

Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Public Hearing Minutes
705 College Avenue, 2nd Floor, Blackshear, Ga. 31516

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 5.45 PM

Commissioners in Attendance Neal Bennett, Chairman

Harold Rozier, District 1

Not in Attendance

Graham Raley, District 2

Randy Dixon, District 3

David Lowman, District 4

Staff in Attendance

Adam Craft, Interim County Attorney

Raphel Maddox, County Manager

Donna Golding, County Clerk

Lana Blankenship, Deputy County Clerk

1. Call to Order

Chairman Neal Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

2. Request to rezone Youmans Chapel Road, Blackshear, 5.54 acres. Parcel #036-057 from (MF) Multi-Family to (I) Industrial Park

Matt Carter spoke on the Developmental Authority Side requesting an alternate access and exit route to the Industrial Park.

Chairman Neal Bennett Asked for any Public Comment.

There were no public Comments.

3. Adjourn

Chairman Neal Bennett adjourned the Public Meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Agenda-

Chairman Neal Bennett asked for a motion to approve the February 6, 2024, Agenda. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept the agenda. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. All the Commissioners voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of the January 2, 2024, Regular Meeting-

Chairman Neal Bennett made a motion to approve the January 2, 2024, Regular meeting. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept, and Commissioner David Lowman seconded this. All Commissioners voted aye. This motion was unanimous.

7. Introduction of the new County Clerk and Deputy County Clerk- Board welcomed Donna Golding as the new County Clerk. Lana Blakenship will remain Deputy County Clerk.

8. Proclamation for Sergeant Kennedy Ladon Sanders- The Proclamation for Sergeant Kennedy Ladon Sanders was given by Commissioner Harold Rozier. The American Flag will be flown at half-staff on the day of Sergeant Kennedy Ladon Sanders interment until sunset. Prayer for the family was given by Pastor Greg Carter from Walkerville Baptist Church.

9. Public Comments

a. Earl Cox of 5858 Old River Road, Blackshear Ga. 31516, requested be on the agenda on January 26, 2024, to discuss maintenance of county roads. Earl Cox was not in attendance.

b. Derreck Deal of 5421 Riverside Drive, Blackshear Ga. 31516, requested to discuss maintenance of the road. Derreck Deal was not in attendance.

10. Motion to request of rezoning of Youmans Chapel Road from (MF) Multi Family to (I)Industrial

Chairman Neal Bennett made a motion to rezone Youmans Chapel Road from multi-family to industrial use. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept, and Commissioner David Lowman seconded. All commissioners voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and potential action to purchase a new Mack Granite 64FR Truck #2, using funds from T-SPLOST, General Funds, and/or ARPA

Chairman Neal Bennett asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to accept, and Commissioner Rand Dixon seconded it. All Commissioners voted aye. The motion was passed unanimously.

12. Discussion of the 2024 Pierce County BOC Retreat March 15-16, location-Mossy Pond

Chairman Neal Bennett made a motion to approve. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept, and Commissioner Graham Raley seconded. All Commissioners voted aye. The motion was passed unanimously.

13. Tyre Bridge Project Amendment- Solar Farm

- a. Amendment MOU 1st - This First Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding dated as of May 1, 2021 by Pierce County Industrial Development and Building Authority, a development authority and public body corporate and politic duly created by the Development Authorities Law, O.C.G.A. Section 36-62-1, (the “ACT”) and Tyre Bridge Solar, LLC. A limited liability company (the Authority and the Company, each a “Party,” or collectively, the “Parties”).
- b. Amendment MOU 2nd – This is between the Pierce County Industrial Development and Building Authority (the “Authority”) a development authority and public body corporate and politic duly created by the Development Authorities Law, O.C.G.A. Section 36-62-1, (the “Act”) and Tyre Bridge Solar, LLC (the “Company”), a Georgia limited liability (the Authority and the Company, each a “Party,” or collectively, the “Parties”).

Chairman Neal Bennett asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to accept, and Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded it. All Commissioners voted aye. The motion was passed unanimously.

14. Removed

15. Establish Pierce County Transportation Planning Coordination Committee. (Ware County Reference).

Chairman Neal Bennett opened discussion on creating a Pierce County Transportation Coordinating Committee. Chairman Neal Bennett asked County Manager Raphel Maddox to explain to the board of commissioners about the Transportation Coordinating Committee.

