2 Commissioner, Larry Hooks, 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. Application to Rezone from Rural Development to Agricultural, David C. Barnes,

Location- Gum Creek Airport Road- Mr. Barnes stated it was just a land split between himself and his sister. On motion (Hammond) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved to close this public hearing.

b. Application to Rezone from Agricultural to General Commercial, Michael and Cheryl

Guidry, Location-Georgia Highway 219- Mr. Guidry stated he and his wife bought fifty-three acres and wanted to rezone 2.3 acres for commercial use for RV and Boat Storage , Jerry Ann Conner, County Attorney, stated that Mr. Guidry would have to come back to the Planning Commission for that. Chairman Boone ask Mr. Guidry to verify the acreage amount on the rezone, he verified it was 2.657 acres to be rezoned. On motion (Walls) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved to close this public hearing.

c. Road Abandonment- Windy Hill Road between Mountain Laurel Road and Fabiano

Road- Mr. Barry Huff and his sister want the road closed due to problems with trash, tires, TVs,

and coolers being dumped. Mr. Huff and his sister are willing to quit claim the land to straighten Fabiano Road. Commissioner Caldwell was given a petition by Chairman Boone of people wishing to keep the road open (see attached). Chairman Boone stated the petition was open for public viewing. On motion (Hammond) and second (Perry), the Board unanimously approved to close this public hearing.

Agenda Item #3 - Approval of Minutes - On motion (Hammond) and a second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved the minutes from July 28, 2020.

Agenda Item #4 - Amend Agenda – Commissioner Walls asked for an amendment to old business to add item “a”—Discuss Census. On motion (Walls) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add item “a” under old business.

Agenda Item # 5 - New Business - a. Decision- Rezone – David Barnes- Gum Creek Airport Road – Commissioner Perry stated the only person he had spoken to that was in opposition if this is because if this is rezoned agriculture nothing stops the applicants from putting in chicken houses. Jerry Ann Conner stated it could have been split under rural development, but this process was simpler for the applicant. Jerry Ann Conner also stated that if the applicant had done under rural development it would have made the process complicated. On motion (Perry) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved this request.

b. Decision- Rezone – Michael and Cheryl Guidry- Georgia highway 219- Commissioner Walls stated he has heard nothing for or against. Commissioner Walls made the motion to approve the request with the specific purpose that it is used for Boat and RV storage only; and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved this request.

c. Decision- Rezone – Road Abandonment – Windy Hill Road Between Mountain Laurel Road and Fabiano Road – Commissioner Caldwell stated he talked to Commissioner Hooks and it sounded

like a pretty good idea to close the road, but at the same time there are a lot of names on the petition. Chairman Boone stated that he would like exact information on the land that Mr. Huff was willing to deed the county for straightening out Fabiano Road. Jerry Ann Conner, County Attorney asked if the county would be responsible for the survey. Chairman Boone confirmed the county would be responsible for the survey. Commissioner Caldwell makes the motion to continue the decision until the next meeting scheduled for September 22, 2020; and second (Walls), the Board unanimously approved this request.

d. Approve Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2020-2021- Chairman Boone stated in post discussions with the Board, the Board has decided to adopt the rollback millage rate at 6.82 mills. On Motion (Hooks) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this request.

e. Adopt New Georgia Construction and Industrialized Building Codes- Chairman Boone stated as of January 1, 2020 the State of Georgia adopted the updated additions of the International Building Codes, therefore the county must adopt them as well. The county has adopted the International Building Codes as a standard. When changes are made, we must re-adopt with the changes the state has made. On motion (Hammond) and second (Perry), the Board unanimously approved this request.

f. Appoint Dr. Jim Burton to the Development Authority Board- Chairman Boone read the letter received from the Development Authority (see attached). Chairman Boone also summarized the biography of Dr. Burton (see attached). On motion (Perry) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved the request to appoint Dr. Burton.

Agenda Item # 6 – Old Business – a. Discuss Census- Commissioner Walls requested the commissioners discuss some issues with field representatives getting the Census information loaded on tablets provided by AT&T, and there are currently no other solutions for the field representatives. Chairman Boone asked Ms. Kathy Knowles to come to the podium to speak, Ms. Knowles stated the

field representatives should have paper forms if they are not able to complete online forms. Ms. Knowles is unsure what a solution would be, due to Covid 19, there are not enough Census employees to go door to door. Commissioner Hammond stated about 63.46% of the Census is complete in the county, and that most of the county mailed their Census answers in. Chairman Boone suggested that one solution could be to allow a Census Drive at the Glenn Fire Station. Commissioner Walls asked do we have an update tool for checking the status of who has completed their Census.

Agenda Item # 7 – Public Comment – Andrew Betts stated he had talked to Commissioner Caldwell about the road condition from Ash Road to Red Oak Road. Mr. Betts stated the road condition keeps getting worse causing the road to become impassable. Chairman Boone stated he would go ride to look at the road the following day.

Agenda Item # 8 – Executive Session – On motion (Hammond) and second (Walls), the Board unanimously approved the request.

Adjourned at 9:00

Hope Cole

County Clerk

Date September 22, 2020

Lee Boone

Chairman

