

REGULAR MEETING, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, GLYNN
COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD SEPTEMBER 21, 1978,
AT 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Roy J. Boyd, Commissioners C. K. Curry, Larry Dixon, Robert E. Owens, Henry T. Smith, and Ronald Young.

ABSENT: Commissioner Lorraine Dusenbury

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Administrator, W. H. Dewey, and Attorney, J. Thomas Whelchel.

Chairman Boyd opened the meeting by calling on Commissioner Dixon for the invocation.

Request for Transfer of Community Building to the First Baptist Church at Fancy Bluff.

Commissioner Smith introduced Rev. James W. Wellman, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Fancy Bluff, who asked if the County would be willing to either repair or sell the old school building located on an approximate 1/2 acre tract adjacent to their church on Fancy Bluff Road one mile off Highway 17 near Satilla Shores. He explained that the structure had been transferred to Glynn County by the Board of Education in 1956. He said the church had operated the building for many years by charging various groups a small sum to defray electric bills. The County assisted with maintenance of the building in the past but it is not being used now due to its poor condition, he said.

Commissioner Smith reported that he had made an investigation and learned that the Board of Education conveyed the building to Glynn County via a document dated 4/1/56 containing a reversionary clause in the event the building ceases to be used by the County.

Commissioner Young said he did not see this request as unreasonable and suggested transfer of the building if the County is not using it. He then suggested referral to committee for study.

Attorney Whelchel expressed reservations about giving away real property. Commissioner Curry suggested that it be allowed to revert back to the Board of Education and let them do what they wish with the building.

Chairman Boyd appointed Commissioners Young and Smith to study and make recommendations.

Back Taxes on Tract Located at Corner of "L" and Stonewall Streets.

Floyd Miller explained that his sister, Dorothy Rhaney, had a home located on a 37-1/2 ft. portion of the 40 ft. by 150 ft. lot located at the corner of "L" and Stonewall Streets. This property, which was owned by their family some years ago and acquired by the County through tax sale, is now utilized by the Coastal Georgia Community Action Authority headstart program, he said. Operators of the headstart program wish to use a portion of the area on which Mrs. Rhaney's house is located for a playground, Mr. Miller said, and Mrs. Rhaney would like to pay taxes and acquire title to the extreme portion of the lot so that she can move her house over in order to allow the proposed playground.

Commissioner Owens noted that efforts had been made by various parties to acquire this property in the past, but no clear title could be established. He then moved to defer action on this request until the next regular meeting so the County Attorney could look into the matter, with tax maps being provided at that time to clearly identify subject property, also, if any taxes are due from the petitioners

that no effort be made to collect until the entire matter can be cleared up.

Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it was unanimously adopted.

Attorney Whelchel noted that a controversy had existed previously regarding a City tax deed.

Mrs. S. R. DeVault's Request to Operate a Flea Market at the Farmer's Market Site at the Old Brunswick Airpark.

Mrs. DeFault read a letter formerly sent to both the City and County Commissions asking permission to operate a flea market at the old Brunswick Airpark on the first Saturday of each month. Such an operation would appear to be very popular in this area, she said, and participants would be charged a \$5.00 fee to display their wares. She presented a letter from the City Commission expressing tentative approval contingent on the County's confirmation.

Chairman Boyd passed this request to Acting Administrator Dewey to follow through with County Agent Rudolph Beggs and Administrator Perkins, after which time it is to be discussed jointly with the City Commission.

State Court Judge Ronald Adams's Request for Additional Court Space.

Judge Adams cited the need for increased space for State Court operations, and outlined the increase in staff of the Superior Court, District Attorney's Office, Solicitor's Office and Clerk of State Court's Office since 1965. He anticipated a case load increase of about 35% this year over that of 1977, representing an increase in revenue from \$49,000 to a possible \$300,000. The Superior Court Judges allow State Court to use the courtroom the first week of each month, he said, and this time is reduced by the observance of various holidays. An additional courtroom and full time solicitor would allow State Court to catch up on its rapidly increasing backlog of cases, he said. He asked the Commission to take immediate action to provide a courtroom on the third floor of the Detention Center, at an estimated cost of \$75,000.

Commissioner Owens responded that this proposal was now being considered in the budget under special projects.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to include this project in the budget for the current year, from revenue sharing funds or other funds if necessary. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion.

Commissioner Curry said he was in favor of the Commission doing whatever it can, but he was not in favor of making a definite commitment. Commissioner Dixon added that the County needs to look at what it can afford.

State Court Clerk, Wayne Floyd, said his staff could not work efficiently in accomodating the public's needs in its limited space. His record storage vault, in addition to needing improvements, has a wooden ceiling, he said, which places its contents in danger of destruction in the event of fire. He asked for commitment of budget funds for the increased facilities. Judge Adams advised that if the proposed courtroom were provided, the State Court would pay for it within one year with its revenue.

