

AGENDA
GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 13, 2024

6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER
AGENDA AMENDMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS
PREVIOUS MONTH BILLS
APPROVAL OF BILLS
MINUTES

(Time allocated 10 minutes total)

Check Registers

FEBRUARY 2024

Regular meeting minutes January 9, 2024

Called meeting minutes January 17, 2024

Called meeting minutes January 29, 2024

MANAGER'S REPORT / EMS

REPORTS

ELECTED OFFICIALS

TAX COMMISSIONER

PROBATE

SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

SHERIFF

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

LIBRARY

FIRE

EMA DIRECTOR

4-H Coordinator

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEM

Ordinance Q1-2024 Emergency Service Assessment- 2nd reading

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEM

ACTION ITEM

Health Board appointment-O'Shaughnessy Massey

ACTION ITEM

GEFA LOAN-DWLSL2022092

ACTION ITEM

R3-2024 Safety Coordinator Resolution

ACTION ITEM

R4-2024 Volunteers & Elected Officials Work Comp. Resolution

ACTION ITEM

ACTION ITEM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

APPEARANCES

Jim Livingston-update on River Valley RC work in the region

George Barber-ATV laws

MEETING ADJOURN

FEBRUARY 13, 2024 Board Meeting

GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2024
6:30 p.m.

CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 6:34 p.m. with a prayer and the pledge. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Blackmon, Hayes, Kinsey and Bussey. County Manager Weeks, and Financial officer Teri Odom. (County Clerk Carolyn Wilson was not present.)

AGENDA AMENDMENTS- Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add Executive session to discuss personnel. **Motion made by Kinsey to approve the amended agenda to add Executive session to discuss personal. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

Chairman Lewis relinquished himself and asked Vice Chairman Danny Blackmon to take over the meeting.

Vice Chairman Blackmon opened the floor for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman. Hayes nominated Carvel Lewis for Chairman. **Motion made by Hayes to appoint Carvel Lewis for Chairman. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

Vice Chairman Blackmon opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Kinsey nominated Commissioner Blackmon for Vice Chairman. **Motion made by Kinsey to appoint Commissioner Danny Blackmon as Vice Chairman. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

Chairman Lewis took back over the meeting

APPOINT COUNTY AUDITOR-Chairman Lewis called for a motion to appoint a County auditor. **Motion made by Kinsey to appoint Richard Wingate & Associates LLC as the County Auditor for FY 2024. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes and Blackmon.

APPOINT COUNTY ATTORNEY-Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to appoint Jarrad-Davis as the County Attorney for FY 2024. **Motion made by Blackmon to continue County Attorney services with Jarrad-Davis for FY 2024. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-

PREVIOUS MONTH CHECK REGISTER

Motion made by Hayes to approve the previous month's check register. Second by Bussey. Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion made by Hayes to approve the bills. Second by Kinsey. Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

MINUTES

December 14, 2023 public hearing meeting minutes-**Motion made by Blackmon to approve the public hearing meeting minutes. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

December 14, 2023 Regular meeting minutes-**Motion made by Hayes to approve the Regular meeting minutes. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

December 18, 2023 Called meeting minutes-**Motion made by Hayes to approve the called meeting minutes. Second by Blackmon.** Voting Yes-Hayes, and Blackmon.(Kinsey and Bussey were not present at the December 18, 2023 called meeting).

January 3, 2024 Called meeting minutes-**Motion made by Bussey to approve the called meeting minutes. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

MANAGER'S REPORT- Chairman Lewis asked County Manager Weeks for his report. Weeks stated that the EMS report for December was total calls 26, 15 transports, 9 refusals, and 2 cancelations with an average response time of 11 minutes.

GRANT PROJECT SITE- County Manager Weeks stated that we will have to continue our contract with Consolidated Resources LLC for erosion control pollution per EPD. We will have to continue this until the site is completely covered in vegetation, or it is asphalted, or we sell the site. The cost is \$400.00 per month.

