The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session at 5:00 PM on September 17, 2019 at the Commission Chambers in the Courthouse. The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Michael Gotell, Commissioner Glenn Kester, and Commissioner James Hagins and Commissioner John Williams.

The following staff were present: County Manager Joseph Mosley; County Attorney DuBose Porter; and Sr. Account Tech I Deborah Osborne.

Invocation

Chairman Gotell asked Commissioner Glenn Kester, District 1 to lead the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gotell asked Commissioner John Williams-District-4 to lead the pledge.

Agenda

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the Agenda. Moved by Commissioner Hagins and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve the Agenda for September 17, 2019. Commissioner Hagins voted yes; Chairman Gotell voted yes; Commissioner Kester voted yes; and Commissioner Williams voted yes. Motion carried; there were none opposed.

Minutes

Chairman Gotell entertained a motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes of the September 3, 2019. Moved by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Kester to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session Meeting. Commissioner Hagins voted yes; Chairman Gotell voted yes; Commissioner Kester voted yes; and Commissioner Williams voted yes. Motion carried; there were none opposed.
Visitors’ Present

Neal Youmans, Cindi Brooks, Pete Williams, Joe Boone, Joyce Denson, Lona Johns, Willie C. Cobb, Ulyses B. Wilson, Donna Asbell, Beverly Clark, Tracy Strange and Marty Dominy

Recognition of Visitors / Presentations

a. Mr. Boone wants to discuss the County’s Budget and Open Meetings. Mr. Boone stated that he had three (3) questions for the Commissioners: First, he wanted to know what the Commissioners were going to do if they had another occasion arise like that of Commissioner Brooks. He stated that Commissioner Brooks received a full year’s salary with benefits and did not attend one meeting; he wanted to know how they would handle that in the future. Second, Mr. Boone asked about the Calhoun Center and the budget for it. If there were going to be any grants or was it coming from tax payers. Third, he stated that he was concerned that the Commissioners had considered removing the “comments” from the public at the end of the meeting. That open meetings were just that and that the public had a right to state an opinion. Commissioner John Williams responded to the first question that saying that there wasn’t anything in the law that could prevent this. Furthermore, there wasn’t an ordinance the Board of Commission could pass since Commissioner Brooks was an elected official. In addition, Commissioner Williams shared that he believes in open government. He desires to have a public access channel and podcast that provides immediate access for the public to view and listen to recorded content of Commissioner’s meetings. Chairman Gotell noted that this was done prior to his administration but that he would try not to allow that to happen under his administration. Chairman Gotell shared that he felt that the “Visitor Comment” section had been abused. The only thing that a person has to do is contact Ms. Deborah Osborne and complete a form to be placed on the agenda. The Board of Commissioners voted to retain this section.

b. Mr. Diego Pinto wants to discuss before the Board of Commissioners about creating a Housing Authority. Mr. Pinto stated that he felt Wilkinson County had a great need for a Housing Authority that was separate from the Development Authority. He also stated that he would be willing to head such a division with no pay. He had done many projects like this that added affordable housing to cities and counties.

c. Mr. Charles L. Dear desires guidance from the Board of Commissioners on the City of Ivey adhering to its Charter. Mr. Dear was not present.

Old Business

None
New Business

a. **Motion to approve or deny a request by Mr. Freeman Charles Brooks, III to have tax penalties in the amount of $118.51 waived.** Moved by Commissioner Kester and seconded by Commissioner Williams to deny waiving of the penalties. Commissioner Hagins voted yes; Chairman Gotell voted yes; Commissioner Kester voted yes; and Commissioner Williams voted yes. Motion carried; there were none opposed.

Chairman’s Report:

1. Commend the Wilkinson County Road Department for helping the City of Irwinton with patching some roads.
2. Sent memos to Constitutional Officers and Department Heads requesting that 2% be cut from their budgets.
3. Updates on the Recreation Department Fall Football Season

County Managers Report:

1. **Public Safety-EMA, Fire Departments, Ambulance**
   a. Talked to Bill Cheeks of Heartland about concerns with new ambulance.

2. **GDOT Projects**
   a. Debbie Shank attended GDOT Transit Reimbursement Training; I received new budget for Transit, which is due in October.
   b. Made payments to Everett Dyches Grassing for the JR Sims Full-Depth Reclamation Project.
   c. Talking to Bridge Design Engineer with GDOT to discuss how the County may make temporary repairs to the Cross-Justice & Wriley Road bridges.

3. **Budget & Finance**
   a. Made spreadsheets to review financials trends for FY 2019 Budget.
   b. Met with Ricky Spivey, Wilkinson County Bank, to review County Bank accounts.
   c. Held Public Hearing for Millage Rate.
   d. Sent memo to Constitutional Officers and Dept Heads requesting a 2% cut on their budget expenditures.
   e. Executed agreement with HCM to do 1095c documents for next year.
   f. Submitted the County’s Safety Plan.
   g. Met with Commissioners on Public Workshop to discuss County finances & Bridges.
4. **Courthouse Updates**
   a. None.

5. **Updates & Reminders**
   a. Met with Brandon Crumbly of Cooperative Extension to discuss his replacement.
   b. Surplus equipment transported to auction house to be sold.
   c. Had Triple Point Engineering to set up an account to report Solid Waste Monitoring Reports.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Commissioner Hagins and seconded by Commissioner Kester to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Gotell voted yes, Commissioner Hagins voted yes and Commissioner Kester voted yes. Motion carried there were none opposed.

**Notice to Visitors**

The Board of Commissioners welcomes you to our meeting. We ask that you do not talk during the meeting to allow us to hear all discussion between Commissioners. If you would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact the Board of Commissioners Office at 946-2236 no later than the Thursday prior to meeting.