Commissioner Smith's motion was then adopted by the following vote:

Aye: Commissioners Smith, Owens, Dixon and Young.

Nay: Commissioner Curry.

Request to Subsidize the Coastal Museum.

Chairman Boyd presented a request that Mary Burdell be allowed to address the Commission even though she was not listed on the agenda.

Motion for approval was made by Commissioner Dixon, seconded by Commissioner Owens and unanimously adopted.

Mrs. Burdell explained that representatives of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society appeared before the Joint Planning Commission earlier today asking that they be allowed to mark the site of the old Fort St. Simons on a portion of the land surrounding the Coastal Museum. She then enumerated various functions of the Museum staff, including showing slides in schools, candle dipping and spinning demonstrations, and showing more than 20,000 visitors through the museum during the last year. Because federal funds were used in restoration, admission cannot be charged, she said, consequently the Museum is going into a hole at the rate of \$300 per month. Deficit this year will amount to approximately \$5,000, she said, and financial support was requested from the Commission.

Ann Shelander, Curator of the Museum, pointed to the comparatively high visitation record and its asset as a tourist attraction. A great deal of work has been done by the staff, she said, and a grant to repair water damage to the building has been approved, though not received. In stressing the need for financial assistance, she related the acquisition of two civil war uniforms which require \$3,000 worth of restoration, treatment and showcasing before they can be displayed.

Commissioner Owens asked Miss Shelander to provide copies of their budget so their needs can be considered in formulation of the County's annual budget. He said he felt the County Government should support this project, however, the public needs to know of the existing need. He asked members of the news media to provide publicity for this purpose.

Chairman Boyd reiterated Commissioner Owens suggestion that the Museum's request, along with their budget, be presented to the County Administrator and Finance Director, for consideration along with the County Budget.

Rev. Robert McBee Presents NAACP Complaints Concerning Elections.

Rev. McBee, accompanied by Rev. R. G. English, read a letter of complaint alleging irregularities such as undue scrutiny of the individual voting process by the Supervisor of Elections in any election including black candidates. This and other infractions have been made in efforts to prohibit election of black candidates, he said. This letter, which he said had also been read to the City Commission and forwarded to the Department of Justice, would soon be received by the County Commission.

Commissioner Young recognized the complaints as being of a very serious nature, and commented that he had observed problems in the last two elections with voters being unable to use the relatively new and complex voting equipment. He also stated that the current system requiring City voters to register in two places in order to vote in City, as well as County, State and National elections, has resulted in a great deal of confusion and prevented many City residents from voting in City elections. He suggested that all voter registration be handled by the County, and joint efforts be made with the City to consolidate registration.

Commissioner Dixon said he understood the City had sent a consolidation request in this matter to the Department of Justice. Rev. McBee replied that he did

not think such a letter had been sent, and Commissioner Young added that the City and County had agreed in principal to do this, but had disagreed over the City assuming a share of the cost.

Commissioner Curry commented that registration is not the problem in Glynn County and Brunswick, because more names are registered than ever before, but less people vote. He suggested that elections are being held for the convenience of those conducting the elections rather than for the voters. A look at check vouchers for August show that expenses for holding elections is appalling, he said. He stated that the problem lies in speeding up the voting procedure. The Commission was told that the new voting machines would accomplish this, as well as providing immediate results, but this has not occurred, according to Commissioner Curry. He suggested that the Commission make sure registration and election were being handled correctly.

Mrs. Gladys Chaney reported that omissions sometimes occur on the registration records.

Application of Jerry T. Stephens for License to Sell Beer and Wine, in Original Containers Only, Not to be Consumed on Premises, at Road Runner Minit Mart Located at 436 Community Road, Brunswick, Georgia.

Pursuant to advertisement, public hearing was held on subject application. Administrator Dewey read the Police Chief's recommendation of approval.

James Land asked what criteria was used by the Chief of Police in coming up with a recommendation regarding liquor licenses. Chief Harris responded that a complete background check was made on each applicant.

Motion to approve said license was made by Commissioner Dixon, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and unanimously adopted.

GC-18-78; Frank David Ritter, II, et al, Application to Rezone.

Pursuant to advertisement, public hearing was held on subject application to amend the Glynn County Zoning Ordinance changing from CP Conservation Preservation to R-12 One Family Residential the following described property:

Property in the area known as West Point on St. Simons Island identified as the Pink Chapel, but expressly excluding therefrom the 5,589.2 sq. ft. portion on which the Pink Chapel is located which shall remain under its Conservation Zoning Classification; the property requested for rezoning containing 44,780 sq. ft.; access to said property via a 50 ft. access easement.

Joint Planning Commission Director Ed Stelle conveyed recommendation of approval.

Motion to approve said application for rezoning was made by Commissioner Dixon, seconded by Commissioner Smith and unanimously adopted.

Road and Drainage Improvement Priorities.