ROAD DEPT.-Weeks said we came thru the storm last night in pretty good shape. The road dept. removed just over 30 trees from county roadways. Most of the trees were dead pines.

LOWER LUMPKIN ROAD- Weeks spoke with William Eastin about the paving project on Lower Lumpkin road. Weeks requested that the road be widened by 2 feet. Mr. Eastin stated he will put this in the bid specs and do it if there is enough money available. Mr. Eastin said this will be put out to bid in June.

GDOT-Weeks spoke with Cathy Williams our GDOT board representative about all of the projects we have going on. Weeks will update at the called meeting. Ms. Williams had some very good advice and ideas.

Weeks asked the Board to look at their schedules to set up a called meeting to discuss LMIG projects. Called meeting set for January 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Tax Commissioner Report-

Probate Report- Probate Judge Matthew Self was present at the meeting. Judge Self stated that advanced voting will begin February 19, 2024. The actual election date is March 12, 2024. They will begin doing the L & A testing on the voting machines at the end of this month. Qualifying for local election is March 4th – 8th hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Qualifying fees are posted in the Probate office.

SUPERIOR CLERK OF COURT-

SHERIFF REPORT-

FAMILY CONNECTIONS- Family Connections coordinator Ms. Sara Lee Crumbs was present at the meeting and gave a brief update. Ms. Crumbs stated that we received for the 4th year the CPSY (Community Partnership for Strengthening Youth) grant in the amount of

\$5000.00 and the \$17,000.00 grant from Congressman Bishop for literacy matters. Ms. Crumbs also stated that she has her strategic planning meeting on Thursday January 11, 2024 at the Community Center at 10:00 a.m. and is open to the public.

4-H COORDINATOR REPORT- Mrs. Cassie Young was present at the meeting and gave a brief update on 4-H. Mrs. Young stated that they received a grant for an Agricultural safety class. This is for 7th thru 12th graders. After completing the class, they will receive a certificate. This will be going on from January thru May. Mrs. Young also thanked the Commissioners for their support and the use of the Community Center

Library-

Fire Dept. Report-

CHAIRMAN REPORT-

OLD BUSINESS-

ORDINANCE O4-2023 SPECIAL EVENT ALCOHOL LICENSE 2nd READING-

Chairman Lewis read Ordinance O4-2023 Special Event Alcohol license. Chairman Lewis stated this is the 2nd reading. **Motion made by Blackmon to approve Ordinance O4-2023 special event alcohol license. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes—Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

NEW BUSINESS-

APPROVAL OF FY 2024 MONTHLY RECURRING PAYMENTS- Chairman Lewis went over the list of monthly recurring payments. **Motion made by Bussey to approve the FY 2024 monthly recurring payments. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

ORDINANCE O1-2024 EMERGENCY SERVICE ASSESSMENT 1st READING-

Chairman Lewis read Ordinance O1-2024 Emergency Service Assessment. Chairman Lewis stated this is the 1st reading. This will also be discussed at the Called meeting on January 17, 2024.

R1-2024 SPLOST RESOLUTION-Chairman Lewis asked that this be tabled until the called meeting next week.

R2-2024 QUALIFYING FEE RESOLUTION-Chairman Lewis read R2-2024 Qualifying fee Resolution. **Motion made by Hayes to approve R2-2024 Qualifying fee Resolution. Second by Bussey.** Voting Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS REQUEST FOR PAY INCREASE FOR TRAINING- Chairman Lewis read over the request for pay increase for the Board of Assessors. This was tabled for the Called meeting next week.

C7-2023 PLANNING & ZONING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT WITH

RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION-Chairman Lewis read the Planning and Zoning technical assistance contract with River Valley Regional Commission. **Motion made by Bussey to approve C7-2023 Planning and Zoning technical assistance contract with River Valley Regional Commission. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

Probate Judge Self stated that as of April 1, 2024 the Legal Organ for Georgetown-Quitman County will be The Southern Tribune. This decision was made by the Probate Judge, Sheriff and Clerk of Court.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Motion made by Bussey to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Second by Kinsey. Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon. Motion made by Blackmon to close executive session. Second by Kinsey. Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon. Motion made by Kinsey to reopen regular session. Second by Hayes. Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

Chairman Lewis stated nothing was discussed in executive session that required a vote.

