

AGENDA  
GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
REGULAR MEETING

**AUGUST 13, 2024**

**6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**  
**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
**PREVIOUS MONTH BILLS**  
**APPROVAL OF BILLS**  
**MINUTES**

(Time allocated 10 minutes total)  
Check Registers  
AUGUST 2024  
Regular meeting minutes July 9, 2024  
Called meeting minutes August 2, 2024  
MANAGER'S REPORT / EMS

**REPORTS**

ELECTED OFFICIALS:  
TAX COMMISSIONER  
PROBATE  
SUPERIOR COURT CLERK  
SHERIFF  
FAMILY CONNECTIONS  
LIBRARY  
FIRE  
EMA DIRECTOR  
4-H Coordinator

**OLD BUSINESS**

**\*ACTION ITEM\***  
**\*ACTION ITEM\***

**NEW BUSINESS**

**\*ACTION ITEM\***  
**\*ACTION ITEM\***  
**\*ACTION ITEM\***

Water & Sewer Auth. Board member resignation-Amy Self  
Water & Sewer Authority Board member  
Beer, Wine, & Distilled Spirits application- Matrix Global  
Professional Inc. (where the Corner Store was located)  
DBHDD Region 6 Board member appointment  
Budget amendments 2024.2025-01 Exhibit A

**\*ACTION ITEM\***  
**\*ACTION ITEM\***  
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**\*ACTION ITEM\***

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**If needed**

- Personnel
- Real Estate
- Litigation

**APPEARANCES**

**MEETING ADJOURN**



**LOWER LUMPKIN ROAD PROJECT-** Weeks explained that GDOT reached out to him and stated they only received 1 bid and it was around \$900,000.00 over budget. They are looking at possibly rebidding the project out to see if they get more bidders. If they decide not to rebid it, then they will have to look at cutting options to fit the budget and one of the things that would be cut would be the widening. Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to send Cathy Williams with GDOT an email encouraging them to please rebid the project.

**FY 2025 LMIG -**Weeks stated that he received a letter on the FY 2025 LMIG program funds. The letter stated that we would receive \$212,675.35. Weeks said this is about \$4000.00 more than FY2024 LMIG.

**BONAPARTES RETREAT RD-** Weeks explained that the Commissioners already approved in a previous meeting the paving of the first 5,340 feet of Bonapartes Retreat Rd. There is another 2,348 feet left that was not going to be paved. The contractor has agreed to pave the entire road for \$367,276.00. This would mean that we would have to use \$164,229.00 from TSPLOST for the entire project. Weeks asked the Commission if this was something they would want to consider since the contractor will already be there paving the first portion. Weeks also stated this would be done by a change order and would not have to be put out for bid. Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve using \$164,229.00 out of TSPLOST to pave the entire Bonapartes Retreat Rd. **Motion made by Blackmon to approve using \$164,229.00 out of TSPLOST to pave the entire Bonapartes Retreat Rd. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

**Tax Commissioner Report-**Tax Commissioner Mindy Ward was present at the meeting and stated that the Tax Assessors office has approved the digest so she should be able to have some paperwork to County Clerk Carolyn Wilson by next week.

**Probate Report-**

**SUPERIOR CLERK OF COURT-**

**SHERIFF REPORT-**

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS-**

**4-H COORDINATOR REPORT-** Ms. Shelby Weeks from the 4-H office was present at the meeting and gave a brief update. Ms. Weeks went over several activities that they have provided for the kids and how much the kids have enjoyed them. Chairman Lewis thanked Ms. Weeks and Mrs. Cassie Young for all the programs that they have provided this summer for all the kids.

**Library-**

**Fire Dept. Report-**

**EMA REPORT-**

**CHAIRMAN REPORT-**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE O3-2024 GMA RETIREMENT AMENDMENT 2nd READING-** Chairman Lewis read over Ordinance O3-2024 GMA Retirement amendment. Chairman Lewis stated that this was the 2nd reading. **Motion made by Kinsey to approve Ordinance O3-2024 GMA Retirement amendment. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

**ORDINANCE O4-2024 AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 33 NUISANCE ORDINANCE 2nd READING-** County Manager Weeks read aloud the amendments to the nuisance ordinance. Chairman Lewis stated this is the 2nd reading. **Motion made by Kinsey to approve Ordinance O4-2024 amendments to chapter 33 nuisance ordinance. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

**HEALTH BOARD APPOINTMENT-** Chairman Lewis stated that Mrs. April Baggett is willing to serve on the health board. **Motion made by Blackmon to appoint April Baggett to the Health board to complete Richard Pitts term. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

**C4-2024 GMA RETIREMENT PLAN ADOPTION AGREEMENT-** Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve C4-2024 GMA Retirement plan adoption agreement. **Motion made by Hayes to approve C4-2024 GMA Retirement plan adoption agreement. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

**C5-2024 PLANNING & ZONING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT FY 2025-** Chairman Lewis asked County Manager Weeks if there were any changes from last year with this contract. Weeks stated there were no changes. **Motion made by Hayes to approve C5-2024 Planning & Zoning technical assistance contract. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

**LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR NORMA HAYES AND MATTIE GLOVER-** Chairman Lewis stated that the Library board appointments for Norma Hayes and Mattie Glover are due. Both have agreed to continue to serve. **Motion made by Blackmon to reappoint Norma Hayes and Mattie Glover to the Library board. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, and Blackmon. (Hayes abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.)

