

**AGENDA**  
**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARCH 8, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

**6:30 p.m.**

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(Time allocated 10-minute's total)

PREVIOUS MONTH BILLS

Check Registers

APPROVAL OF BILLS

March 2022

MINUTES

Regular meeting minutes February 8, 2022

Called meeting minutes February 23, 2022

REPORTS

MANAGER'S REPORT / EMS

ELECTED OFFICIALS

TAX COMMISSIONER

PROBATE

SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

SHERIFF

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

LIBRARY

FIRE

EMA DIRECTOR

OLD BUSINESS

\*ACTION ITEM\*

Ordinance 01-2022 Timber Harvest ordinance 2nd Reading

NEW BUSINESS

\*ACTION ITEM\*

Renewal of Ameris notes

\*ACTION ITEM\*

Beer, Wine, and Distilled Spirits application-Vybez Bar & Grill

\*ACTION ITEM\*

2021-04 Budget Amendment Exhibit A

\*ACTION ITEM\*

2021-05 Budget Amendment Exhibit A

\*ACTION ITEM\*

2022-01 Budget Amendment Exhibit A

EXECUTIVE SESSION

APPEARANCES

MEETING ADJOURN

*MARCH 8, 2022 Board Meeting*

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**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 8, 2022  
6:30 p.m.**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

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

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda with adding Executive Session for personnel, pending litigation and real estate. **Motion made by Kinsey to accept the agenda. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Lewis.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS-** Chairman Lewis asked if there were any public comments at this time. Chairman Lewis asked Mr. Johnny Freeman to come and speak to the Commission Board about the lien on his home located on Jacqueline Drive. Mr. Freeman asked the Commission board to grant an exemption for the interest and penalties that have been added on his property tax bill because of not paying the Fire Protection fee and the Emergency Service assessment fee. Mr. Freeman's argument is that he is a disabled veteran and he is exempt from all taxes in the State of Georgia. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Kinsey asked Chairman Lewis if this could be tabled for more discussion.

**PREVIOUS MONTH CHECK REGISTER**

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Motion made by Kinsey to approve the bills as presented. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Lewis.

**MINUTES**

**January 11, 2022 Regular meeting minutes-** **Motion made by Hayes to approve the regular meeting minutes. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Lewis.

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**MANAGER'S REPORT**-Weeks was present and gave the total call for EMS for the month of January. Weeks went over the long response time for calls. He stated that this was due to the lack of staff. EMS Director Jamie Sauls has assured Weeks that this has been addressed and taking care of. Weeks went onto to say that the ambulance at night is now being rotated between Clay and Quitman County.

**LMIG-** Weeks explained that we received the LMIG funds for FY 2022. Shannon Bradford with GDOT told Weeks that there are programs that they offer some years where they provide funding for signage and striping for County Roads. Weeks stated that there is not any funding available right now but requested to be put on the list when funds become available.

**EPD-** Weeks informed everyone that for the last six years we have been under a corrective action plan at the treatment pond. EPD came on February 8, 2022 for their inspection and the corrective action plan was lifted.

**Tax Commissioner Report-** Tax Commissioner Mindy Ward was present at the meeting and gave a quick update. She stated that she has 39 properties that are on the Tax sale. The tax sale is available on the Tax Commissioner website. The list will also be available the first part of March. They will not be giving out copies in the office.

-There will be a public hearing on March 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse. This public hearing is to inform the public of the process for property taxes and what involvement each office has with taxes.

-Mrs. Ward went on record stating that she has heard of the study that is going on to consolidate counties in Georgia, She is very opposed to this and ready to fight for our County.

**Probate Report-** Probate Judge Matt Self was present at the meeting and gave his report.

Judge Self explained that elections are coming up. He also informed everyone of the SPLOST tax that will be on the ballot this election.

**SUPERIOR CLERK OF COURT-**

**SHERIFF REPORT-**

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS-** Ms. Sara Lee Crumbs' Family Connections Coordinator was present and gave a brief report for Family Connections. There will be a Parenting Café on February 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

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-Parenting sessions with Nathan Stevens begin March 3, 2022-April 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

-She stated that the Library summer reading program received a \$2,000.00 dollar grant.

Chairman Lewis added that Ms. Sara Lee Crumbs' is a very vital part in Georgetown-Quitman County.

### **Library-**

**Fire Dept. Report-** Fire Chief John Everett Pate was present and gave a very informative report. He stated that Georgetown-Quitman County volunteer fire dept. just purchased the very first brand new fire truck.

-He informed everyone that the new members just finished the Fire Certification class. He said this is a great asset to the Fire Dept. to have these new members.

-Pate stated that he is working on a \$25,000.00 dollar grant to be able to purchase more SCBA's (Self-contained breathing apparatus) for the fire dept.

-Pate went over our current ISO rating for our County. Our current ISO rating is a 7 in the County. Our last ISO audit was in 2014. Pate feels like we have made such improvements since then, that we will be able to get a lower ISO rating.

### **CHAIRMAN REPORT-**

#### **OLD BUSINESS-**

#### **NEW BUSINESS-**

**HEALTH BOARD APPOINTMENT-** Chairman Lewis stated that there is a vacancy on the Health board and Mrs. Sadie Neville has volunteered to serve. **Motion made by Kinsey to appoint Mrs. Sadie Neville to the Health Board. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Lewis.