APPEARANCES –
MEETING ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

Carvel Lewis, Chairman

Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

David Kinsey, Commissioner

Jim Hayes, Commissioner

Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager

**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION
CALLED MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 9:27 a.m. followed with a prayer.

Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Blackmon, Hayes, Kinsey, and Bussey. County Manager Weeks, County Clerk Wilson, and Financial Officer Teri Odom.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS- Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add SWGA Regional Dev. Authority. **Motion made by Blackmon to add SWGA Regional Dev. Authority to the agenda. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD MEMBERS- Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to reduce the Planning and Zoning board from a 7-member board to a 5-member board. **Motion made by Kinsey to reduce the Planning and Zoning board from 7 members to 5 members. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to ask the County attorney to draw up a resolution to decrease the Planning and Zoning board, Local Economic Dev. Authority board, and to make sure we have a Resolution for changing the Recreation board from a 7-member board to a 5-member board.

RECREATION BOARD MEMBER- Chairman Lewis asked to check on KimKeisha Rivers application for the Recreation board.

BOA REQUEST FOR PAY INCREASE FOR TRAINING- Chairman Lewis opened the discussion about the request from the Board of Assessors. They are asking for a pay increase for when they go to training. After some discussion, a **motion was made by Kinsey to table this until budget time. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

LMIG AND GDOT FUNDS UPDATE- County Manager Weeks explained that he spoke with Ms. Cathy Williams with GDOT about the funds that we were granted for the Forester Pontoon site. Ms. Williams stated that we need to go ahead and get a letter submitted to the GDOT Commissioner and send it through Mr. Shannon Bradford for a request to use those funds for a different project since we no longer need them for the Forester Pontoon site. Ms. Williams also requested for Weeks to send to her in detail what is happening with the bridge at River Bluff Park. Weeks stated that he needs to submit the LMIG project by February 1, 2024 and would like for the Commissioners to decide what project they would like to do. After a lengthy discussion, a **motion was made by Blackmon to allow the \$203,000.00 be used for the Bonapartes Rd. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to allow Tim Simpson with Barrett & Simpson Engineering to put projects out to bid per Weeks recommendation. **Motion made by Blackmon to allow Tim**

Simpson with Barrett & Simpson Engineering to put projects out to bid per Weeks recommendation. Second by Kinsey. Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Blackmon.
EMS ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT-Weeks went over the EMS Assessment amendment. Weeks explained that in the EMS Assessment ordinance it has the language in it that all habitable structures may be charged the EMS Assessment. Weeks reached out to the County Attorney to get clarification on what a habitable structure is. The County Attorney added in the ordinance the definition of a habitable structure. Weeks also went to the Board of Assessors to ask if Mrs. Isabel Stoval the Chief appraiser for the County could get a list of all the properties that have more than one habitable structure. The Board of Assessors along with Mrs. Stoval agreed to do this and get this list to the Tax Commissioner. After a lengthy discussion, the Commissioners would like Weeks to get the list from Mrs. Stoval and go over it and also would like to inform the residents on the list and explain this charge.

ELECTIONS- Chairman Lewis stated that our County Attorney drew up a resolution to denounce the current mandate from the State to separate elections from Probate. After some discussion, Chairman Lewis asked Commissioner Kinsey to look over the proposal and if he finds anything that needs to be changed to let County Clerk Wilson know. Chairman Lewis also stated that we need to have our proposal submitted by the end of February to State Representative Gerald Greene and Senator Freddie Powell Sims.