JPC Director Ed Stelle, assisted by Frank Kirchinski, presented a map showing the 243 miles of dirt roads in the County. The map indicated which roads were used as bus routes, where improvements were most needed, and where an accompanying 75 miles of drainage improvements were needed. School bus routes, comprising approximately 85 miles, would be the number one priority, he said, and work initiated on Buck Swamp Road and the Old CC Croad had already been started and should be about finished. He asked the Commission to accept dirt roads, school

bus routes, and accompanying drainage as the criteria for establishing a road and drainage improvement priority program.

Commissioner Owens moved to approve the criteria recommended by Commissioner Owens, and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Commissioner Curry asked Mr. Stelle if, based on the above formula, he could submit specific written proposals on the priorities, and Mr. Stelle replied that he could. Commissioner Young asked if the number of people living on the various roads was taken into account and if needed drainage work coincided with the unpaved roads. Mr. Stelle replied affirmatively on both accounts, adding that drainage for paved roads is usually well stabilized.

James Land asked if drainage in this project concerned itself only with roadside ditching, and Mr. Stelle said it did not.

Commissioner Owens' motion to approve the dirt school bus road/ditch criteria for establishing priorities was unanimously adopted.

Approval of Vouchers for August.

Commissioner Dixon moved to defer action on this matter and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Unanimously adopted.

Approval of Minutes.

Commissioner Owens moved to defer action on approval of minutes for March 1, and April 6. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it was unanimously adopted.

Report on Reception Given DOT Officials.

Acting Administrator Dewey informed the Commission of excellent assistance provided by a small group of County employees in jointly hosting with the City a seafood dinner for DOT officials on Jekyll Island during the previous week.

Police Protection for Sea Island.

Police Chief Jay Cee Harris presented a letter from the Sea Island Property Owners Association requesting purchase of a radar speed detection device and a xerox machine for use on Sea Island. The xerox machine would be utilized at the Sea Island Police Sub-Station, and funds for both would be drawn from the Sea Island Special Improvement District Tax accumulation.

Motion for approval of both expenditures was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Dixon, and unanimously adopted.

Police Department Activity for the Year.

Chief Harris reported the following activities by the Police Department for Fiscal Year 1977/78:

26,276	Radio Calls Received
4,970	Adult Arrests
369	Juvenile Arrests
829	Warrants Handled
1,919	Accidents Investigated

St. Simons Properties Bankruptcy Suit.

Attorney Tom Whelchel advised that he had attended bankruptcy proceedings of St. Simons Properties in which a proposed plan for disposing of debts was outlined. According to this plan the County would be paid the full amount of ad valorem taxes outstanding at the end of this year. Indebtedness of \$82,000 to the St. Simons Water and Sewer System would probably be paid in full within two years, he said, expressing the opinion that this was the best the County could hope for. He advised that the Commission would either have to take a position on whether it will grant T. A. Tolleson, new owner of a portion of the Triangle Tract, water and sewer tie-ins while a portion of this debt is outstanding, or allow the bankruptcy court to make this determination.

Commissioner Dixon said he didn't think building permits should be granted to Mr. Tolleson until the indebtedness was paid off, and added that recent approval of plans for an apartment complex on this property had indicated that water and sewer tie-ins were not guaranteed.

Automobile and Radio for Juvenile Court.

Commissioner Curry commented that Juvenile Court Judge Clinton Pearson has petitioned the Commission earlier in the year for an automobile so that members of his staff could transport juveniles to out-of-town facilities, thereby saving sizeable transportation expenses. An automobile was designated for this purpose, he explained, and the County Administrator was instructed to see that it was put in useable condition, including installation of a cage. Chief Harris supplied Juvenile Court with one of his cars in the interim, he said. After inordinate delay, Commissioner Curry noted that Chief Harris had the cage installed in the car designated for this purpose. He commended Chief Harris for carrying through on this project, which included front end alignment and installation of new tires.

Chief Harris replied that he had put the car in a garage and it should be ready by Saturday.

Proposed Sidewalks for Glyndale School Area.

James Land asked if the Commission intended to do anything to to relieve traffic hazard at the Glyndale Elementary School on the Old Jesup Road.

Traffic Safety Engineer, John Harris, stated that this was a dangerous area, but the existing 50 ft. right-of-way did not allow room for sidewalks. He estimated the cost of installing the desired sidewalks and necessary drainage pipes at \$100,000.

Commissioner Dixon said sidewalks were needed from Cate Road to the School. Commissioner Owens noted that funds were not presently available but plans could be made for the future.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion to instruct Mr. Harris to prepare specific cost figures and run the necessary surveys for a sidewalk from Cate Road to the School, including cost of additional required right-of-way. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it was unanimously adopted.

Meeting Adjourned

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, GLYNN COUNTY, GEORGIA
 Roy A. Boyd, Chairman

ATTEST:

Martha Kiff, Deputy Clerk