



Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES

December 16, 2014
Regular Meeting
CHEROKEE HALL 6:00 PM

INVOCATION

Fred Goodwin with Church of the Messiah gave the invocation.

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"

Commissioners Johnston and Nelms led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIRMAN AHRENS

Chairman Ahrens called the regular meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Those present included Commissioner Harry B. Johnston; Commissioner Raymond Gunnin; Commissioner Poole; Commissioner Nelms; County Manager Jerry Cooper; County Attorney Angie Davis; County Clerk Christy Black. Also present were Agency Directors/Department Heads; the media; and the public.

RATIFY CLOSURE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Ahrens called for a motion to ratify closure of Executive Session at 4:25 p.m.

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to approve; Commissioner Gunnin seconded and there was unanimous approval.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Marshal's Office recognition of employee promotion.

Chief Marshal Ron Hunton announced the promotion of Corporal McMullen and pinned the corporal chevrons on his uniform.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

1. Remove item 1.3 (Surplus computers/equipment) from Consent and add to County Manager portion.
2. Add item 3.1 under County Attorney portion, Settlement Agreement.

Commissioner Nelms made a motion to approve; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Ahrens read through the topics on the Year End newsletter distributed by ARC (Atlanta Regional Commission).

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION, WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2, 2014.

Commissioner Poole made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

PUBLIC HEARING

None Scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed up to speak.

ZONING CASES

CASE NUMBER:	14-12-026
APPLICANT:	Rheana E. Merrell
ZONING CHANGE:	R-40 to AG
LOCATION:	2150, 2154 and 2158 East Cherokee Drive
MAP & PARCEL NUMBER:	15N22, Parcel 110
ACRES:	3.46 +/-
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:	Single Family Residential and Small Farm
COMMISSION DISTRICT:	2
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT MAP:	Suburban Living

As a result of the public hearing held on December 2, 2014, the Cherokee County Planning Commission voted to recommend **APPROVAL** of zoning case 14-12-026 Rheana E. Merrell to rezone from R-40 (Residential) to AG (Agricultural) on 3.46 +/- acres for single family residential and small farm.

Jeff Watkins gave an overview of the case. Commissioner Gunnin stated that this was in his district.

Commissioner Gunnin made a motion to uphold the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN

L. B. AHRENS

A. Various Boards/Committees Appointments

Chairman Ahrens made the following Boards/Committees appointments:

Animal Control-Joan Ahrens; CCDA-Steve Holcombe; Parks and Rec Advisory Board-Amy Turcotte; Construction Board of Appeals-David Semler; Fire Code of Appeals-Mike Feeley; Impact Fees Appeal Board-Scott Stringer; Planning Commission-Thais Escondo; Zoning Board of Appeals-Elizabeth Semler.

Chairman Ahrens stated that the Board of Tax Assessors had a member whose term is expiring soon and he would like to serve again. Chairman Ahrens made a motion to reappoint Darrell Caudill; Commissioner Nelms seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Chairman Ahrens stated that Marshal Day's and Ashley Holcomb's term was expiring on the DACC (Development Authority of Cherokee County) and made a motion to reappoint them both; Commissioner Gunnin seconded and there was unanimous approval.

He then stated that the Highland Rivers Committee appointment of William (Billy) Hayes had expired in June 2014. He made a motion to reappoint Billy Hayes; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Chairman Ahrens stated that two at-large terms were expiring on the Planning Commission. He said he would like the Board to consider reappointing Bob Whitaker and to consider appointing Tom Ware in the other spot, replacing Garland Stewart.

Chairman Ahrens made a motion to reappoint Bob Whitaker and to appoint Tom Ware to the Planning Commission; Commissioner Nelms seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Chairman Ahrens asked were there any other appointments to be made. County Clerk Christy Black replied Misti Martin needed to be reappointed to the Lake Lanier Joint Development Authority.

Chairman Ahrens made a motion to approve; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

VICE CHAIR/COMMISSION DISTRICT 1

HARRY B. JOHNSTON

COMMISSION DISTRICT 2

RAYMOND GUNNIN

COMMISSION DISTRICT 3

BRIAN POOLE

COMMISSION DISTRICT 4

JASON NELMS

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1.1 Consider approval to close banking account with Hamilton Bank.
- 1.2 Consider final acceptance of all public rights-of-way, roadways and appurtenant drainage structures in Pod 8B of the Centennial Lakes Subdivisions.
- ~~1.3 Amendment-Moved to County Manager Portion
Consider approval to surplus and recycle obsolete workstations, laptops and a printer from Elections and Voter Registration.~~
- 1.3 Consider adoption of the 2014 Capital Improvement Element and Short Term Work Plan Annual Update.
- 1.4 Consider Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Cherokee County and the City of Woodstock to conduct elections for the City of Woodstock.
- 1.5 Consider acceptance of Supplemental State Grant Award and budget amendment in the amount of \$8,800.00 for Drug Accountability Court. There is no County match required.
- 1.6 Consider an Impact Fee Exemption request from Rooker for a 30,000 Square foot building in the Cherokee 75 Corporate Park in the amount of \$17,289.16.
- 1.7 Consider Impact Fee Exemption request from Reeves Floral Products for a 50,000+ square foot addition to an existing building in the Airport Commerce Center in the amount of \$21,840.07.

