POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 02, 2024 7:10 PM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Commissioners Ray Carter, Hal Floyd, Jordan Hubbard, Linda Liles, Gary Martin, and Chuck Thaxton.

OTHERS PRESENT:

County Manager Matt Denton, Assistant County Manager Connor Hooper, County Attorney Brad McFall, and County Clerk Jaime Armstrong.

MEDIA PRESENT:

Jeremy Stewart, Polk County Standard Journal.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hal Floyd called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. **Consider approval of agenda for the Regular Meeting of April 02, 2024.**

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting of April 02, 2024 with the amendment to add: Consider application for additional 2024 LMIG funds to complete bridge and paving projects, and Consider appointment to Water Authority Board for a 5-year term to fill the position held by Neeve Owen that expired March 31, 2024. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Consider approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of March 05, 2024.**

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Liles to approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of March 05, 2024. Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consider application requesting variance from Jerome W. Bentley and Jody B. Smith for Tax Parcel 026-038A located at 578 Tallapoosa Highway, Cedartown, Georgia, to reduce setback requirements in front yard. Planning and Zoning recommended approval.**

   Applicants were present at the Work Session to answer any questions the Commissioners may have prior to consideration of the requests at their Regular Meeting.

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Hubbard to approve the request for a variance from Jerome W. Bentley and Jody B. Smith for Tax Parcel 026-038A located at 578 Tallapoosa Highway, Cedartown, Georgia, to reduce setback requirements in front yard. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Consider application requesting variance from Tommy Sanders for Tax Parcel 059-017B located at 205 Marquette Road, Rockmart, Georgia, to allow use of an existing driveway. Planning and Zoning recommended approval.**

   Applicant was present at the Work Session to answer any questions the Commissioners may have prior to consideration of the requests at their Regular Meeting.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Liles to approve the request for a variance from Tommy Sanders for Tax Parcel 059-017B located at 205 Marquette Road, Rockmart, Georgia, to allow use of an existing driveway.

At the request of Commissioner Carter that the application fees be refunded, Commissioner Liles amended the Motion to include the stipulation for refund of application fees. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Consider application requesting zoning change from Charles Pilcher for Tax Parcel 047-101 located at 971 North Bellview Road, Aragon, Georgia, to subdivide 1.25 acres of the property. Planning and Zoning recommended approval.**

Applicant was present at the Work Session to answer any questions the Commissioners may have prior to consideration of the requests at their Regular Meeting.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Hubbard to approve the request for zoning change from Charles Pilcher for Tax Parcel 047-101 located at 971 North Bellview Road, Aragon, Georgia, to subdivide 1.25 acres of the property. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Consider application requesting zoning change from Leigh Hulsey for a portion of Tax Parcel 061-109A located at 255 Super Deluxe Road, Rockmart, Georgia, to allow for light industrial use. Planning and Zoning recommended denial.**

Applicant was present at the Work Session to answer any questions the Commissioners may have prior to consideration of the requests at their Regular Meeting.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to deny the request for zoning change from Leigh Hulsey for a portion of Tax Parcel 061-109A located at 255 Super Deluxe Road, Rockmart, Georgia, to allow for light industrial use. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed with Commissioners Hubbard, Liles, Martin and Thaxton voting in favor; Commissioner Carter abstained due to political affiliation.

5. **Consider a resolution adopting an updated Mission Statement for Polk County Government.**

The Mission Statement was discussed, revised and agreed upon by the Board at the March 18, 2024 Board Retreat.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve the resolution adopting an updated Mission Statement for Polk County Government. Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **Consider a resolution formally adopting the FY2024 Capital Fund 340 Budget which includes an allocation of funding for Fire Department Architectural Services and a new County Morgue.**

Though Capital Fund 340 has been adopted and amended several times, the Finance Director Muriel Dulaney has advised that O.C.G.A. requires that all Capital Budgets, not just the General Fund Budget, must be adopted by a formal Resolution. This has been verified by County Attorney McFall. The proposed resolution incorporates the addition of funding for the Fire Station architectural services in the amount of $103,500.00, and a new County Morgue estimated at approximately $200,000.00. Also, the following abandoned projects have been removed: Meadow Lakes Utilities Relocation in the amount of $25,000.00, DNR Grant Match not received in the amount of $80,000.00, and Message Boards for Public Works in the amount of $36,000.00.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Hubbard to approve the resolution formally adopting the FY2024 Capital Fund 340 Budget which includes an allocation of funding for Fire Department Architectural Services and a new County Morgue. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **Consider a resolution amending the Code of Polk County, Chapter 55 – Airport Rules and Regulations, Sections 55-1 and 55-2.**

   The proposed resolution revises and updates the language pertaining to aircraft hangar storage and adds a definition for "derelict aircraft".

