

# MINUTES

## Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

JUNE 21, 2011

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 P.M.

### CALL TO ORDER

### CHAIRMAN AHRENS

Chairman Ahrens called the regular meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Those present include Commissioner Harry B. Johnston; Vice Chair/Commissioner Jim Hubbard; Commissioner Karen Bosch; Commissioner Jason Nelms; County Manager Jerry Cooper; County Attorney Angie Davis; County Clerk Sheila R. Corbin. Also present were Agency Directors/Department Heads; the media; and the public.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

*"Veterans of U.S. military service may proudly salute the flag while not in uniform based on a change in the governing law on 25 July 2007"*

### PROCLAMATION

Proclamation for "**Cherokee Amateur Radio Field Day-2011**"

Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard read and presented to the group. He and they invited all to come out on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

### AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

After the Chairman read the three amendments: (1) Under the Chairman's portion – add Summary of Telephone Town Hall Meeting; (2) Under the County Manager's portion – add Request to schedule Millage Rate advertisements; (3) add Authorize debt service payment, he asked for a motion.

Commissioner Bosch made the motion to approve the amendments; Commissioner Nelms seconded and there was unanimous approval.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Cherokee County Roads and Bridges Department announces that Epperson Road and Evans Cook Road will be closed for road reconstruction beginning Monday June 20, 2011 at 8:00 a.m., for approximately three (3) weeks. A detour will be posted during the duration of the repairs. Residents within the affected area will be provided access but delays should be expected. The closure will be between William Bobo Drive and Henson Road on Epperson Road and at Epperson Road on Evans Cook Road. Questions regarding the road closure should be directed to the Roads and Bridges Department at 770-345-5842.

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services was recently honored with an 'Above and Beyond' Award in recognition of their support to their employees who serve in the Georgia National Guard and Army Reserve. The presentation was made by the Georgia Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (GA ESGR), an agency of the Department of Defense

Chairman Ahrens asked Chief Raymond Gunnin to come up and speak about this award; Chief Gunnin also gave credit to the Board for their support as well.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office intent to apply for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2011 in the amount of \$10,948. This money will be used for the equipment purchase of a surveyor station for accident investigation and prosecution. This grant is a non-match federal grant and funded in the full amount of \$10,948.

Captain Joe Satterfield was in attendance and spoke about the need for this equipment to shorten the length of time normally used to investigate accidents and not require as many deputies at the scene in order to re-construct.

### **APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES FROM JUNE 7, 2011**

When the Chairman asked for a motion, Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and the vote was for unanimous approval.

### **APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 7, 2011**

Chairman Ahrens asked for a motion, Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard made the motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Roy Taylor was the only speaker and wished to invite the board and the public to come out to downtown Canton on Saturday, June 25 for the ***"Choosing Green" Festival*** beginning at 8 a.m., where there would be exhibitors featuring residential energy saving products, integrative solar design, green horticulture and alternative fuel vehicle demonstrations in conjunction with the Farmers' Market.

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## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- (1) To adopt the Technology Ridge Urban Redevelopment Plan; to approve an application for an Opportunity Zone for the area encompassed by such redevelopment plans – Margaret Stallings/Michael Chapman

Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to open the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.; Commissioner Bosch seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Margaret Stallings explained the reasons behind the request to the Department of Community Affairs, saying this opportunity would, if approved by DCA, enhance the potential by providing incentives and mechanisms to promote private investment in the properties so designated. Both the cities of Canton and Ball Ground had already approved Resolutions for the adoption of the Plan.

Only one speaker had signed up, Scott Merrell, who asked if in this area, there would be more stringent development regulations put in place. Margaret answered no to the question. Two others, Mike Bray and Milton Blankenship, said the signup sheet had not been available and they would like to speak as well. Chairman Ahrens gave them the signup sheet. The Chairman asked Mike Bray to come up. Mr. Bray said that he was also concerned with the plan and what effect it would have on adjacent property owners. He would also like to have seen more notice be given to adjacent property owners rather than just the notice of public hearing.

Mr. Blankenship came up next and said that he owned property in the area and did not want to see anything be put in place that would not benefit the property owners in the area. Margaret came back up and said she would like to speak to the last 2 comments and assure the speakers that there would not be additional regulations put on development in the area; this plan if approved would only benefit the property owners in making the area more attractive to market. Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:42 p.m.; Commissioner Bosch seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Commissioner Bosch made the motion to approve the adoption and the Resolution for the Technology Ridge Urban Redevelopment Plan; and also to approve the application for an Opportunity Zone for the area. Commissioner Nelms seconded and the vote was for unanimous approval.

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- (2) For public review and comment concerning a referendum to allow Sunday retail sales of beer and wine to be put on an election ballot as per O.C.G.A. § 3-3-7 (2011)

Commissioner Bosch made a motion to open the public hearing at 6:44 p.m.; Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Chairman Ahrens gave a brief summary of the legislation that was passed late in the session; saying the legislators wanted to give the public the opportunity to make the decision of whether or not to sell beer and wine and/or distilled spirits in grocery stores, etc. on Sunday. There were 7 speakers who had signed the sheet beginning with Carolyn Cosby, David Cosby, Mark Daniel Torgerson, Marty Pinion, Marcus Beavers, Tim Blaze, and Jim Huntington all of whom were in opposition for various reasons.

Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard made the motion to close the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.; Commissioner Bosch seconded and there was unanimous approval. Before any discussion could take place, Carolyn Cosby, one of the original 7 speakers, asked if one more person, who had not been able to get here early enough to sign up could speak. The Chairman looked to the board, received an affirmative nod from all and said yes. Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to re-open the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.; Commissioner Bosch seconded and the vote was for unanimous approval. April Stevens came up and she is also opposed to putting the question on the ballot. Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to close the public hearing again at 7:19 p.m.; Commissioner Bosch seconded and there was unanimous approval.

After some discussion among the board members, a motion to postpone a decision, until after further information and other public comment could be obtained, to the July 19 meeting was made by Commissioner Johnston; Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard seconded and there was unanimous approval.

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## **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

Redistricting of BOC Posts - Discussion and possible recommendation to Legislative Delegation

Commissioner Johnston said there could be something concrete to review at the meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

**CHAIRMAN**

**L. B. AHRENS**

**AMENDMENT**     *Summary of telephone town hall meeting re: Transportation*

Chairman Ahrens and Mayor Tim Downey of Holly Springs participated on Tuesday, there were 48,000 households called in Cherokee County; of those only 7,000 participated, either asking questions or answering three polling questions. Almost 1,000 stayed online for the entire hour. Chairman Ahrens believed they had gotten good response.

**COMMISSION POST 1**

**HARRY B. JOHNSTON**



**AMENDMENT** Request to tentatively set millage rate in order to advertise public hearings

Commissioner Johnston made the motion to set at 5.674 mills for the General Fund, 3.195 mills for the Fire District and .664 mills for the Park Bond for a total millage rate of 9.533; and to advertise 3 public hearings to take comment from the public. Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard seconded and the vote was for unanimous approval.

**AMENDMENT** Authorize County Manager to make debt service payment in order to maintain excellent credit rating

Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard made the motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and this was unanimously approved.

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**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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**ADJOURN**

The Chairman asked if there was any other business, hearing none, Vice Chair/Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.; Commissioner Bosch seconded and there was unanimous approval.

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These Minutes were approved at the regular meeting on July 5, 2011.