POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 03, 2024 6:23 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, and County Attorney Brad McFall.

MEDIA PRESENT:

Jeremy Stewart, Polk Standard Journal.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hal Floyd called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. **Consider approval of agenda for the Regular Meeting of September 03, 2024.**

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting of September 03, 2024 with the amendments of adding: Consider a proposed resolution amending the FY 2025 Budget to provide provisional funding to the Accountability Courts, Consider proposed Intergovernmental Agreement with the Polk County Superior Court regarding the use of Opioid Settlement Funding, Consider a proposed Intergovernmental Agreement with the Polk County Juvenile Court regarding the use of Opioid Settlement Funding, and revision of the request from the Police Chief to retire the Police Department's K-9, Joep, due to his age, into the care of Corporal C.J. Norris as item #1. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Consider approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 06, 2024, and the Called Meeting of August 20, 2024.**

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 06, 2024, and the Called Meeting of August 20, 2024. Second by Commissioner Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consider a request from the Police Chief to retire the Police Department's K-9, Joep, due to his age, into the care of Corporal C.J. Norris.**

   Joep is now eight years old and is no longer performing to the level expected from a K-9. K-9s are typically retired at this point into the care of their handler. Chief Evans is requesting that Joep be retired into the care of Corporal C.J. Norris due to his age.

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Liles to approve the request from the Police Chief to retire the Police Department's K-9, Joep, due to his age, into the care of Corporal C.J. Norris. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Z24-10: Consider rezoning request from A-1 to C-1 by Sal Baran for property located at 2649 Cartersville Highway. Planning Commission recommended approval.**

The 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 approve the rezoning request from A-1 to C-1 by Sal Baran for property located at 2649 Cartersville Highway with the stipulation of retaining the tree line barrier to the adjoining property as agreed between the property owners. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Z24-11: Consider rezoning request from R-1 to RA-8 by Rachel Ramey for property located at 381 Booger Hollow Road. Planning Commission recommended approval.**

   The 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 Carter to approve the rezoning request from R-1 to RA-8 by Rachel Ramey for property located at 381 Booger Hollow Road. Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Z24-12: Consider rezoning request from CN to R-1 by Marcello Flores for property located at 4409 Buchanan Highway. Planning Commission recommended approval.**

   The 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 Carter to approve the rezoning request from CN to R-1 by Marcello Flores for property located at 4409 Buchanan Highway. Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Z24-13: Consider rezoning request from A-1 to CN by Mary Meeks, represented by GCT Enterprises, LLC, for property located at 111 Knight Drive. Planning Commission recommended approval.**

   The 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 Carter to approve the rezoning request from A-1 to CN by Mary Meeks, represented by GCT Enterprises, LLC, for property located at 111 Knight Drive. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **TA24-01: Consider zoning text amendment pertaining to lowering the fence requirement for pools from 5ft. to 4ft. unless the pool is a community pool (subdivision, recreation park, etc.). Planning Commission recommended approval.**

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Carter to approve the zoning text amendment pertaining to lowering the fence requirement for pools from 5ft. to 4ft. unless the pool is a community pool (subdivision, recreation park, etc.). Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed with Commissioners Carter, Hubbard and Thaxton voting in favor; Commissioners Liles and Martin voted against.

7. **Consider a request from the Police Chief to amend the Classification and Compensation Plan, increasing the pay grade for Code Enforcement Officer from PD-1 to PD-2.**

   Police Chief Kiki Evans has requested the proposed amendment to the classification and compensation plan to assist in filling the position. If approved, the annual salary for this position will increase from $44,793.00 to $48,966.00, which is greater than an entry level police officer. The Human Resources Department has reviewed the request and does not recommend approval.

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Hubbard to approve the request from the Police Chief to amend the Classification and Compensation Plan,

increasing the pay grade for Code Enforcement Officer from PD-1 to PD-2. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed with Commissioners Carter, Hubbard, Liles and Martin voting in favor; Commissioner Thaxton voted against.

8. **Consider a request from the 911 Director to amend the Classification and Compensation Plan, creating a E911-4 pay grade for the existing Assistant 911 Director position.**

   911 Director Tandra Owens has requested the amendment to the classification and compensation plan due to her inability to fill the recently approved position within her department. The position was approved for grade 18 at a starting pay of $46,868.00. The starting pay for the new E911-4 grade would be $48,853.00. Director Owens desires to fill the position with an existing shift supervisor, however the pay rate at grade 18 does not take into consideration the required overtime and TAC supplement which combined is more than the grade 18 pay.

   Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner to Liles to approve the request from the 911 Director to amend the Classification and Compensation Plan, creating a E911-4 pay grade for the existing Assistant 911 Director position. Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously.

9. **Consider a recommendation from the Finance Committee to amend the rates of pay for Board of Equalization members to that of the existing Board of Assessors rates.**

   The existing rate of pay for Board of Equalization members is a flat $60.00 per day. The existing rates of pay for Board of Assessors members is: Chairman $12.37/hour and Members $10.35/hour. The proposed request came from the Clerk of Court through the Grand Jury.

