

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Robert Griner, called the regular session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were Commissioners Pixie Harrod, Ronnie Gaskin, John Nugent and Jimmy Parker.

Invocation: Chairman, Robert Griner

Pledge: Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve the July 11, 2023 Regular Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to move into public hearing at 6:02 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker.

- A. County Special Exception Cell Tower Tillman/Danforth 10 Mile Bay Rd. – The Chairman asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the special exception. No one had comments.

- B. County Land Development Text Amendment Multi Family Use – Amanda Thacker with Planning and Zoning explained the recommended text amendment. The board had a few questions that were directed to Amenda. No other comments made.

Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to move out of public hearing and into regular session, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. COUNTY SPECIAL EXCEPTION CELL TOWER TILLMAN/DANFORTH 10 MILE BAY RD. - Administration received a request from Amanda Thacker, Planning Commission, with a request from Kylan and Shannon Danforth to place a cell phone tower located at 10 Mile Bay Rd. Nashville, GA. The Planning Commission is recommending the approval. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

B. COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT TEXT AMENDMENT MULTI FAMILY USE - Administration received a request from Amanda Thacker, Planning Commission, with a request for a Text Amendment of the Land Development Ordinance – Section 5-2 Land Use #6 from Dwelling, Two Family (Duplex) to include Multi Family use if supplied by municipal water and sewage. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to

approve the text amendment as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

C. MITIGATION LAND HUNTING LEASE – BID OPENING - Administration advertised the Mitigation Land Hunting Lease. This is a 3-year lease which is due for renewal. Sealed bids were accepted through August 1, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. Chairman Robert Griner opened the bids during public meeting and they were as follows:

Dustin Warren	\$20.00 per acre
Michael Fender	\$11.00 per acre
Scott Ray	\$12.26 per acre

Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to accept and approve the bid from Dustin Warren for \$20.00 per acre, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

D. HANDICAP RAMP – SR. CENTER - Administration received complaints about not having a handicap ramp at the Senior Center. One quote was received from Valdez Services in the amount of \$2,300.00. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

E. MASTER CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT – PASSERO ASSOCIATES, LLC – AIRPORT - Administration received a Master Consulting Services Agreement from Passero Associates, LLC. Passero Associates was approved as the consultant for the airport projects last year. We signed an agreement for one year. It is the recommendation to enter into another one year agreement with the option to renew for two consecutive years. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

F. VAWA GRANT – DA/VAP - Administration received a request from District Attorney, Chase Studstill, to get approval on the VAWA Grant, Grant # W22-8-017 covering the period January 1 to December 31, 2023. The award is \$50,000.00 and includes a \$16,667.00 match from the DA Office for a total budget of \$66,667.00. The sole purpose of this grant is the prosecution of crimes against women and children. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

G. VEHICLE ACQUISITION - NLFD - Administration received a request to purchase a new vehicle for NLFD. Marc Mathis was given the directive last month to look for one. Several vehicle quotes were provided:

Pruitt’s Truck Sales – 2017 RAM 3500 – Marietta, GA	\$48,500.00
Eddie’s Auto Sales – 2012 Ford F450 – TN	\$31,995.00
Joseph’s Motors, Inc. – 2011 Ford F350 – NC	\$49,900.00
Larry Stigers Equipment, Trailers & Trucks – KY	\$34,900.00

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the purchase from Pruitt’s Truck Sales in the amount of \$48,500.00, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

H. BOARD APPOINTMENT – DFACS - Administration received a request from Mendi Johns, DFCS Director, requesting Ms. Florence Moffett be appointed to fill a term ending June 30, 2028. The commissioners would like to get several more applicants if possible. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

I. SATISFACTION & CANCELLATION – RLF - received a request from Danny Studstill to execute the Satisfaction & Cancellation from Robert Schraven and Clipper Services & Solutions, LLC. We received the funds that paid this loan in full. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve the Satisfaction & Cancellation as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

J. AMBULANCE PURCHASE- EMS - Administration received recommendation from Watkins & Associates to purchase the Option B: Type III Ambulance. A total of two bids were received and opened. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the purchase of the Option B, Type III Emergency Medical Ambulance from Custom Truck and Body Works in the amount of \$323,992.00 funded with the ARPA Funds, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

K. PIPE PURCHASE – ROAD - Administration received a request from Ben Warren, Public Works Director, to purchase pipe. Three quotes were requested with two quotes received. He is requesting the purchase from Winsupply in the amount of \$22,054.94. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the purchase from Winsupply in the amount of \$22,054.94, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker.

L. UNIFORM PURCHASE – RECREATION - Administration received a recommendation from Joe Barkman to purchase football, cheerleading, soccer and tennis uniforms. He provided quotes and a recommendation as follows:

<u>QUOTES:</u>	Football 7 – 12 year old	Downtown Dogwood \$30.00 per jersey
	Football 5-6 year old	Downtown Dogwood \$18.00 per jersey
	Cheer 5-12 year old	Downtown Dogwood \$12.00 shorts \$18.00 set of spirit poms
	Tennis & Soccer	Dixie Sales & Graphics \$14.50 per shirt

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the purchase as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

M. TIRE ACQUISITION – ROAD - Administration received a request from Ben Warren, Public Works Director, to purchase four tires Two quotes were received. He is requesting the purchase from the Tire Store in the amount of \$3,700.00. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the purchase from The Tire Store in the amount of \$3,700.00, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

N. **RATIFICATION ITEMS** – Administration is requesting ratification on the following items:

Ray & Sons – Library	\$2,891.00
Southeastern Commercial Tire – Road	\$1,816.46
Akins – Road	\$6,122.50
Cherokee Culverts – Road	\$1,463.68
Goddard Mobile Homes, LLC – Recreation	\$4,500.00
Goddard Mobile Homes, LLC – Recreation	\$4,000.00

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to ratify the items as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS: Sheriff Paulk – requested the board approve the purchase of a new truck to replace the truck that was involved in an accident. The insured company is paying the county \$24,829.00 for our loss. The quote for a new truck is \$53,699.00. We would like to use the insurance money and some of the opioid funds, if we can get proper approval, to purchase the vehicle. If we cannot use opioid funds then we will have to use general fund dollars. We will have about \$10,000.00 of equipment to add on the truck. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to purchase the truck, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

Ben Warren – We are still working on trying to get the tractor fixed. We also had a dump truck break. The cost of repair on that is \$2,700.00 from Layne’s Truck Parks. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to repair the dump truck for \$2,700.00 from Layne’s Truck Parts, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS’ ITEMS:

Pixie Harrod – Arel Valdez said we can use his crew and pay by the hour for some of the work at the Recreation Building if needed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- USDA is requesting we approve the FARS Clause. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve and allow County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, to initial the acceptance, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.
- Familia Vineyards is requesting an Off Premises License for Malt Beverage Retail. The paid the \$300.00 fee. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.
- Pipe Order – The Road Department is requesting we approve a pipe order submitted this afternoon in the amount of \$4,680.00 from Winsupply. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.
- Received a call from a citizen stating a tree fell from county property onto her property and also the county fence is falling down. The fence runs behind the Saddle Club. After discussion, the Road Department will take care of the tree and the fence will be removed and not replaced.

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to move out of Regular Session and into Executive Session for personnel at 7:01 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to move out of Executive Session and into Regular Session at 7:05 p.m.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m..

Chairman, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Ronnie Gaskins

Commissioner, Pixie Harrod

Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

Commissioner, John Nugent

ATTEST: _____
County Clerk