

**MINUTES
MID-MONTH WORK SESSION
WARE COUNTY
MARCH 23, 2009**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners met in a mid-month Work Session at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2009 in the Ware County Commission Chambers with Chairman Brown presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jimmy Brown.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairman Jimmy Brown, Commissioners Carlos Nelson, Kathy E. Davis, Victor Aldridge and Gene Dixon.

INVOCATION: Commissioner Victor Aldridge gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Gene Dixon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

STAFF PRESENT: County Manager Gail Boyd, County Clerk Pam Gibson and County Attorney Huey W. Spearman.

BONNIE CREWS – INTEREST IN LEASING FORMER EMA BUILDING AT AIRPORT: Ms. Crews explained to the Board that she is interested in putting a country buffet in the old EMA building. Manager Boyd said she has spoken with Ms. Crews and explained the terms of the agreement. The Board agreed to allow Ms. Crews to utilize the building. Manager Boyd said the agreement would be on the April 13th agenda for approval by the Board.

RECREATION:

Erin Johnson Park usage – Recreation Director Scott Rodgers said the Recreation Board met and they do not want to close Erin Johnson Park. Mr. Rodgers explained there are 5 employees that maintain Erin Johnson Complex once a week for 7 months out of the year. They mow, weed eat, wet and rake 4 fields, clean restrooms, and pick up trash. The expense of keeping this park open outweighs the usage. The Board directed staff to turn the power off to the lights at the park due to the fact that are very old and expensive, but to keep the two (2) fields open. Discussion included the Grove Street fields. The Recreation Department does not use them anymore, but are responsible for the upkeep. The fields are used by the YMCA. Manager Boyd was directed to contact City Manager Pete Pyrzenski and see about the possibility of the City of Waycross offering the Grove Street fields to the YMCA.

Waycross Firebirds – Recreation Director Scott Rodgers reviewed an agreement for rental of the Soccer/Football fields at the Trembling Earth Recreation Park. It will be presented to the Waycross Firebirds for their review and then to the Recreation Board for their approval.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE ITEMS:

Design Consulting New Administration Facility – Facilities Maintenance Director Clarke Lee said a Design Engineer is needed in order to move forward with the conceptual plans for the new administration facility. He recommended Alternative Construction & Environmental Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$483,110.00. Mr. Lee said they had worked with Ware County on past projects. It was agreed to add this item to the April 13th agenda.

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Design Consulting Proposal – Site Work Courthouse Expansion – Facilities Maintenance Director Clarke Lee said engineer design drawings are needed for bidding regarding the site work for the Courthouse Expansion. Mr. Lee recommended the proposal from Alternative Construction & Environmental Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$68,390.00. It was agreed to add this item to the April 13th agenda for approval.

Metal at Building Maintenance Building – 330 Albany Avenue - Facilities Maintenance Director Clarke Lee said the metal on the building at 330 Albany Avenue is loose and unsafe. He said we could sell the siding for scrap metal or possibly to an individual for reuse. The prison has asked for the metal siding. They are planning to build a new maintenance shop. The Board agreed to give the metal to the prison and for Mr. Spearman to prepare an intergovernmental document transferring the metal and stating the prison is responsible for all liability while moving it. The agreement is hereby made a part of these minutes.

PUBLIC WORKS ITEMS:

Bickley Bridge R/W project – Civil Construction Coordinator Paul Smith said Bervin Smith is still requesting that the frontage of his property be piped. Paul Smith said does not recommend honoring the request.

Wacona Drive at US #1 – Civil Construction Coordinator Paul Smith presented two (2) options regarding this project. Option #1 is a configuration done by GDOT. Option #2 is preferable, but would require purchasing right-of-way and would include paving cost. Mr. Smith now is the time to do this. Manager Boyd recommended doing this in coordination with the four-laning of US #1.

COMMISSIONER’S ITEMS:

Commissioner Aldridge – said he had been contacted by the citizens in the Pebble Hill area in reference to the Augusta Springs, Nabors Drive paving project. He said the citizens are asking when the paving is to be done. Civil Construction Coordinator Paul Smith explained that approximately 60 right-of-way acquisitions are needed and only 25 have been obtained. He said everything is in place. Manager Boyd suggested advertising a meeting concerning this project to get the right-of-way acquisitions signed.

Chairman Brown – said he is involved with the “Go Tell Crusade 2009” that will be at the stadium in April. He asked EMS Director Mark Walker what the charge would be to have EMS there. Mr. Walker replied that when there is an event with a very large crowd EMS covers it for free. He added that the EMS Explorers plan to provide first-aid coverage at the event also.

Commissioner Aldridge – encourage Waycross-Ware County to get behind the Children’s Initiative Program. He recently had a chance to meet with Children’s Initiative Director Curtis Brantley and he said the statistics for this area are unbelievable.

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COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS:

Leadership Georgia – Manager Boyd told of all the work being done by county employees for the Leadership Georgia event.

The Lakes Golf Course – Manager Boyd said she received notice from E. B. Price that The Lakes Golf Course at Laura Walker Lake will be up for sale or closed by May 1st. She suggested contacting the Legislators about this.

Article in ACCG Magazine – March issue – Manager Boyd noted that Ware, Coffee, Atkinson and Bacon Counties are featured in ACCG Magazine for March 2009.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the work session was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Approved: April 13, 2009

Pam Gibson, County Clerk

Jimmy Brown, Chairman