Commissioner Poole made a motion to approve; Commissioner Gunnin seconded and there was unanimous approval.

COUNTY MANAGER

- 2.1 Consider approval of contract between Cherokee County and Rindt-McDuff Associates, Inc. (RMA) for the Blalock Road Landfill closure at cost not to exceed \$153,300.00.

Commissioner Gunnin made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.2 Consider a transfer of assigned weapons (i.e. sidearm and rifle) of law enforcement officers who have at least 30 years of service and retiring in good standing with the County, contingent upon reimbursement by the Sheriff's Foundation in the amount of the fair market value or purchase price.

Commissioner Poole made a motion to approve; Commissioner Gunnin seconded. Commissioner Johnston stated that with this item dealing with disposal of property that he would be recusing himself from voting. Commissioner Nelms added that he would also be abstaining. The resulting vote was 3-0 approval with 2 abstentions.

- 2.3 Consider approval of 5-year fire services agreement between Cherokee County and the City of Ball Ground Commencing on October 1, 2013.

Commissioner Gunnin made a motion to approve; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.4 Consider proposal from Martin-Robbins Fence Company, Inc. for the installation of guardrail along portions of Roscoe Collett Road in the amount of \$49,016.00.

Commissioner Poole made a motion to approve; Commissioner Gunnin seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.5 Consider formal acceptance and authorize Chairman to sign the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) SFY15 Sub-grant Agreement, Amendment 1 for Senior Services in the total amount of \$716,690.00.

Commissioner Gunnin made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.6 Consider approval of agreement with Hype, Inc. for advertising services on CATS buses; they will pay Cherokee County an amount of 23% of net revenue, estimated to be up to \$16,642.00 annually.

Commissioner Gunnin made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.7 Consider reimbursing the Cherokee Office of Economic Development for purchase of 28.93 acres to expand Cherokee 75 Corporate Park in the amount of \$1,591,150.00.

Commissioner Gunnin made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.8 Consider approval of Professional Services Agreements for annual asphalt purchases from the three proposers and local suppliers: CW Mathews (\$1.2M annually), Blount Construction (\$1.6M annually) and Baldwin Pacing (\$130K annually) for a total purchase value estimated at \$8.79M over three years.

Commissioner Poole made a motion to approve; Commissioner Johnston seconded and there was unanimous approval.

- 2.9 Amendment – (From Consent Agenda) Consider approval to surplus and recycle obsolete workstations, laptops and a printer from Elections and Voter Registration.

Commissioner Gunnin made a motion to approve; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was 3-0 approval with 2 abstentions with Commissioners Johnston and Nelms recusing themselves due to the disposition of property.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

3.1 Amendment-Consider settlement agreement in case involving Roads and Bridges where plaintiff fell on sidewalk. Ms. Davis stated that the amount was covered by insurance proceeds and if the agreement meets with the Board's approval, they should authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement.

Commissioner Gunnin made a motion to approve; Commissioner Poole seconded and there was unanimous approval.

Chairman Ahrens said that with the regular part of the meeting being done, he would like to recognize outgoing Commissioners Johnston and Nelms with a thoughtful evaluation of each.

He began with Commissioner Nelms, stating that he had served the County for 4 years and some change, having served the unfilled term of his predecessor. He said that Commissioner Nelms brought consistency and maturity together efficiently and effectively which is an important element in any kind of teamwork. He said that maybe he used some of that knowledge from his own business here and perhaps he transfers some of this experience to his business. He added that Commissioner Nelms was a quick learner and empathetic, showing concern for staff and residents. He stated that Commissioner Nelms had a sense of pride in serving and being held responsible.

He then commended Commissioner Johnston for his 14 years as Commissioner. He recalled that in February 2006 he met at his house with Commissioner Johnston and got an insight of the person he would be working with the next 8 years. He said that Commissioner Johnston was

fair and reasonable with unbiased objectives. He added that those qualities, combined with being a CPA and having financial experiences was a stabilizing factor, enabling him to look at both sides. He stated that the County was losing this accumulative knowledge and it would be missed. He commented on Commissioner Johnston's endeavors including historical preservation and championing Greenspace and Parks, adding that he hopes we will get that greenway one day. He said that it had been an honor working with Commissioner Johnston. He spoke about his ability to scribe, often on the spot, motion scripting which proved invaluable in sense of relevance, efficiency and moving forward. Lastly, he commented that in the fourteen years plus, he had missed less than a handful of meetings. Commissioner Johnston added that he thought he had missed only one, maybe two meetings.

Commissioner Nelms thanked the Chairman for his kind words and he thanked Department Heads for being on the front line and doing what they do with the lowest employees per capita. He thanked the residents for allowing him to serve.

Commissioner Johnston thanked the Chairman for his kind words as well. He said that while serving was not always a pleasure, it was always an honor. He thanked the staff for their hard work, adding that commissioners come and go but employees get the work of the County done and that he echoes Commissioner Nelms' comments.

ADJOURN

Chairman Ahrens asked if there was anything else to come before the Board. Hearing none, Commissioner Johnston made a motion to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.; Commissioner Nelms seconded and the motion received unanimous approval.