

CHEROKEE COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

There was a reception at 2:30 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Center, Pre-function Area, where the winner(s) of the 4th Quarter-2009 Outstanding Service Award and the 2009 Annual Award winner were announced. The 4th Quarter 2009 Outstanding Service Award winner was Sue Caldwell from the Cherokee County Animal Shelter. The 2009 Annual Award Winner was Kenny Phelps from Engineering.

WORK SESSION MINUTES FEBRUARY 2, 2010 3:00 p.m. Cherokee Hall

Chairman Ahrens asked to get started at 3:15 p.m., all members were present. The Chairman said because of the time limitations today and the additional meeting called for, he would dispense with his normal Successories reading and ask Misti Martin to go ahead with her presentation.

1. Misti Martin from the Development Authority to give quarterly update and present annual report to Board

Misti said she was glad to be here to present the first copies of the Development Authority's Annual Report and to report on the progress made in 2009. Under Prospect Activity, 30 projects were completed for Requests for Information and/or site visits. The DACC fielded 33,347 inquiries for available space/land and hosted numerous county visits for international prospects. In Existing Industry Initiatives, two industries applied for the incentive program with over \$4.4 million dollars in investments. These industries were Universal Alloy Corporation and the Piolax Corporation. In 2009, the DACC acquired 53.27 acres, for the Highway 92 Business Park, along Highway 92 in southwest Cherokee County, which is less than 3 miles from I-75. A portion of the business park has been designated as being part of an Opportunity Zone; this will provide state job tax credits of \$3,500 per job for two (2) or more jobs created and it is envisioned this will provide incentives for recruiting quality industries. Misti finished the presentation by thanking the Commission members and the municipalities who partnered with them in 2009. There was some discussion about the "Small Business Incubator Program" which Misti explained is in the process of being studied to determine if there is enough interest from the business and educational communities in the County.

2. Discussion of 'portable signs'

Chairman Ahrens asked Commissioner Bosch to begin the discussion of "portable signs". Commissioner Bosch said that she had received complaints about the number of these signs along Bells Ferry Road and she had taken pictures as well as Vicki Taylor Lee from Planning and Zoning. She said that some may think they are grandfathered in because they have been there so long, however, the portable signs are prohibited in the Sign Ordinance and you cannot grandfather an illegal sign. The definition given in the Ordinance of a portable sign is anything you can pick up and move. Commissioner Bosch said there are some very old portable signs along Bells Ferry Road and with the effort to clean up the area underway, it would be good to start enforcing the portion of the Ordinance dealing with portable signs. Commissioner Good asked that other counties be polled to determine what their policies are on these portable signs. Mrs. Taylor Lee said that changes should be made to the sections of the Ordinance that pertains to the portable signs as well as "temporary signs". Finally it was decided that there would be an amendment to the agenda to add under Commissioner Bosch's portion, a motion to recommend that staff begin enforcing the Sign Ordinance, specifically for portable signs, on those business owners who have both a monument style sign as well as a one or more portable signs to be effective March 1st.

3. Discussion of Regular Agenda items

Chairman Ahrens began the discussion of agenda items by asking Jeff Watkins about the Public Hearing coming up for the appeal of the denial by the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Charles Jamison case. Mr. Watkins reminded the board members that this was the second request for a variance that would in effect completely delete the setback requirement if approved tonight. The ZBA had already approved a 35 foot variance into the side yard setback of 50 feet and the denied variance request for an additional ten (10) feet into this setback. Mrs. Taylor Lee said that the applicant wanted to build an attached 2 car garage, which would be accessed by an enclosed breezeway from the house; this would be in addition to the already existing 2 car garage.

When asked about the Amendment to the Agenda to decide whether to hear the appeal of a denial from the Zoning Board of Appeals for Justin Drive LLP, Mrs. Taylor Lee explained that they had come before the ZBA on January 14th asking for a reduction in a 200 foot setback to 95 feet for an animal care facility and this was denied. Mrs. Taylor Lee said that if the Board decided to hear the appeal, then they would also need to set a public hearing date for the appeal.

After a short discussion regarding the Board of Ethics appointment, the Chairman moved on to the item for the MOA with the Regional Transit Committee; he stated that this MOA formalizes the commitment of funding that had already been discussed and agreed to at \$10,000. He said that he would wait until the end of the Work Session to show the slides and talk about the retreat topics.

Next the Chairman gave a update on reimbursements from FEMA referencing the September flooding in the County. While we had requested \$635,000 of which the FEMA share is \$475,000, we have already received \$220,000 and this was going a long way towards repairing the infrastructure damaged in the flood.

Chairman Ahrens said that for the first time in ARC history, a citizen member had been elected to be the Chairman of the ARC Board; Mr. Tad Leithead, who is retired from Cousins Properties. Also, Chairman Ahrens has been elected as the Chairman of the ELUC (Environmental Land Use Committee).

Finally, Chairman Ahrens said Census 2010 was starting to gain momentum. A mailer would be done with the Water and Sewer Authority; there would be a link on our web site to the State web site. He said he would talk more on that at the meeting.

The Chairman asked Commissioner Bosch to review the item on her portion of the agenda regarding a letter to AT&T. Commissioner Bosch asked Geoff Morton to help her with this and he said that they had counted from North Victoria Drive south to the Cobb County line on Bells Ferry Road, approximately 46 telephone poles where AT&T was the last off. Mr. Morton said that they had contacted AT&T, asking them to take these remnants of the poles out and had no response from them, so the PSC was involved now; and Commissioner Bosch thought that it might be a good idea to send a letter to them and let them know that it wasn't going to go away.

After this, Mr. Cooper reviewed the Consent Agenda items and his portion of the agenda. There was some discussion on item #5; mainly that it was nice to see the two entities cooperating. Mr. Cooper said on item#9, he had the RFP ready to go out and the advertisement will appear this Friday asking for bids and proposals. He said what was printed in the agenda was in error.

Chairman Ahrens asked that the slide presentation be put up on the screen and while he was not going to through them one by one now, he would talk about some. He stated that the retreat was particularly used to prioritize the park projects with focus on Blankets' Creek and Highway 20 as well as some refurbishments and improvements on existing ones. On the Airport Terminal, there probably won't be an opening until April, as they have decided to add additional parking. After reviewing some of the facts and figures, he said it was as he had stated earlier, it would take a Positive Mental Attitude, Teamwork and Optimism from all involved to get through this time.

After asking if there were any questions, hearing none, Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn for the called meeting of the Resource Recovery Development Authority and further for Executive Session at 5:05 p.m., to discuss personnel, pending litigation and property acquisition. Commissioner Bosch seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.