   Chairman Floyd stated the Motion as recommended by the Finance Committee is to amend the rates of pay for Board of Equalization members to that of the existing Board of Assessors rates. Motion passed unanimously.

10. **Consider a recommendation from the Finance Committee to amend the approved FY 2025 Capital Improvement Plan and Capital Fund 340 budget to include the purchase of three Police Department patrol vehicle camera systems in the amount of $9,000.00.**

    The proposed request originated from Chief Kiki Evans though it was erroneously not included on the recently approved FY2025 CIP. The existing camera systems are no longer operable and need to be replaced.

    Chairman Floyd stated the Motion as recommended by the Finance Committee is to amend the approved FY 2025 Capital Improvement Plan and Capital Fund 340 budget to include the purchase of three Police Department patrol vehicle camera systems in the amount of $9,000.00. Motion passed unanimously.

11. **Consider approval for the Fire Department to apply for Norfolk Southern Safety First Grant to purchase rescue lift air bags in a not to exceed amount of $15,000.00.**

    Fire Chief Michael Hanuscin is requesting approval to apply for the Norfolk Southern Safety First Grant to purchase rescue lift air bags, which is no match requirement grant. However, if Norfolk Southern does not provide the total amount requested, the County can either purchase partial equipment with grant funds that are allocated, or purchase all of the equipment with the remaining balance being due from the County.

    Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Carter to approve for the Fire Department applying for the Norfolk Southern Safety First Grant to purchase rescue lift air bags in a not to exceed amount of $15,000.00. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

12. **Consider approval to purchase a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado for the new Animal Control vehicle in the amount of $44,153.00 off of Georgia State Contract from Hardy Chevrolet.**

The vehicle purchase for Animal Control was on the approved FY 2025 CIP in an amount not to exceed $70,000.00. City Body Works will be removing the old box from the retired vehicle to install onto the new 2024 vehicle, which will result in approximately $14,000.00 worth of savings compared to buying a new box.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Thaxton to approve the purchase a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado for the new Animal Control vehicle in the amount of $44,153.00 off of Georgia State Contract from Hardy Chevrolet. Second by Commissioner Liles. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Consider a proposed resolution amending the FY 2025 Budget to provide provisional funding to the Accountability Courts.

Due to the delay in the FY2023 Audit, the State has withheld grant funds to the courts. The proposed resolution will provide provisional funding from the landfill fund to the accountability courts until the State releases the grant funds at which time the provisional funding will be returned to the landfill fund.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Carter to approve the proposed resolution amending the FY 2025 Budget to provide provisional funding to the Accountability Courts. Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Consider proposed Intergovernmental Agreements with the Polk County Superior Court regarding the use of Opioid Settlement Funding.

The FY2025 budget includes funding to the accountability courts from the county's opioid settlement funding. The proposed agreements with Superior Court Judges Mark Murphy and Andrew Roper will insure that the funding provided to the courts will be spent in accordance with the specifications mandated in the approved settlement documents.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Carter to approve the proposed Intergovernmental Agreements with the Polk County Superior Court regarding the use of Opioid Settlement Funding. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

15. Consider a proposed Intergovernmental Agreement with the Polk County Juvenile Court regarding the use of Opioid Settlement Funding.

The FY2025 budget includes funding to the accountability courts from the county's opioid settlement funding. The proposed agreement with Juvenile Judge Deana Perry will insure that the funding provided to the courts will be spent in accordance with the specifications mandated in the approved settlement documents.

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Hubbard to approve the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement with the Polk County Juvenile Court regarding the use of Opioid Settlement Funding. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Denton reviewed the July 2024 Finance Report as presented at the August 21, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Martin again recognized Officer C.J. Norris on his handling of Joep, the Police K-9 retired earlier in the meeting, and thanked Assistant County Manager for his invocation at the Work Session.

Commissioner Carter had no comments.

Commissioner Hubbard expressed his appreciation to those who attend the Work Session and Commission meetings especially when they are living in a time where civic engagement is declining, and as always, he thanked the Department Heads and employees for making the county great.

Commissioner Liles announced the upcoming Women's Situational Awareness Seminar on Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. at Victory Baptist Church encouraging women of all ages to attend.

Commissioner Thaxton announced the Polk County Fair being held September 04-08, 2024 promoting the student participation events and encouraged as much community involvement as possible to support these students.

Commissioner Floyd thanked county employees and commissioners for all of their hard work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Commissioner Thaxton made a motion to enter into Executive Session for Personnel. Second by Commissioner Hubbard. Motion passed with Commissioners Carter, Hubbard, Liles and Thaxton voting in favor; Commissioner Martin voted against.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Floyd called for a Motion. Commissioner Carter made a motion to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Second by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

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

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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HAL FLOYD, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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JAIME ARMSTRONG, COUNTY CLERK