



The Commission

of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia

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Charles Coffey, Chairman
Timothy Biddle, Vice Chairman
Gerald Douglas
Damon Hoyte
Jason Frost

Kenneth Riner, County Manager
Lisa Bickel, County Clerk
Bin Minter, County Attorney

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY WORK SESSION

December 27, 2023

215 McNaughton St.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Coffey
Vice-Chairman Biddle
Commissioner Douglas
Commissioner Hoyte
Commissioner Frost

Kenneth Riner, County Manager
Lisa Bickel, County Clerk

Chairman Coffey called the Monthly Work Session of the *Commission of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia* to order at 6:00 p.m., with all other Commissioners present, and live streaming on our Facebook page.

COUNTY MANAGER UPDATES:

The County Manager said there are moral issues in the county, he will go in more detail in executive session. He said most of his directors work hard, it has been a pleasure to work with them. **Chairman Coffey** said that Mr. Riner has worked with a new auditor, and they have a contract to review before they sign and possibly go with for the new year. **Chairman Coffey** also stated that the attorney will be at the regular meeting and will give his updates there.

SPEAKERS:

Commissioner Hoyte stated that Conner Miller was ill and that he will reach back out to reschedule another time to come back and speak to the Commission.

Department Head Updates:

Mordie Askew gave updates for Recreation Department.

Daniel Keith gave updates for water dept.

Samantha Hedgecote – Left packet for the Commission.

Lou Beck – Left packet for the Commission.

James Clark – Left packet for the Commission.

COUNTY ATTORNEY UPDATES:

NONE

The following items were discussed as to their relevance for appearance on the January 2, 2024 regular meeting agenda:

LIST OF ROADWAYS/SPEED DETECTION

Motion to amend the agenda to add List of roadways/speed detection as a voting item made by COMMISSIONER FROST, Seconded by COMMISSIONER BIDDLE, the vote was unanimous.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE LIST OF ROADWAYS/SPEED DETECTION made by COMMISSIONER BIDDLE, Seconded by COMMISSIONER FROST, the vote was unanimous.

Speaker – Carol Gray came in to discuss the ambulance, she said her purpose is to make the ambulance service successful. Last May they came and did all the paperwork, but for 6 months nothing has been billed, they are going to try to back date everything. EMS has to apply for a license with medicare has been approved, then it can take 60 days. It will possibly take up to March before they can start submitting claims. They will still try to retro back if they let them. **CHAIRMAN COFFEY** told them to let them know whatever they need to get them going and we will get them in touch with whoever they need to make this process happen.

GFL Update Commissioner Biddle spoke with Johnnie Williams and the garbage rates can go up according to the contract, so it will either be on the county or the consumer. This will go into effect January 2024. The cost will be 3.50 per household more.

Motion to amend the agenda to add voting item of garbage rate increase made by Commissioner Hoyte, Seconded by Commissioner Douglas.

Motion to approve garbage rate increase of 3.50 more per household made by Commissioner Hoyte, Seconded by Commissioner Douglas, the vote was unanimous.

SPLOST Referendum 2025 DISCUSSION CHAIRMAN COFFEY stated there is an actual draft to review, research is being done on the cap of splost to see if it can be more than the \$5,000,000.00. Also if anything need to be added or removed. To be on January Work Session for Feb agenda to be voted on.

Barge Update for sewage project, **CHAIRMAN COFFEY** stated that once a month they will meet and try to update everyone on how they will try to secure funds for this project, the County Manager and **COMMISSIONER BIDDLE** went to the last meeting. As things come up, he will keep everyone informed. **COMMISSIONER BIDDLE** wanted to thank everyone who was involved with this. **CHAIRMAN COFFEY** mentioned that before we can get any grants however our audits are priority one, keep barge updates on Work Sessions.

911 Board Meeting Request CHAIRMAN COFFEY stated that we received an open record request inquiring about 911 board meetings to which we could not answer due to the fact that they had not met. Therefore he would like to ask the board to meet, since Mrs. Bickel has already sent out an email to the board, **CHAIRMAN COFFEY** will send out an email to the board members as well, with the Commissions blessings as well. So that we can satisfy our obligations to the citizens' requests.

Budget Review CHAIRMAN COFFEY stated Ms. Robin Dunn will either come to the next Work Session or via phone conference for mid budget review.

2022/2023 Audits CHAIRMAN COFFEY spoke earlier briefly on audits and a contract with a new auditor. It goes over what the new auditor can do and what will be the cost. This is the same firm that does the regional valley. Keep as recurring item on Work Session.

Cemetery Committee Proposal CHAIRMAN COFFEY went to the last meeting they had, and they had a lot of concerns, the proposal is to get them started with the addition of the cemetery. The County Manager said that the cemetery is not finished yet. **CHAIRMAN COFFEY** said there are a few minor things to look at add to the next Work Session for review.

LMIG Proposal is the same list of roads from previous years, which we lost last year due to audit.
CHAIRMAN COFFEY add to agenda for voting item.

Sheriff Vehicle Claim CHAIRMAN COFFEY stated we received a check for \$7,775.00. This check was for inventory of the vehicle only. We need to get with the sheriff and see what he would like to do about the vehicle. He might want to keep some of the parts. This is not an agenda item, discussion topic. Keep on Work Session and have Sheriff come to next Work Session.

Public Works Applications Review to stay on next work session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A Motion was made to go into executive session at 7:50 p.m. **Commissioner Biddle** made the Motion, seconded by **Commissioner Frost**. The vote to enter executive session was unanimous.

Regular meeting reconvened:

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:42 p.m. **Chairman Coffey** made the statement that the subjects discussed during the closed meetings were within the legal exceptions to the open meetings law and that no votes were cast within the session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be conducted by and with the Commission of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia, Chairman Coffey declared the Wednesday Work Session of the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 8:44 pm on Wednesday, December 27, 2023.



CHARLES COFFEY, CHAIRMAN



TIMOTHY BIDDLE, VICE CHAIRMAN



GERALD DOUGLAS, COMMISSIONER



DAMON HOYTE, COMMISSIONER



JASON FROST, COMMISSIONER

January 2, 2024
DATE APPROVED

I hereby certify that the foregoing documentation, the Minutes of the December 27, 2023, Work Session, was approved via majority vote by the Board of Commissioners in its January 2, 2024 regular meeting.

ATTESTED BY: *Lisa Bickel*
LISA BICKEL, COUNTY CLERK
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF
CUSSETA-CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY

Seal:

