

MINUTES

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

JANUARY 6, 2009
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIRMAN AHRENS

Chairman Ahrens called the regular meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2009. Those in attendance were Commissioner Harry B. Johnston; Commissioner Jim Hubbard; Commissioner Karen Bosch; Commissioner Derek V. Good; County Manager Jerry Cooper; County Attorney Angie Davis; County Clerk Sheila R. Corbin; Agency Directors/Department Heads; the media and the public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIRMAN AHRENS

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM WORK SESSION-DECEMBER 16 AND REGULAR MEETING-DECEMBER 16, 2008

Chairman Ahrens asked for a motion to approve the Work Session Minutes as submitted by the Clerk. Commissioner Bosch made a motion to approve; Commissioner Hubbard seconded and the Work Session minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman Ahrens then asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting as submitted by the Clerk. Commissioner Bosch made the motion to approve; Commissioner Hubbard seconded and the Minutes for the Regular Meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Steve Garland was the only person to sign up to speak. Chairman Ahrens asked Mr. Garland to come forward. Mr. Garland began by saying that he had also signed up to speak during the public hearing for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program application submittal, but wanted to speak about the adoption of the budget on the agenda now as well.

Mr. Garland began by saying that he resides in Houston, Texas but has been traveling in the southern states since the election, attempting to convince elected

officials and the people on the local level of government to wait until the newly elected President takes office and sets his budget, before setting their local budgets, determine the possibility of receiving Federal funds to supplement local budgets from the new President and Congress.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on January 6, 2009 on the application for reservation of funds under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain citizen input into the development of the application for reservation of Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to open the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.; Commissioner Bosch seconded and the vote was unanimous to open. Chairman Ahrens asked Dr. Jackie McMorris to come forward and explain what this public hearing was about. Dr. McMorris said that the public hearing was to hear comments from the public regarding the application for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and what the funds would be used for if the application was approved. Dr. McMorris said that the funds would be used to go into neighborhoods that had been hit hard by foreclosures where the properties were not being kept up by the lien holders; purchase the homes, renovate them and sell them to families in the lower income levels by subsidizing the down payments.

Chairman Ahrens called Mr. Steve Garland to the front to speak, as he was the only one to sign up to speak. Mr. Garland said that he wanted to state that he was opposed to this Program because it put government in the role of a landlord and that was not local government's responsibility. He again mentioned that before any funding is sought for various programs, there should be a waiting period of a couple of months to observe the policies and actions of the newly elected President.

After Mr. Garland finished speaking, Mr. Tom Ware said that he would like to speak, even though he had not signed up on the sheet. Chairman Ahrens said that the Board would allow it as no one else had signed up. Mr. Ware came forward and said that he just wanted to state that he thought Dr. McMorris had done an excellent job explaining the Program, that he was in support of it and that he applauded the Board for the foresight in going after the funds to try to turn around some of the neighborhoods and collect county taxes on them.

When Mr. Ware finished speaking, Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to close at 6:28 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Johnston and unanimously approved. Chairman Ahrens said there would not be an action taken until during the County Manager's portion.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN

L. B. AHRENS

Election of 2009 Vice-Chairman – Post 4

Chairman Ahrens said that he would entertain a motion to elect a Vice Chairman for 2009. Commissioner Hubbard made the motion to elect Commissioner Derek Good, Post 4; Commissioner Bosch seconded and the vote was 4-0, with Commissioner Good abstaining.

Adoption of proposed 2009 Annual Budget

Chairman Ahrens said that he would make a motion to formally adopt the proposed 2009 Annual Budget; Commissioner Bosch seconded the motion and the vote was a unanimous approval.

Consideration of two appointments to the Development Authority Board – postponed from December 16

Chairman Ahrens said that he would make a motion to nominate Randy Gravley and Patrick Comeaux to fill the seats vacated by Bill Lester and Bill Johnston, who did not wish to be re-appointed; Vice Chair/Commissioner Good seconded the motion and the resulting vote was for unanimous approval.

COMMISSION POST 1

HARRY B. JOHNSTON

COMMISSION POST 2

JIM HUBBARD

COMMISSION POST 3

KAREN BOSCH

COMMISSION POST 4

DEREK V. GOOD

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Final acceptance of rights-of-way, roadways and appurtenant drainage structures within **Millstone Manor** subdivision for County maintenance, including all or part of: Millstone Manor Court

Final acceptance of rights-of-way, roadways and appurtenant drainage structures within **Wolf Creek Park Unit III & IV** subdivision for County maintenance, including all or part of: Timber Wolf Trail and Wolf Creek Court

Final acceptance of rights-of-way, roadways and appurtenant drainage structures within **Woodridge Estates** subdivision for County maintenance, including all or part of: Woodridge Parkway

After Mr. Cooper completed reading the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Bosch made a motion to approve; Commissioner Hubbard seconded and the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

COUNTY MANAGER

2. Consideration and approval of the bid from F.E. Sims Enterprises, Inc. for the construction of the Cherokee County Soccer Complex in the amount of \$2,448,780.78

Mr. Cooper said that as discussed in the Work Session, the County Attorney has reviewed and approved the bid process and therefore he would recommend the approval of this bid. Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded. Commissioner Johnston then said that he was hopeful the Board would see an agreement with Cherokee Soccer Association very soon as well. The resulting vote on the motion was a unanimous approval.

3. Consideration and approval to submit application for Neighborhood Stabilization Program to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs- application prepared by Cobb Housing, Inc./Cherokee County Community Services pursuant to approval given on November 18

Commissioner Johnston said that he would make a motion to proceed with the application process; Commissioner Hubbard seconded. During a brief discussion, Commissioner Good said that he could not support the request because he does not believe that government should be in the business of being landlords. Commissioner Bosch said she would have to agree with that. The resulting vote on the motion was a 3-2 approval with Commissioners Good and Bosch voting nay.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

ADJOURN

Chairman Ahrens said if there was no other business, he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hubbard made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:51 p.m.; Commissioner Johnston seconded and the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

These Minutes were approved at the regular meeting on January 20, 2009.