

Minutes
Liberty County Board of Commissioners
October 5, 2021
Regular Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lovette with all commissioners in attendance except Commissioners Jones and Frasier.
2. The County administrator certified compliance with the Georgia Open Meetings Act.
3. Mr. Joseph Mosley offered the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. The chairman noted the recent loss of Mayor Joseph Harris and acknowledged his contributions to the community.
5. The board considered minutes of their September meetings. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.
6. The board considered a proclamation designating the first Saturday in October as Rivers Alive Day in Liberty County. Dr. Karen Bell, Keep Liberty Beautiful Director, appeared before the board to highlight activities planned for that day. The board accepted the Proclamation.
7. A motion was made by Commissioner Walden to adjourn to public hearing for 2021 millage rate purposes, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

Commissioner Frasier joined the meeting.

Ms. Kim McGlothlin, CFO, presented an overview of the recommended 2021 millage for operations. Board members offered various comments on the proposed rate. Mr. Joel Santiago expressed support to the commission for the job that they do.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to close public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

8. Departmental reports are presented:

A. Miss Kim McGlothlin presented the monthly finance report and answered questions from the board.

b. The LCPC report was presented:

(1) The board considered a revised preliminary plat for the Colonies at Habersham phase 3 as presented by Ms. Mardee Sanchez. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to approve the preliminary plat, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

(2) The board considered a final plat for the Colonies at Habersham phase 3B as presented by Ms. Mardee Sanchez. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the final plat, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

(3) The board considered a conditional use request submitted by Coastal Solar on behalf of Mr. Joel Santiago to install 500 ft.² solar array at 121 Santiago Ln. Following the presentation of staff reports a motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to approve the conditional use, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all Commissioners in attendance.

9. The board considered new business:

A. Mr. Paul Simonton and Councilman Keith Jenkins appeared before the board to highlight a plan for the new South Side Park. The gentlemen presented a cost overview associated with the project and ask for commission support moving forward. Following discussion, the board expressed general support for the project and asked Councilman Jenkins and Mr. Simonton to proceed in order to obtain further information on actual

funding needed for construction.

B. the board entered into general discussion associated with the possible adoption of a marijuana ordinance for unincorporated Liberty County. County Attorney Mr. Kelly Davis discussed general framework associated with such an ordinance and stressed that it would not legalize possession but would rather make it subject to a citation. Board members discussed the pros and cons associated with such a move. It was decided that further information would be obtained concerning the need for such an ordinance and would be brought back to the board for consideration.

C. The board discussed the possible creation of an Economic Development Authority to focus on retail recruitment. Commissioner Frasier and the county attorney discussed the specific need for such organization. Following the discussion, it was decided that the county attorney and Commissioner Frasier would work together to develop a general outline for the committee including membership.

D. The board considered an agreement with the McDonald firm for assistance in the upcoming reapportionment and redrawing of Commission and Board of Education district lines. A motion was made by Commissioner Walden to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

E. The board discussed an application for projects through the Georgia State Fiscal Recovery fund. The county administrator highlighted several areas for possible funding.

F. The board considered appointments:

(1) A CC G voting delegate – A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to appoint Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Walden, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

(2) EMS region nine Council – a motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to appoint Crystal Hensler and Gene Long, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, with commissioners Walden, Gilliard, Thrift, Fraser, and Chairman Lovette voting in favor, Commissioner Stevens opposed.

10. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to adjourn regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

Liberty County Board of Commissioners

SIGNED:

Donald L. Lovette, Chairman

Justin Frasier, Vice-Chairman

Marion Stevens, Sr., Commissioner

Connie Thrift, Commissioner

Maxie R. Jones, IV, Commissioner

Gary Gilliard, Commissioner

Eddie J. Walden, Commissioner

Attest:

Joseph W. Brown, County Administrator