**R2-2022 SAFETY COORDINATOR RESOLUTION-** Chairman Lewis went over R2-2022 Safety Coordinator Resolution. **Motion made by Bussey to approve R2-2022 Safety**

**Coordinator Resolution. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Lewis.

**R3-2022 VOLUNTEERS & ELECTED OFFICIALS RESOLUTION-** Chairman Lewis went over R3-2022 Volunteers and Elected officials Resolution. **Motion made by Bussey to approve R3-2022 ACCG workers comp. coverage for volunteers and elected officials. Second by Kinsey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Lewis.

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**ORDINANCE 01-2022 TIMBER HARVEST ORDINANCE-** Chairman Lewis read over a summary of the Timber Harvest Ordinance. He explained that there is a new website to streamline the process in the State of Ga. The Ga. Forestry will be the host of the website. This is all done in an effort to help the local Government to be able to keep track of the different harvesters that are cutting in the County without Bonds and ones that have cut previously and damaged County roads. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of this ordinance.

**DEPT. OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & DEV. DISABILITIES BOARD APPT.-** Chairman Lewis stated that the Commissioners will be trying to find someone to fill this vacancy on this board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Motion made by Hayes to close regular session. Second by Kinsey. Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Lewis. Motion made by Bussey to go into executive session to discuss personnel, pending litigation and real estate. Second by Kinsey. Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Lewis. Motion made by Bussey to close executive session. Second by Kinsey. Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Lewis. Motion made by Bussey to reopen regular session. Second by Kinsey. Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Lewis.

Chairman Lewis stated that no decisions were made during Executive session that required a vote.

Lewis asked for a motion to not waive any fees that can be collected by the Tax Commissioner over the counter. Motion made by Kinsey to not waive any fees over the counter. Second by Hayes. Voting Yes-Bussey, Kinsey, Hayes, and Lewis.

**APPEARANCES –**

**MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

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Carvel Lewis, Chairman

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Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

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Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

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David Kinsey, Commissioner

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Jim Hayes, Commissioner

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Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager

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**GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION  
CALLED MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2022  
4:00 p.m.**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:17 p.m. with a prayer. Members present were Commissioners: Lewis, Blackmon, Hayes, and Bussey. County Manager Jason Weeks. Deputy Clerk Stacey Scott.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to accept the amended agenda with the addition of potential business and Jonny Freeman's request. **Motion made by Blackmon to approve the amended agenda as stated. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes- Bussey, Hayes, Blackmon and Lewis.

**REQUEST FOR REMOVING FEES FROM PROPERTY TAX FOR JOHNNY**

**FREEMAN-** Chairman Lewis stated that Mr. Johnny Freeman made a request to remove all fees from his property tax bill at the Regular Commission meeting. **Motion made by Hayes not to remove any fees from Mr. Freemans tax bill. Second by Bussey.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Hayes, Blackmon, and Lewis.

**SWGA REG. ECO. DEV. AUTHORITY BOARD-** Chairman Lewis presented a letter regarding the SWGA Reg. Eco. Dev. Authority board's decision for allocating the Silicone Ranch funds for Quitman County. Lewis stated that he wants the Commissioners to read over the letter make any necessary changes and send it to the 3 other counties. (Stewart, Randolph, and Clay).

**POTENTIAL BUSINESS ON US HWY 82-** Chairman Lewis asked Vice Chairman Blackmon to explain to everyone about the potential business for US Hwy 82. Blackmon stated that he received a phone call that the property located at 1213 US Hwy 82 was for lease and someone wants to open an automotive repair shop at this location. Commissioners are concerned with the zoning of the property and this being a suitable business for that location. Weeks explained that this property is zoned C1 commercial. Weeks also mentioned that there is a process to change zoning if that is something that the Commissioners want to look into. Chairman Lewis made the suggestion that Weeks contact Rick Morris with River Valley Regional Commission and find out the process for changing our C1 Commercial definitions.

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**AIR PURIFIER BIDS-** Chairman Lewis asked Weeks to go over the bids he received on the air purifiers. Weeks stated that he received 2 bids. One bid is from Michael Blocker with ActivePure Technology for a total of 22 units at the total cost of \$69,315.00 dollars. The second bid was from Malcolm Driggers with Driggers A/C Refrigeration for a total of 8 units at the total cost of \$9800.00 dollars. Weeks went onto say that both units are made by Aerus Enterprise Solutions. Commissioner Bussey stated they are the same make but different models. Driggers quote was for less units because they are portable and he feels like we could move the units around to different areas that are not used everyday to save money. Vice Chairman Blackmon suggested that Weeks give his recommendation to the Board on which route to go. Commissioner Bussey suggested that Mr. Blocker come and give a presentation on the units if this is something the Board is serious about doing. Weeks also stated that we can use ARPA funds to pay for the units.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** **Motion made by Hayes to close regular session. Second by Blackmon.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Hayes, Blackmon and Lewis. **Motion made by Bussey to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Hayes, Blackmon and Lewis. **Motion made by Blackmon to close executive session. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Hayes, Blackmon and Lewis. **Motion made by Blackmon to reopen regular session. Second by Hayes.** Voting Yes-Bussey, Hayes, Blackmon and Lewis. Chairman Lewis stated that no decisions were made during Executive session that required a vote.

**MEETING ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 5:28 p.m.

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Carvel Lewis, Chairman

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Danny Blackmon, Vice Chairman

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Willie H. Bussey, Jr., Commissioner

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not present  
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David Kinsey, Commissioner

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Jim Hayes, Commissioner

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Attest: Jason Weeks, County Manager