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve the resolution amending the Code of Polk County, Chapter 55 – Airport Rules and Regulations, Sections 55-1 and 55-2. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

8. **Consider a recommendation from the Ordinance Committee to amend the Code of Polk County, Chapter 14 – Emergency Management and Emergency Services, Section 14-24.**

   The proposed amendment is an update to the current organizational chart of Emergency Management Operations. The organizational chart has not been updated since 1993 per Municode.

   Chairman Floyd stated the Motion as recommended by the Ordinance Committee is to amend the Code of Polk County, Chapter 14 – Emergency Management and Emergency Services, Section 14-24. Motion passed unanimously.

9. **Consider a request from the Development Authority of Polk County to use the $100,000.00 Economic Development Closing Fund budgeted in the 2014 SPLOST for the Solarcycle Project.**

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Carter to approve the request from the Development Authority of Polk County to use the $100,000.00 Economic Development Closing Fund budgeted in the 2014 SPLOST for the Solarcycle Project. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

10. **Consider a resolution amending the Polk County Personnel Policy, Section 24, pertaining to post-employment retirement.**

    The proposed resolution will reinstate the post-employment benefit that was removed as part of ending the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan for employees hired on or after July 1, 2021. The purpose of this amendment is to strengthen employee recruitment.

    Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Hubbard to approve the resolution amending the Polk County Personnel Policy, Section 24, pertaining to post-employment retirement. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

11. **Consider a recommendation from the Finance Committee amending the FY2024 General Fund Budget to allocate funding for Fire Department Radios.**

    Chairman Floyd stated the Motion as recommended by the Finance Committee is to amend the FY2024 General Fund Budget to allocate funding for Fire Department Radios. Motion passed unanimously.

12. **Consider recommendation from the Bid Committee to award the bid for twenty (20) AR-15 Patrol Rifles for the Police Department to Smyrna Police Distributors in the amount of $29,525.00.**

    Bids were received for the purchase of twenty (20) AR-15 Patrol Rifles and accessories for the Police Department. The rifles will be purchased using Drug Seizure Funds. The lowest of the four bids received was from Smyrna Police Distributors in the amount of $29,525.00. The recommendation from the Bid Committee is to award the bid to Smyrna Police Distributors.

    Following a request from the Police Department for further review of the bids, Motion was made by Commissioner Martin to table the item until the May 07, 2024 meeting. Second by Commissioner Thaxton. Motion passed unanimously.

13. **Consider application for additional 2024 LMIG funds to complete bridge and paving projects.**

The county received notification of an opportunity for additional LMIG Grant funding in the amount of $987,798.00. The Public Works Director provided two options for use of the funding. The first option would be for a bridge and paving project, and the second option would be for a paving only project.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve the application for additional 2024 LMIG funds to complete bridge and paving projects. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Consider appointment to Water Authority Board for a 5-year term to fill the position held by Neeve Owen that expired March 31, 2024.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to appoint Lucas Culver to the Water Authority Board for a five-year term beginning April 01, 2024 to fill the position recently held by Neeve Owen. Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. March 2024 Finance Report.

County Manager Denton reviewed the March 2024 Finance Report. He reported that Revenues were at 72.9%, Expenses were at 52.5%, and Agency Allocations were at 74.2% though the report does not reflect salaries from ADP.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Martin reiterated the purpose of tabling the bid for purchase of the AR-15 rifles was to allow for further review of the bids that were submitted to ensure the Police Department gets exactly what they need.

Commissioner Carter had no comments.

Commissioner Hubbard thanked the Department Heads for indulging him during his visits stating that it is hard for him to make decisions that may affect their department without the knowledge of what all they do.

Commissioner Liles congratulated AdventHealth for being named Industry of the Year at the 2024 Polk County Chamber Gala, the Rockmart High School girls tennis team for their region win, and Chief Kenny Dodd on his upcoming retirement at the end of April. She recognized the Fire Department on their first week as a full-time/part-time fire station in the county.

Commissioner Thaxton also congratulated Chief Dodd on his upcoming retirement and expressed his appreciation for his dedication and service.

Commissioner Floyd echoed Commissioner Thaxton's sentiments and wished Chief Dodd well in his retirement. He mentioned the Board Retreat held a couple of weeks ago and expressed his appreciation to those who attended for the hard work they put in to accomplish what they accomplished that day. He read the revised Mission Statement approved by the Board earlier in the meeting that was one of the items covered during the Board Retreat noting that he believes that it is very important that everyone understands the mission of the Board and Polk County Government as a whole. He also expressed his appreciation for the employees of the county as well as the Committees and all the hard work they put in.

ADJOURN

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Hubbard to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Thaxton. Motion passed unanimously.

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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HAL FLOYD, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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JAIME ARMSTRONG, COUNTY CLERK