

CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Pre-meeting Work Session

June 1, 2010

3:00 p.m.

Cherokee Hall

MINUTES

Chairman Ahrens began by reading from the Mac Anderson book "The Essence of Leadership" at 3:09 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Commissioner Good who is on vacation. The Chairman said, after the reading, let's go ahead and go through the agenda since the topic of greenspace could be a lengthy topic.

1. Greenspace discussion-Chairman
2. Discussion of Regular Agenda items

First Commissioner Hubbard said that he would like to make the announcement that the lunch bags are now available for the MUST Ministries Summer Lunch Program. Chairman Ahrens said he was going to add 2 other announcements, one being the American Red Cross Blood Drive at the South Annex; the other is an update on Roadside Litter Pickup that Dr. Jackie McMorris had sent to the Board.

Chairman Ahrens asked Mr. Cooper on the first public hearing, if there had been any comments, concerns, etc.; Mr. Cooper answered no. He asked Geoff Morton the same question on the second public hearing and Geoff also said no.

When the Chairman asked about the topic of parking restrictions in Grantham Park Subdivision, Geoff Morton said that he had a dialogue going via e-mail with Captain McMahan with the Sheriff's Traffic Enforcement Unit looking at posting a sign at the entrance to the subdivision saying that "All parking restriction enforcement shall be enforced per the State of Georgia Code Sections and name them." Commissioner Johnston asked what the Codes are and Mr. Morton said the Codes would pretty much cover all the restrictions being asked for; Commissioner Bosch said it was very interesting to look into these Codes because they had tried to foresee every situation and provide for enforcement.

Mr. Morton said the one argument they were getting was that the subdivision was not posted and this was why the Sheriff's Office could not enforce no parking as requested. Commissioner Hubbard said what about painting the curb; Mr. Morton said that would be a continuous maintenance issue, which would not be the most proper solution. Mr. Morton said that once he received something from the Captain, he would bring it back to the Board to update them.

Next the Chairman said that on the vacancy of Steve Patterson on the DEFACS Board; and subsequent interest shown by Jeff Moon, the City Manager of Woodstock, as noted in the letter from D'Anna Liber, does this Board want to put the word out and get more nominations or take the easy way out? The law states that an appointment must be made within 90 days. After some discussion, it was decided to postpone action until July 6 to give anyone the opportunity to express their interest.

Mr. Cooper began reviewing the Consent Agenda with the only questions coming in reference to the Amendment that requests approval of the ACCG Summer Intern program, with Commissioner Bosch asking where the intern would be working; Mr. Cooper explained that he had already thought of at least 3 projects that an intern could take on, just from his office.

Under his portion of the agenda, there was considerable discussion of the first item regarding the waiver of the \$10 panel administration fee; with most of the board members agreeing that they would prefer that NSP absorb at least half of the \$10 fee and agreeing to have Mr. Cooper negotiate this with NSP.

The only other discussion took place regarding the item for the Vaughn Road Bridge repairs, with questions as to whether this was a permanent repair and the extent of the repairs. Mr. Morton called it a temporary permanent solution.

When the County Attorney's section came up next, Mrs. Davis asked Chief Waters to come up and tell the Board about the 2 items on the agenda. Chief Waters said the first one was to consider hearing an appeal from Rodney Ridings, whose taxi permit was denied renewal because of a felony conviction; Mrs. Davis reminded the Board that the Board had amended the ordinance in September, 2007, to now include any time period effective January 1, 2010, whereas under the old Ordinance, the time period was 5 years. Mrs. Davis also said she hoped the Board would give her some time to look into any "vested rights" or "grandfathering" of the permit before the amendments were made and the time period removed. So she asked that the Board agree to hear the appeal and look at the issues further before a decision is made.

Chief Waters said on the next item that Deputy Dwayne Casteel would be here at the 6 p.m. meeting to present the case; Chief Waters said that there was somewhat of a twist to the case.

While the Marshal's Office had cited the store clerk/owner for selling alcohol to a minor and it would normally have gone to court in Magistrate Court; it was asked to be transferred to State Court, where the charge was dismissed since it was believed it would cost more for an interpreter than the fine would have generated. Mrs. Davis asked if the Solicitor's Office had declined to prosecute the case because of the cost involved. Chief Waters said that yes, it was the Solicitor's Office. Chief Waters said that tonight would be an administrative hearing.

Chairman Ahrens said he had put Greenspace on the agenda, just so it wouldn't fade away, but he really didn't have anything new. Commissioner Johnston said that what he sees shaping up for North Cherokee as well as possibly throughout the County is a mix of connectivity as well as wilderness type acquisitions. He said that he sees 3 main categories in North Cherokee, the one at Garland Mountain that is adjacent to the property already owned this would probably cost about a million dollars; to commit about \$2 million dollars apiece to the Sutallee Trace acquisition and to hold back some so that when and if the PEC property is available in a small parcel, it can be used for that. And that would leave enough for right-of-way acquisitions for the Etowah Trails proposal to link Boling Park up to the north park site and beyond.

Commissioner Bosch said that she was aware that the Blankets' Creek Park trails could be linked to the Greenprints Trails and a lot of it could be done on the Corps' property. She also mentioned some property she had just heard of called Cushing Park, on the back side of BridgeMill, that is approximately 200 acres on a beautiful part of the lake that can be accessed off Bridge Mill Avenue, however, she would want to make that access exclusive to BridgeMill residents; but there might be an access for the public from Bells Ferry Road.

After a few minutes discussion regarding a new SPLOST, the Chairman asked if there was anything else. Hearing none, Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 4:39 p.m. to discuss personnel, pending litigation and property acquisition. Commissioner Bosch seconded and the motion was approved 4-0.

These Minutes were approved at the regular meeting on June 15, 2010.