Chairman Lewis asked everyone to look at their schedules to set up a Called meeting. Called meeting set for January 29, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

R1-2024 SPLOST RESOLUTION-Chairman Lewis asked Vice Chairman Blackmon to go over the SPLOST resolution. Vice Chairman Blackmon explained that he would like the amount proposed on SPLOST to go to five million. He would also like the uses of the money be changed to add purchasing real estate, funds that can be put into the Local Economic Development Authority Board, and a 4- county grant team that can write grants for the 4 surrounding counties. Weeks will talk to the County Attorney about all the changes that Vice Chairman Blackmon has brought up and get everyone updated on the changes at the Called meeting on January 29th. Weeks stated this resolution has to be approved by February 1, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-

APPEARANCES –

MEETING ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 12:18 p.m.

Carvel Lewis, Chairman

Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

David Kinsey, Commissioner

Jim Hayes, Commissioner

Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager

FEBRUARY 13, 2024 Board Meeting

**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION
CALLED MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 29, 2024
2:00 p.m.**

CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 2:16 p.m. followed with a prayer. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Blackmon, and Bussey. County Manager Weeks, County Clerk Wilson, and Financial Officer Teri Odom. (Commissioner Hayes was present via telephone. Commissioner Kinsey was not present.)

AGENDA AMENDMENTS- Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion made by Blackmon to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes- Hayes, and Blackmon.

APPEARANCES-Chairman Lewis asked Mr. Steve Saccente if he would like to come forward to present his presentation. Mr. Saccente presented two companies G:ENERGY and Southern Pine Energy that he would like to see come to Georgetown-Quitman County. Mr. Saccente explained what each company does and the benefits of both to our area. After a brief discussion, Chairman Lewis told Mr. Saccente that he would like for the two Commissioners that were not present to have an opportunity to look over the materials that were presented and they would discuss this at the next regular meeting. Mr. Saccente thanked the Commission for allowing him to come today.

RECREATION BOARD MEMBER- Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to appoint KimKeisha Rivers to the Recreation board. **Motion made by Bussey to appoint Ms. KimKeisha Rivers to the Recreation board. Second by Blackmon.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEV. AUTHORITY BOARD APPOINTMENTS-Chairman Lewis explained to everyone that we have found out that the Local Economic Dev. Authority board cannot be reduced from a seven- member board. Vice Chairman Blackmon stated that Mr. Mike Thomas has expressed his interest in being appointed. **Motion made by Blackmon to appoint Mike Thomas to the Local Economic Dev. Authority board. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Hayes, and Blackmon.

Vice Chairman Blackmon also wanted to make everyone aware that we just found out that on the Local Economic Dev. Authority board when only a quorum is present at a meeting a vote cannot be accepted by majority vote it has to be a unanimous vote.

ATV USE- Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to go over ATV use. Weeks stated that currently we have no Ordinance on ATV's being driven on County roads. State law was changed last year on side by sides that meet all the criteria, to allow them to be driven on County roads. Weeks explained that we have had some citizens asking if the Commission would consider adopting an Ordinance for ATV use on County roads. After a lengthy discussion and several questions being

FEBRUARY 13, 2024 Board Meeting

asked, Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to send all of this to the County Attorney to get their legal advice and they will discuss this again after receiving information from the Attorney.

R1-2024 SPLOST RESOLUTION- Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to go over what he found out from the County Attorney on SPLOST. Weeks explained that after talking with the County Attorney he found out that the questions that were asked in the last Called meeting on using SPLOST for Economic Development and raising the amount were not possible because of State law. The Attorney explained to Weeks that in order to raise the dollar amount you have to have a history of sales that would support the amount you raised it to. **Motion made by Blackmon to approve R1-2024 SPLOST Resolution. Second by Hayes. Voting Yes-Hayes, and Blackmon.**

ELECTIONS- Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to reach out to the County Attorney about reducing the size of the Election board from five to three.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-

APPEARANCES-

MEETING ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 3:32 p.m.

Carvel Lewis, Chairman

Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

David Kinsey, Commissioner

Jim Hayes, Commissioner

Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager