

MINUTES
PUBLIC MEETING
BARTOW COUNTY COMMISSIONER
July 10, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES:

- Commissioner Taylor opened the meeting with the approval of the June 5th Public Meeting minutes.

APPOINTMENTS:

- John Morgan and Brandi Smith were both re-appointed to serve another five-year term on the Department of Family and Children Services Board.
- Vicki Tate was re-appointed to serve another three-year term on the Planning Commission.

EXTENSION SERVICES:

Bartow County Extension Service Coordinator, Paul Pugliese presented two contracts for Commissioner Taylor's approval related to the planned installation of a greenhouse on the County's Olin Tatum Building property to be used for extension education and outreach programs. The greenhouse will also be used to grow plants for fund raisers for extension service programs. The 30x14 greenhouse was purchased from ClearSpan in 2023.

- Two proposals were received for the site preparation phase of the project. After interviewing both proposers, Mr. Pugliese recommended that the County award the contract to L & W Builders in the amount of \$32,115.00 to perform the site preparation work needed for the greenhouse installation.
- Mr. Pugliese also received two proposals for the assembly and installation phase of the greenhouse and recommended that the County award the contract to ClearSpan in the amount of \$20,494.75. The total cost of the site work and greenhouse assembly is \$52,609.00. To date, the extension service currently holds \$35,000 in grant funds and donations for the project. Mr. Pugliese will continue to seek additional grant funds and donations to cover the remaining cost of the project.

Commissioner Taylor awarded a contract to L & W Builders in the amount of \$32,115.00 for the site preparation work and also awarded a contract to ClearSpan in the amount of \$20,494.75 for the installation of the greenhouse at the County Extension Office facility, located at the Olin Tatum Building, 320 West Cherokee Avenue, Cartersville.

ENGINEERING, ROADS & TRANSPORTATION:

- Commissioner Taylor authorized a funding agreement with the Federal Highway Administration in the amount of \$300,000.00 to prepare a Safety Action Plan with a goal of reducing serious transportation related injuries and fatalities. The Bartow Cartersville Metropolitan Planning Organization will be in charge of the Plan preparation.
- Additional County Road Rights-of-Way was accepted on the following roads in order to increase the width to sixty feet:
 - An additional 5' along a section of John Kay Road
 - An additional 15' along a section of Evans Road
 - An additional 10' along a section of Bozeman Road
- Commissioner Taylor authorized a paving agreement with the Bartow County School System to resurface Cass High School access roads. The County negotiated with the School System to resurface the main access road to the school, the east side access road to the rear of the school and a section of Colonel Way in front of White Elementary School. The School System has agreed to contribute \$498,164.15 toward the cost of the project. The County will provide all labor and equipment necessary and will work toward completing the resurfacing project during the summer break for County schools, weather and other factors permitting.

FINANCE & SERVICES:

- SPLOST Document 1: County Administrator Peter Olson presented an Intergovernmental Agreement with the municipalities related to the continuation of a one percent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (2026 SPLOST). The County and the Cities use these funds to cover the cost of capital improvements, such as roads, buildings and park improvements and also for major purchases, such as police cars and fire trucks. The cities and the County have re-negotiated the intergovernmental agreement to arrive at the 2026 SPLOST figures. The Referendum question will be placed on the November 5th General Election ballots and voters will be encouraged to renew it. This is not an increase in taxes, but a continuation of the 7% sales tax currently in affect. If approved by the voters, the 2026 SPLOST will be imposed for a period of six years, commencing January, 2026 upon the expiration of the current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. If the SPLOST fails, the County faces a challenge. SPLOST accounts for about 5 of the 7 mills on property taxes. To make up for that money, the County would have to go up to 12 mills on property taxes or cut back on services. Approximately 50% of the sales taxes collected is paid by visitors and travelers, people that don't live here.
- SPLOST Document 2: Mr. Olson presented a Resolution calling for a Referendum to be placed on the November 5th Ballot for the re-imposition of a one percent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Commissioner Taylor added that per capita we collect as much sales tax as any County in Georgia. That's why Bartow County has the lowest millage of any county we touch. Commissioner Taylor approved both the SPLOST intergovernmental agreement and the SPLOST Referendum and encouraged citizens to vote for the SPLOST in November.
- Felony Drug Court funding agreement # J25-8-010 in the total amount of \$ 580,038.00 was approved and authorized as presented.
- Family Treatment Court funding agreement # J25-8-109 in the total amount of \$259,978.00 was approved and authorized as presented.
- A Family Treatment Court Service Agreement with Amanda Watkins to provide needed Treatment Case Management services on behalf of Juvenile Court was also approved as presented.
- Commissioner Taylor executed a Resolution to accept \$7,992.00 through the Scrap Tire Amnesty Grant to cover the cost of the Fall 2024 Scrap Tire Amnesty Week event. The event will take place the week of September 28th-October 5th.