County Manager Raphel Maddox explained that GDOT was willing to have a meeting brief of Pierce County GDOT projects on our schedule.

Raphel Maddox stated he wanted the Committee to consist of All of Pierce County Municipalities. Commissioners Discussion was to have a committee of seven members. One from each municipality, City of Blackshear, City of Offerman, City of Patterson, the Pierce County School Board, and the Pierce County Recreation department. The Commission Board Appointed County Manager, Raphel Maddox to select the final two members to complete the seven-member committee.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to accept. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded. All Commissioners voted aye. The motion was passed unanimously.

16. County Manager's Report and Financials



County Manager's Report for January 2024

Presented February 6, 2024
Pierce County Board of Commissioners Meeting

Financial Report:

Revenues are at 74.78% of budget through October 30rd. Expenditures are at 85.55 % of budget through November 31st. Most departments are within their budgets.

Budget for FY 2024 is being finalized for submission to the Commission. Inflationary growth and recommended organizational growth will result in increased budgetary needs.

Revenue YTD:

- Recreation Fund - \$182,594.03
- TSPLOST - \$923,060.06
- LOST - \$1,696,498.33

Other Administration:

- Interviews for County Clerk this week
- Reviewing Finance Director application later this week
- The recreation department should begin moving this week.

Pierce County Government Departments:

1. Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS calls in November- 287
Cash collected in January- \$31,834.89
8 Mutual Calls

Fire

Fire- 3500
68 Total Personnel: (2) Full time and (66) Volunteer Firefighters.
Fleet Status: (8) Primary Engines and (5) Tenders in operation.

44 Calls for the month of January consisting of 2- Structures Fires, 12- Other Fires, 4- Vehicle Accidents and 16 Medical Assist.

Project 1: Southside Station 5 w/ office and bathroom at 95% with the flooring and shower needing to be installed.

Project 2: Bearsville Station 8 w/ bathroom at 0% starting this month. Request for Approval to raise FIREFIGHTER Pay from \$15 to \$25. We s poke about doing \$20 but with the financial records Elana showed from 2019-2023 budget.

EMA- 3920

Pierce County EMA hosted EMAG meetings with state and local agencies and partners.

Continuing session with FEMA and GEMA reference DR-4738 Hurricane Idalia (Moore Street, Pierce E911, Pierce Library, etc.)

Planning Dept:

**6 new construction permits
143 inspections performed
\$5,587.71 in fees received**

Facilities Dept.: Completed carpet and painting in Elections Conference room.

**Replaced backflow valve on NFC chiller.
Installed flooring, paint and desk in new County Clerk office.**

2. E-911

Calls in November – EMS: 320, Fire: 105, LE: 979

Pierce Sheriff 867 + 406 + Internal (2900) = **4,173** Blackshear PD (734) - Patterson PD (38)

Road Department

- **Road January Summary Report**
- **Culverts Cleaned – 30**
- **Roads built up – 2.**
- **Ditches dug – 65.**

- **Outfalls Cleaned/Dug – 7**
- **Culverts installed/Replaced – 3**
- **Potholes Patched – 56, Major 12**
- **Shoulders Patched – 6, Major 2.**
- **Beaver dams cleaned – 30.**
- **Signs replaced – 25.**
- **New signs put up – 45.**
- **Total Road Grader Miles – 864.64 Miles.**
- **Road name signs Put up –20.**
- **Loads of Dirt hauled – 299.**
- **Yards of Dirt Moved – 4,784 CuYds**
- **Special Projects:**
- **Golf Course Rd: Waiting for contractor to start back project and deliver project progress plan.**
- **Lowman Rd: (County) Drainage improvements complete.**
- **Carnes Rd: (County) Drainage improvements underway.**
- **Tabby Rd: (County) Drainage improvements underway.**
- **Rufus Rd. (County) Drainage improvements underway.**
- **Old River Rd. (County) pre-project preparation complete.**
- **Cross Swamp Rd. (County) pre-project preparation underway.**

Respectfully submitted,

Raphel D. Maddox
County Manager

Neal Bennett

Harold Rozier

Commission Chairman

Commissioner, District 1

Graham Raley
Commissioner, District 2

Randy Dixon
Commissioner, District 3

David Lowman
Commissioner, District 4

Donna Golding
County Clerk

Lana Blankenship
Deputy County Clerk

DRAFT