**RESOLUTION R12-2024 DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN-** Chairman Lewis read over Resolution R12-2024 for everyone. A copy of the plan is available at the County Commission office. **Motion made by Bussey to approve Resolution R12-2024 Disaster Mitigation plan. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS FY 2025 CONTRACT-** Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve the FY 2025 Family Connections contract. **Motion made by Hayes to approve the FY 2025 Family Connections contract. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

**LOCAL ECONOMIC DEV. AUTH. BOARD MEMBER-** Chairman Lewis asked Vice Chairman Blackmon to go over the Local Economic Dev. Authority Board members. Vice Chairman Blackmon stated that this board needs to add three members. Two spots are vacant and one board member has not been to a meeting in over a year. Chairman Lewis stated that Mr. Rotimi Onaghise is interested in serving. Chairman Lewis also stated that he would like for the board to consider Mrs. Fran Balkcom. Chairman Lewis asked that this be tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

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Mr. Hal Shadrick asked what the cost of EMS is for Quitman County. Financial Officer Odom stated that the cost is \$625,000.00 annually. Mr. Shadrick wanted to know if there was another company that could provide the service cheaper or could we do it ourselves for less. Chairman Lewis went over all the complications with being able to provide the service ourselves and the complications in finding someone to provide the service for less money. Chairman Lewis also explained that this is something that he and the other commissioners have discussed and tried to come up with the best solution for the entire County.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION- Motion made by Bussey to go into executive session to discuss personnel and real estate. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon. **Motion made by Hayes to close executive session. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon. **Motion made by Kinsey to reopen regular session. Second by Blackmon.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon. Chairman Lewis stated nothing was discussed in executive session that required a vote.

**APPEARANCES -**  
**MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

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Carvel Lewis, Chairman

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Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

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Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

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David Kinsey, Commissioner

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Jim Hayes, Commissioner

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Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager

**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**CALLED MEETING MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 2, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 9:18 a.m. followed with a prayer. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Blackmon, Hayes, Kinsey, and Bussey. County Manager Weeks, County Clerk Wilson, and Financial Officer Teri Odom.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS-** Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add Forester Pontoon, land behind library, occupational tax license and executive session to discuss personal. **Motion made by Bussey to approve the amended agenda to add Forester Pontoon, land clearing behind library, occupational tax license, and executive session to discuss personal. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

**FORESTER PONTOON UPDATE-** Chairman Lewis asked Vice Chairman Blackmon to give the update on Forester pontoon. Vice Chairman Blackmon stated that NorthStar Pontoon wants to move forward with coming to Georgetown-Quitman County and open a boat manufacturing company here. NorthStar is going to take on the debt of Forester Pontoon. Vice Chairman Blackmon will have an additional update later today. Blackmon also stated that the Governor's office is encouraging this move happen as quick as possible.

**OCCUPATIONAL TAX LICENSE-** Vice Chairman Blackmon opened the discussion for occupational tax license fees. Vice Chairman Blackmon feels like the occupational tax license fee should be looked at and possibly raised. The occupational tax license fee is based on number of employees and a \$25.00 administrative fee. Commissioner Hayes added that we should look at sales from the business and create tiers based on sales and employees. After some discussion, Chairman Lewis stated that he feels like we need to look at this per business.

**LAND CLEARING BEHIND LIBRARY-** Vice Chairman Blackmon explained that he would like to move forward with getting the 5 acres that is located behind the library transferred to the Local Economic Development Authority so that the land clearing process could begin. Vice Chairman Blackmon stated that we can clear 1 acre at a time to avoid paying any permit fees to EPD. County Manager Weeks stated that according to EPD you are allowed to clear 1 acre and are required to get permanent grass established before you can start clearing another 1 acre. Vice Chairman Blackmon stated that the only cost that we would incur would be the operator fee of the equipment, fuel for the equipment, and equipment moving cost. Chairman Lewis asked if the Local Economic Development Authority would be able to help pay for some of this cost. Vice Chairman Blackmon stated that the Local Economic Development Authority has funds available that they can use to help with the cost. After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Lewis suggested that this be discussed in more detail later.

**MOBILE HOME VARIANCE-** County Manager Weeks went over the mobile home variance for 1101 Ga Hwy 39 South. According to our ordinance the minimum sq. footage for a mobile home to be brought into Georgetown-Quitman County is 900 sq. foot. If someone wants to bring in a mobile home that does not meet the minimum sq. footage, they are required to submit a variance to Planning and Zoning, If they approve it, then it goes to the Commission Board for the final approval. Weeks stated that Planning & Zoning approved the variance at a called meeting

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with conditions. Planning & Zoning is requiring that a covered porch and carport be added that would meet the 900 minimum sq. footage. **Motion made by Bussey to approve the mobile home variance for 1101 Ga Hwy 39 South with the conditions of adding a covered porch and carport to meet the 900 minimum square footage. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, and Blackmon. Voting No-Hayes

**MILLAGE RATE DISCUSSION-** Chairman Lewis opened the discussion on the millage rate. After several questions and a lengthy discussion on the millage rate a **Motion was made by Bussey to raise the millage rate by 3 mills. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes. Voting No-Blackmon.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** **Motion made by Bussey to go into executive session to discuss personnel and land acquisition. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon. **Motion made by Blackmon to close executive session. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon. **Motion made by Bussey to reopen regular session. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

Chairman Lewis stated nothing was discussed in executive session that required a vote. Commissioner Kinsey asked some questions regarding dissolving the Water & Sewer Authority Board because the Commissioners are having to become more involved in daily operations. After some discussion, a **motion was made by Blackmon to gather information on the laws and financial responsibilities to dissolve the Water & Sewer Authority Board. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes- Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon. **Voting No - Bussey**

**APPEARANCES** –

**MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 11:27 a.m.

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Carvel Lewis, Chairman

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Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

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Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

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David Kinsey, Commissioner

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Jim Hayes, Commissioner

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Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager