

AGENDA
GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

6:30 PM

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(Time allocated 10-minute's total)

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS

MONTH CHECK REGISTERS

APPROVAL OF BILLS

MINUTES

MONTH

Regular meeting minutes October 13, 2020

Called meeting minutes October 22, 2020

Called meeting minutes October 28, 2020

REPORTS

MANAGER'S REPORT

EMS

EMA DIRECTOR

FIRE

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

PROBATE REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE

ACTION ITEM

ACTION ITEM

ACTION ITEM

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEM

Variance & Re-Zoning for Willie Mae Davis (Church St. & South St.)

ACTION ITEM

Grady EMS

ACTION ITEM

Holiday & Meeting Schedule for Year 2021

ACTION ITEM

Emergency Services Fee Ordinance 04-2020 1st reading

ACTION ITEM

ACTION ITEM

ACTION ITEM

ACTION ITEM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

APPEARANCES

Kim Burnette-Present an idea for "Friends of G-Q County"

MEETING ADJOURN

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**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2020
6:30PM**

CALLED TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. with prayer followed by the pledge. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Blackmon, Hayes, Kinsey and Bussey. County Attorney Tracy Cary, County Clerk Carolyn Wilson, Financial Officer Teri Odom and County Manager Jason Weeks.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS-

Motion made by Blackmon to accept the agenda as presented. Second by Kinsey. Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

HEAD START PROCLAMATION- Chairman Lewis read the Head Start Proclamation to everyone. Lewis asked Ms. Tracy Belk with ESP to come forward to receive the Head Start Proclamation. Ms. Belk thanked the Commissioners for their support for this program.

PUBLIC COMMENT- A citizen asked about the repair on the retaining wall at the landfill. County Manager Weeks explained that he is aware of this issue and it has already been addressed to be repaired. Chairman Lewis asked Weeks if he had a time frame on when this repair will be complete. Weeks stated that this should be completed in the next few weeks. Tax Commissioner Mindy Ward updated everyone about a tax sale coming up December 1, 2020. She also stated that this would be advertised in the legal organ.

PREVIOUS MONTH CHECK REGISTER- **Motion made by Kinsey to approve previous month check register. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion made by Kinsey to approve the bills as presented. Second by Bussey. Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon and Lewis.

MINUTES

September 8, 2020 Regular meeting minutes. **Motion made by Bussey to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting with the correction on page 24 “*Moving funds to higher paying rates*” to add in bold in the motion that the *Financial Officer, County Manager and Vice***

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Chairman can make the decision to move funds to a higher paying interest rate account without penalties . Second by Kinsey. Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

October 6, 2020 Called meeting minutes- **Motion made by Blackmon to approve the called meeting minutes. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes- Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

(Bussey was not present at this called meeting.)

MANAGER’S REPORT-Weeks gave his report on EMS for the month of September. There were a total of 30 calls, 22 transports, and 8 refusals.

CDBG- Weeks reported that this project is ongoing. As long as weather permits this project should be completed by the end of November.

VERIZON CELL TOWER- Weeks stated that he has several people asking when the new Verizon tower that was put up behind the Probate office would be online. He has reached out to our contact and tried to get an answer but has not received one as of yet. Weeks said he will continue looking into this and will get an answer for everyone.

WHISPERING PINES- Weeks explained that he received some complaints about the bamboo and chicken gut trucks that were out in front of Whispering Pines. We reached out to the property owner about clearing the bamboo and it has been taken care of. Weeks put out notices that the trucks could not park in the space out in front of Whispering Pines and those have been removed.

COMMUNITY CENTER- Weeks asked about reopening the Community Center. Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to have this added to the work session agenda to be discussed at that time. He also asked Weeks to reach out to Lindsey Hixon with the Health Dept. to check on the latest information about COVID-19.

CENSUS-Weeks gave an update on the census numbers. He stated that our census response rate is at 28.4%, which is low but is higher than what it was in 2010. He explained that the percentage is based on the number of addresses here. We have several addresses here that there will not be a response from because they are only weekend homes or vacation homes.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS- Ms. Sara Lee Crumbs was present at the meeting to give her report. Ms. Sara Lee Crumbs said that she has been working hard on getting people signed up for the Census along with Ms. Carolyn Wilson and Ms. Ashaki Cunningham. She received some

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funds from Brantley County Family Connections to be able to purchase gift cards as an incentive to help get people signed up. She has been working with Columbus Tech. to try to get a few more Wi-Fi rangers and she will pick those up. These rangers are to help increase the internet service to individuals in rural areas. Ms. Sara Lee Crumbs stated the State of Hope Grant webinar would take place on November 2, 2020. This will outline the process of obtaining funds and what is expected of the Collaborative. The funds will be used to supplement the work of the Quitman County Early Literacy Task Force and its partners: Quitman County Public Library, Extension office and to create a fund for transportation through the RMS transit for medical and other doctor appointments of parents and students.

