

GRADY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2019 Regular Meeting

The Grady County Board of Commissioners met at 5:45 pm prior to the meeting and honored the Grady County Recreation Department 12 & under All-star team who won the State Championship.

The Grady County Board of Commissioners met on July 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm for the regular scheduled meeting. Chair LaFaye Copeland, Vice-Chair Keith Moye, Commissioners June Knight, Ray Prince, Phillip Drew, County Administrator Buddy Johnson, County Clerk John White, Finance Director Holly Murkerson, and Executive Assistant Mary Griffin were present. The attendance for the Variance Hearing was large, the public hearing was moved upstairs to the main courtroom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Chair Copeland. Mrs. Copeland opened the meeting with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

The agenda for the meeting was approved on a motion by Mr. Prince and second by Mr. Drew. The motion was approved.

Mrs. Copeland asked that the people speaking at the public hearing for the Woods variance limit their comments to 3 minutes. Mrs. Copeland opened the public hearing.

Mr. Ray Woods, owner of Michigan Moto Cross opened the public hearing explaining that he is requesting the variance for Friday, November 1, 2019, Saturday, November 2, 2019, and Sunday, November 3, 2019. He stated he may not need the variance for the weekend but would rather have it in case he does. He stated that no variance would be needed on Friday, 1 additional hour for Saturday, and 4 hours for Sunday. There will be a church service on Sunday and a seminar.

Jamie Holder, Bold Springs Road

Mr. Holder asked how many people do you anticipate coming to the event? Mr. Woods responded that as it is the first event, he anticipated anywhere from 300 to 1,000 people to attend.

Daniel Hammond, Lullwater Circle

Mr. Hammond asked if there was an economic study for an event of this size? Mr. Woods stated that the start-up event would be very local with gas stations, Restaurants, and grocery stores seeing the bulk of the money spent in the county. Mr. Woods stated he would bring a promoter on board to help sell the event.

Sam Carline, 1277 Lake Front Dr

Mr. Carline stated that he does an event with jeeps and has good response to it. Mr. Carline is sure this will have a positive impact. He stated the spinoff from the motocross has been positive for his business. He stated these are world class training facilities and they have bought vehicles from him and had their vehicles worked on at his dealership.

Josh Woods, Bold Springs Rd.

Mr. Woods, the son of Ray Woods, stated the economic impact for the weekend could be 6,7, or 8 times the normal weekend cashflow.

Durie Cooper, South Georgia Tractor

Mr. Cooper stated these are good people and have a positive impact on the community. They have bought tractors and such from him. These are not poor people coming in for the weekend. They have money to spend and will spend it in our community.

Charlene Bishop, 209 Evergreen Rd

Mrs. Bishop watched the video on the Millsaps website. She stated the video talked about no land use regulations. Mrs. Bishop stated they pleaded with the previous board to protect their investment from

motocross and chicken houses. The students would come on their property and use their pond with no trespassing signs posted. Mrs. Bishop want the board to do more and strengthen the land use regulations. She has not seen much economic growth from the motocross tracks. She stated they came to our existing community and told us to shut up. They intend to grow and grow and grow.

Stacy Green, 891 Bold Springs Rd

Mrs. Green stated that she lives at the track and works night shift at the Grady General ER. She states that she does not hear the track and is able to sleep from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. She also has a 1 year old who has no problem sleeping.

Kevin Kozak, 728 Hall Rd

Mr. Kozak is the pastor for the motocross. He stated these are good people and he ministers to the kids that come from all over the world. This is an educational event for the riders and could have a positive impact on the kids.

Martin Watson, 2285 Pierce Chapel Rd

Mr. Martin owns Pro-Tech Cycle and due to motocross, he can provide for his family and employs people from our community due to the training tracks.

Linda Drew Johnson, 486 Drew Rd

Mrs. Johnson stated that her father owns property near the track, and they rent to the motocross people. She stated they are very good tenants and have never trashed the property. She stated they are only talking about 3 days.

Suzanne Little, Thomasville, GA

Ms. Little stated that she is from Augusta and there is pain and aggravation during the Master's but the economic impact is worth it. This is what could happen in Cairo.

Terry Bishop, 209 Evergreen Ln

Mr. Bishop stated they did not need the variance, but they want the variance. How doe the county think they can monitor this when they cannot monitor the dump sites. They can do the event within the variance.