LICENSES & PERMITS:

- The following Alcohol Licenses were approved as presented:
 - Alcohol License for Sara27 LLC for retail beer and wine sales: License # AL24-00008
 - Alcohol License for TNH2366 LLC for retail beer and wine sales: License # AL24-00016
 - Alcohol License for Buffalo's Café: License # AL24-00019
- Commissioner Taylor authorized amendments to the Building Permit fees as requested by the Community Development staff. Community Development Director Brandon Johnson explained that new State regulations prohibits counties from charging valuation-based permit fees. The staff is switching to flat fees or fees based on square footage. This caught a lot of cities and counties off guard so they have had to adjust the fee schedule accordingly.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- The Commissioner awarded a contract to Smith Contracting in the amount of \$350,000.00 for the construction of a multi-court soccer complex at Hamilton Crossing Park. This is a SPLOST funded project. New tennis courts and pickle ball courts have also been built using SPLOST funds.
- Commissioner Taylor also authorized a funding agreement with the Department of Natural Resources for the construction of an Archery Range on the Cassville-Pine Log Road County Greenspace property. The entire facility will be ADA accessible and includes a static archery range, an archery trail, a pavilion, parking, and a vault toilet. The development will eventually expand to include a hiking trail

and a disc golf course. DNR will reimburse the County up to \$576,000.00 for the planned improvements.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A Cyber Security Upgrade Agreement with Motorola in the amount of \$224,944.64 was approved as presented that will provide additional cyber security features for the county-wide 700 mhz public safety radio system.
- Commissioner Taylor authorized a contract with American Traffic Solutions, Inc. d/b/a Verra Mobility to provide automated video traffic violation detection services in various County school zones. Lt. Matt Pifer addressed the Commissioner, providing statistics compiled through a three-day traffic study of the existing school cameras. According to the compiled data, When the school beacons were flashing, there were a total of 898 traffic violations at five schools in April. When the school beacons were not flashing, there were 263 violations. During the 2022-2023 school year, there were 2,170 speed violations. The following school year, 2023-2024 the number dropped to 838 violations, about a 61% drop in violations. Fines are mandated by State law, \$75-\$150. The company receives \$35 per violation. The remaining funds are turned over to the County. Two flock cameras will be installed at each school, which will assist law enforcement during a school related emergency or other emergency in the area.

WATER & SEWER:

- Lamont Kiser, Director of the Bartow County Water & Sewer Services, presented a Purchase Option Agreement to purchase 92.89 acres on Old Tennessee Highway for a possible future water source. The Option Agreement will allow the County to perform tests of the property to determine if the property is favorable for use as a future water source. If tests come back favorably, this agreement will allow us to proceed with the purchase. Commissioner Taylor approved and authorized the Purchase Option Agreement as presented.
- An Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Cartersville related to Lake Allatoona water storage and withdrawal was approved as presented. The County and City obtains and utilizes water from Allatoona Lake, under a Federal contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The City has preexisting water storage and withdrawal rights under two contracts dated 1966 and 1991. The Corps of Engineers has authorized a new storage contract with the State of Georgia, which requires a sub agreement with the County and City to utilize 11,327.2 acre-feet of the storage space made available to the State by the Federal Contract.
- Commissioner Taylor authorized a Development Agreement with Taylor Morrison of Georgia to upgrade a section of water line along Euharlee Road at Cliff Nelson Road in order to support the planned development and existing customers. The County will approve the upgrade design and will provide regular inspections of the project and has agreed to reimburse the developer \$95,639.09 upon the satisfactory completion of the project.
- Commissioner Taylor also authorized a Development Agreement with Pulte Home Company to provide a water main upgrade along Hamilton Crossing Road and Fire Tower Road to support the planned single family housing development. The County will approve the design and construction of the upgrade and will provide regular inspections of the project. Upon the satisfactory completion of the project, the County has agreed to reimburse the Developer \$91,510.71 for the upgrades.
- A five-year Water Service Agreement with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to provide water service to the Corp's Allatoona Lake Field Office was approved as presented. The Corp has agreed to a lump sum price of \$195,000.00 to be paid to Bartow County in twenty-five (25) installments of \$7,800.00.
- Commissioner Taylor awarded a contract to HD Excavations and Utilities, LLC in the amount of \$341,657.50 to relocate the sanitary sewer along Grassdale Road in connection with the Grassdale Road sidewalk project.

- Commissioner Taylor awarded a contract to Hogan Construction Group in the base amount of \$190,604.00 for Construction Manager at Risk services related to the Water Department Office Expansion Project.

ZONING:

- Zoning Administrator Richard Osborne presented Zoning application # Z-24-00017 was submitted by Ryan O'Donnell, c/o CG Store-Guard, LLC requesting Conditional Use of C-1 property located at 255 McCormick Road to allow an expansion of the existing storage facility. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the application with a 7-0 vote. There were no registered speakers. Commissioner Taylor approved the application as presented.
- Zoning Staff submitted Application # Z-24-00028 requesting Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments to add conditional use requirements for injection wells and adding multi-family and small lot residential design standards, landscaping and amenities requirements. Commissioner Taylor approved the amendments as presented.

Having no other business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Signature On File
Kathy Gill, County Clerk

APPROVED:

8/7/2024
Date

Signature on File
Steve Taylor, Sole Commissioner