LIBRARY- Chairman Lewis read the Library report on behalf of Mrs. Fair. Mrs. Fair reported that they have had a door count of 298 patrons, with 23 computer users, 82 Wi-Fi parking lot users, and 11 faxes. The library has been working with the Quitman County Schools to get their virtual/recorded programs to the kids. They have posted cut out craft activities and a virtual program from one of their performers. They are also uploading kid's story time as well. Mrs. Fair encourages everyone to come to the library and see all the things that are happening.

RIVER VALLEY TIA ROUNDTABLE- Chairman Lewis wanted to let everyone know that the extra one-cent sales tax will be on the ballot for the year 2022. This tax helps fund state projects.

Fire Dept. Report-

PROBATE REPORT- Probate Judge Self stated they are still issuing the largest number of weapon carry licenses that they have ever issued. He said that they went from issuing around 4 a month to 4-5 per week. He reported that early voting has started. The state of Georgia set a record on the first day of early voting with 127,000 voters. Probate Judge Self stated that they have received 106 absentee ballots and 152 advanced voters came out on Monday and Tuesday here in Quitman County. Judge Self wants to encourage everyone to come out and do the early voting. He also reminded everyone about social distancing due to COVID-19.

OLD BUSINESS-

NEW BUSINESS-

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2020-03 EXHIBIT A BUDGET AMENDMENT-Chairman Lewis read the budget amendment to everyone. **Motion made by Hayes to approve 2020-03 Exhibit A budget amendment.**

Second by Blackmon. Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

R9-2020 RESOLUTION INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (BLUE BUILDING)-

Chairman Lewis read R9-2020 Resolution to everyone. After reading the Resolution, a citizen and member of the Quitman County Economic Development Board Kim Burnette asked a question regarding the agreement not having any language in it about the proceeds from the sale of the building going to pay off the debt owed on the property that is being held as collateral. After some discussion, County Attorney Tracy Cary will take the agreement back and have the language changed to “the proceeds from the sale of the building will go towards the County’s loan at Ameris Bank”. **Motion made by Bussey to approve Resolution R9-2020 with the correct language added to the agreement. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

P16-2020 CELL PHONE POLICY- Chairman Lewis asked County Manager Weeks to give a brief description of the cell phone policy. The policy is for any employee or elected official that has a county issued cell phone. Weeks went over the high points of the policy. Weeks stated that we are required to have a cell phone policy in place according to ACCG for our liability insurance. **Motion made by Bussey to accept P16-2020 Cell Phone policy. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

C5-2020 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT QC ECONOMIC DEV. AUTH.-

Chairman Lewis explained that this agreement would have the same language changed in it as Resolution R9-2020. **Motion made by Bussey to accept C5-2020 Intergovernmental agreement between the Board of County Commissioners and the Quitman County Economic Development Authority Board with the same language change as Resolution R9-2020. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

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APPEARANCES –Mr. Matt Geddings a citizen of Georgetown-Quitman County read a letter written by himself concerning the building of the new library. Mr. Geddings voiced his opinion about the new library and had a petition signed by other citizens that are concerned that their taxes will be raised because of the new library. Other concerned citizens asked several questions about the new library and Chairman Lewis along with the other Commissioners answered those questions and concerns.

Chairman Lewis read a couple of announcements. The Quitman County Health Dept. will be doing flu shots for citizens on October 23, 2020 all day. This will be a drive thru service. You do not have to get out of your car to receive the shot.

The County is holding Trunk or Treat on October 30, 2020 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. EST. It will be in the parking lot at the County Commission office.

MEETING ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Carvel Lewis, Chairman

Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

David Kinsey, Commissioner

Jim Hayes, Commissioner

Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager

GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION
CALLED MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2020
3:00 P.M.

CALLED TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 3:13 P.M. with prayer. Members present were Commissioners: Blackmon, Hayes, and Kinsey. Bussey was not present. County Manager Jason Weeks, Financial Officer Teri Odom and County Clerk Carolyn Wilson. (Lewis was present via phone).

AGENDA AMENDMENTS-

Vice Chairman Blackmon added Executive Session to the agenda. **Motion made by Hayes to accept the amended agenda. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes- Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

GRADY EMS- Vice Chairman Blackmon asked all the Commissioners that were present to read over a letter that Grady EMS submitted requesting a couple of meeting dates that they could come meet with the Commissioners. Vice Chairman asked that this be tabled until all Commissioners could decide on a meeting date.

Chairman Lewis was brought into the meeting at this time via phone.

Vice Chairman Blackmon asked Weeks to give a brief update on the advertising of the sale of the Blue Building at **845 US HWY 82**. Weeks stated that the ad has been placed in the paper and will run for 14 days and the sign has been put up in front of the building advertising that it is for sale. Chairman Lewis asked Blackmon if the Economic Dev. Board had made any decisions on how they were going to handle receiving offers for the building. Blackmon stated they had not at this time but they would get together and establish how they would handle the offers made.