Peter Wright, 304 Stephens Rd

Mr. Wright stated that he lives near a practice track and the noise bothers him. He looks forward to Sundays as he knows there will be no motocross that day.

Betty Godwin, 369 Pine Park Rd

Mrs. Godwin stated that the ordinance stated there needs to be a hardship for a variance. There is no hardship. She stated the impact study conducted in 2014 by Georgia Tech is flawed as the motocross people appear to have paid for the study.

Phillip Martin, 222 Long Leaf Ln

Mr. Martin stated that he bought land in Grady County 22 – 23 years ago. He stated that if he had known this was coming, he never would have invested in Grady County. He stated that everyone in Grady County is interested in only the 30 pieces of silver. He invited people to come visit him one day and sit on his porch.

Public Comments

None

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Perry L Henry presented the county's 2018 audit. There were fewer findings this time and the county appears to be moving in the right direction.

Mr. Joseph Hester and Mrs. Mary Beth Donaldson with Diversified Benefits Administrators presented a Health Insurance bid.

Mr. Ron Arline and Mr. John Taylor with Taylor Benefits presented a Health Insurance bid.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Calendar of Events was reviewed.

Several of the department heads along with some from the School Board and City of Cairo will be in purchasing training on July 18 and July 19.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion from Mrs. Knight, second by Mr. Drew to approve the following Consent items,

C-009 Minutes from the July 02, 2019 regular meeting and the July 09, 2019 called meeting,

C-010 Exempt-non approved building plat for Crystal Wells,

C-011 Exempt-non approved building plat for Tyler Harrison.

The motion was approved.

FORMAL ACTIONS

FA014-19 Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mrs. Knight to pay Watkins and Associate, LLC invoices 2386, 2387, 2389 for a total amount of \$10,784.00. Invoice 2386 was for \$5,340.00 for work on Old 179, Invoice 2387 was for \$3,834.00 for Culvert Extensions on Old 179, and Invoice 2388 was for \$1,610.00 for work on Open Pond Road. The motion was approved.

FA015-19 Motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mrs. Knight to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Grady County and the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission in Support/Maintenance of Geographic Information System Tax Parcel Data, Soil and Landcover Data at a cost of \$4,500.00 which is a budgeted item. The motion was approved.

FA016-19 Motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mr. Drew to approve the following changes to the health benefit plan: Deductibles will be Individual, \$2,500.00, Family, \$7,500.00, and split \$4,500.00, Copays will be Primary Care Office Visit, \$20.00 co-pay, Specialist Care Office Visit \$40.00 co-pay, Emergency Copay \$250.00 co-pay, Non-emergency visit \$600.00 co-pay, Premium Increase: Employee, \$25.00/month, Employee + Spouse, \$250.00/month, Employee + Child, \$200.00/month, Full Family, \$350.00/month, Prescription Copays: Generic \$10.00, Brand \$35.00, Non-Formulary Brand \$120.00, and Specialty \$300.00. Moye, Drew, and Prince voted in favor and Knight, Copeland voted against. The motion was approved. The second part of this formal action, motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mr. Drew to approve Madison Street Agency and Taylor Benefits as the Health Insurance providers. Moye, Drew, Prince, and Copeland voted in favor and Knight voted against. The motion was approved.

FA017-19 Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mrs. Knight to approve the Declaration of Taking as presented by Mr. Ridley for the Johnson Road project.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The board gave Administrator Johnson permission to send a letter to DOT seeking assistance with State Park Road.

Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mrs. Knight to allow private citizens to collect money and put up signs honoring past winning teams at Barber Park with the approval of the Recreation Department Director. The motion was approved.

The board gave direction to have two people go and empty the safety deposit box at the Bank of OZK and close the box.

Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mr. Drew to enter executive session to discuss compensation issues. The motion was approved.

Motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mr. Drew to exit executive session. The motion was approved with no action being taken from the executive session.

REPORTS

- A. Animal Control
- B. Roads and Bridges

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Knight and second by Mr. Moye. The motion was approved.

LAFAYE COPELAND, CHAIR

KEITH MOYE, VICE-CHAIR

ATTEST:

RAY PRINCE, COMMISSIONER

JOHN WHITE, COUNTY CLERK

JUNE KNIGHT, COMMISSIONER

PHILLIP DREW, COMMISSIONER