

MINUTES OF REGULAR
COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MARION COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING
October 8, 2019

PRESENT: Those present were Chairman George Neal, Commissioner Steve Young, Commissioner Jody Grimsley, Commissioner Mathew Gunnels, Commissioner Norman Royal, County Attorney Wayne Jernigan, County Manager Justin Strickland and County Clerk Lea Elliott.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Neal called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM. Wayne Jernigan gave the invocation.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Commissioner Young made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Young made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2019 Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing

Chairman Neal called to order a Public Hearing at 4:04 p.m. to discuss:

- a. Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
- b. 2019 Proposed Annual Operating Budget

Citizens were given an opportunity to speak for or against. No public comments were made. Chairman Neal concluded the public hearing and called the meeting back into regular session at 4:06 p.m.

Guests

- a. Sheriff Derrell Neal – Marion County Sheriff
Sheriff Neal presented regional data regarding deputy pay by county and asked for an increase in starting pay to \$13.50/hour for deputies. Sheriff Neal presented a request to increase jail employees' pay by \$.50/hour to remain competitive and retain employees. Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to approve the increase in starting pay for deputies and the hourly wage increase for jail employees effective immediately. Commissioner Young seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Georgia Taylor – Chairperson, Marion County Board of Elections & Registration
Ms. Taylor presented a request to increase the hourly pay for board members from \$8.00 to \$9.41. Members are paid an hourly rate (in addition to their monthly meeting stipend) when they attend training and when they work in the Elections office. The Commissioners agreed this can be considered during the 2020 budget process.
- c. Justin Brown – Georgia Forestry Commission
Mr. Brown presented a Marion County Annual Report for the fiscal year ended June 20, 2019 on behalf the Georgia Forestry Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to approve and adopt the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Grimsley made a motion to amend the agenda to allow Mr. Robert Philmon to address the commissioners about a roads issue. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Philmon presented his concerns about the condition of Riding Trail, a private road off of Burginville Road in western Marion County. He stated there is a 20 feet easement allowed on the deeds for residents on Riding Trail and asked about the possibility of Marion County assuming maintenance of Riding Trail. He further stated this request had been presented to the commissioners several years ago and no action was taken. The commissioners advised that a road must be brought to certain standards before the County is willing to consider making it public and handling maintenance. Mr. Philmon stated Burginville Road is a county road and is not maintained adequately. Shane Cox, Clearwater Project Manager, stated that his team will address the condition of Burginville Road, placing gravel on it to help with erosion control. He will also meet with Mr. Philmon to assess the condition of private offshoots from Burginville Road and provide guidance on what effort is needed to make the roads eligible to be considered for adoption by the County.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to approve and adopt the 2019 Proposed Annual Operating Budget for Marion County, Georgia. Commissioner Young seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Young made a motion to appoint Justin Strickland to the Valley Partnership. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Young made a motion to recommend Carol Wells as a nominee to the Marion County Hospital Authority effective 01/01/2020. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Royal made a motion to list the County's 2013 Case 865B VHP Motor Grader for sale in the amount of \$120,000.00. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Royal made a motion to change the Marion County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting time to 5:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month starting in November 2019. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Gunnels made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel after a five-minute break. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Commissioners went into Executive Session at 5:32 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION:

The Board came out of Executive Session and Chairman Neal called the Regular meeting back to order at 6:06 PM.

County Clerk Lea Elliott submitted her resignation effective immediately.

Commissioner Young made a motion to accept County Clerk Lea Elliott's resignation effective immediately. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Grimsley made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gunnels and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman George Neal, Jr.

Vice-Chairman Steve Young

Commissioner Norman Royal

Commissioner Jody Grimsley

Commissioner Matt Gunnels

Attest:

Sylvia Russell, Acting County Clerk