COMMUNITY CENTER- Weeks spoke with Lindsey Hixon with the Dept. of public health to get her recommendation on reopening the Community Center. Hixon told Weeks that unless we have a way of policing the center and being able to control the amount of people she would recommend that we not reopen at this time. After some discussion, a **Motion was made by Kinsey not to reopen the community center or the outdoor pavilion until further notice. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Hayes, Kinsey, and Blackmon.

BUDGET- Vice Chairman Blackmon read a request from Tax Commissioner Mrs. Ward. Mrs. Ward is requesting that her salary budget line item that is currently set at \$80,000.00 be increased to \$88,500.00. Mrs. Ward also put in her request that she would like to roll over any of her unused 2020 budget money for this line item. Mrs. Ward is requesting this increase in salary to be able to have a part time employee to be able to keep her office open when she and her full time employee have to go to training that is required by the state.

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Ms. Becky Fendley, Clerk of Superior Court is requesting \$18,000.00. She is requesting this amount to have more of her Deed records indexed for public search through the Georgia Clerks Authority website. Ms. Fendleys office currently has deed records scanned and indexed through year 1990 this \$18,000.00 would allow her to have records scanned and indexed through the year 1980. This would be a tremendous help to her office and for individuals that do title work to be able to do title searches online. Ms. Fendley stated that if funds are not available to be able to do the 10-year span she is willing to do a 5-year span that would roughly cost \$9,000.00. Ms. Fendley also discussed that she needs a part time person in her office. She currently has a student that is working thru the WIOA work program but her only issue with having a student is that the student cannot be in the office all day due to going to school. Chairman Lewis stated that they would need to schedule another Budget meeting before any decisions can be made on these request.

APPEARANCES -

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion made by Kinsey to go into Executive session to discuss personal. Second by Hayes. Voting Yes-Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

Motion made by Blackmon to reopen Regular Session. Second by Hayes. Voting Yes-Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis. No action was taken with personal.

MEETING ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 4:34 p.m.

Carvel Lewis, Chairman

Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

Not present

Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

David Kinsey, Commissioner

Jim Hayes, Commissioner

Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager

**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION
CALLED MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2020
10:00 A.M.**

CALLED TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 10:13 P.M. with prayer. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Blackmon, Hayes, and Kinsey. Bussey was not present. County Manager Jason Weeks, Financial Officer Teri Odom and County Clerk Carolyn Wilson.

Water & Sewer Authority Board members present: Art Neville and Joyce Jones.

County Auditor Richard Wingate with DeLoach, Wingate & Company P.C.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS- Vice Chairman Blackmon amended the agenda to add the old Gym and Community Center to the agenda. **Motion made by Hayes to accept the amended agenda. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Hayes, Kinsey, and Blackmon.

DELOACH AND WINGATE 2019 AUDIT REPORT- Richard Wingate of DeLoach, Wingate & Company P.C. started by apologizing for the audit being so late. He also wanted to thank all the staff and Constitutional officers for all their help and support. Mr. Wingate stated everyone was very helpful and professional. Wingate went on to present the FY 2019 audit and explained their responsibilities as the auditors and our responsibilities as well. After a lengthy discussion about the audit, there were three findings. 1. Absence of appropriate segregation of duties consistent with appropriate control objectives. 2. Evidence of failure to perform tasks that are part of internal control. 3. Management should more closely monitor expenditures to safeguard they are in line with appropriations. Wingate suggested to the Commissioners that they need to raise the minimum amount on the Capitalization policy to \$2500.00. **Motion made by Hayes that we raise the minimum amount on the Capitalization policy to \$2500.00. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes- Kinsey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis. Wingate gave recommendations to correct these findings as stated in the audit.

OLD GYM/COMMUNITY CENTER- Commissioners Hayes and Kinsey asked about the use of the Old Gym due to COVID-19. In a previous meeting, the Commissioners voted not to reopen the Community Center or the outdoor pavilion due to COVID-19. Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to find out who is opening the Old Gym and to find out what measures they are taking to protect themselves from COVID-19.

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ROTARY- Mr. Dennis Montgomery reached out to Vice Chairman Blackmon to find out about using the Community Center to start meeting again for Rotary. After some discussion, Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to get in contact with Mr. Montgomery and let him know that the Community Center is remaining closed but they are welcome to meet at the Pavilion behind the Community Center.

GRADY EMS- Grady EMS reached out to Weeks to setup a meeting to discuss their contract. They gave the dates of November 4th or 5th at 2:00 p.m. Chairman Lewis asked that two Commissioners meet with Grady EMS. Commissioners Kinsey and Hayes agreed to meet with Grady EMS.

ALLEYWAYS- Weeks addressed the Commissioners about citizens wanting to purchase alleyways. Weeks asked the Commissioners if they were interested in selling some of the alleyways and going thru the process to be able to do so. This would also add the property back to the tax digest. All Commissioners were in favor of this.

APPEARANCES -

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

MEETING ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 11:27 a.m.

Carvel Lewis, Chairman

Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

Not present

Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

David Kinsey, Commissioner

Jim Hayes, Commissioner

Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager

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