

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting
7:00 P.M.

September 2, 2008

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Eldrin Bell, Vice Chairman Wole Ralph, Commissioner Virginia Burton Gray, Commissioner Sonna Singleton, Commissioner Michael Edmondson, and Clerk Shelby D. Haywood.

1. Chairman Bell called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation led by Rev. Matthew Boedecker of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Forest Park, GA. Pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Chairman Bell.
3. Amended the agenda by adding Remarks by Mayor Willie Oswalt of Lake City, GA after Item #4 (Approval of the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of August 19, 2008) and holding Item #8 (Consider a request of Renee Bright, Director of Personnel) and Item #9 (Consider a request of Angela Jackson, Director of Finance). The agenda was adopted, as amended, as all commissioners had copies before them.
4. Approved the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of August 19, 2008.
5. Lake City Mayor Willie Oswalt introduced Dr. Mel Blackaby, the new pastor of the First Baptist Church of Jonesboro. Mayor Oswalt noted that Dr. Blackaby is a Canadian who has been in Jonesboro for three (3) weeks and in the pulpit for two (2) weeks. He concluded that Dr. Blackaby has been doing a great job since the brief time he has been at the church, and he wanted everyone to meet his new pastor.

Dr. Blackaby commented that he is actually a “dual citizen” due to his birth in the United States. He loved being in Clayton County because his parents are from this area. In a way, he is now closer to home even though he has not lived here before. Dr. Blackaby remarked that he was excited to be in this county, and he wanted to pledge his life and his church’s commitment to doing all that is possible to make Clayton County the best place in which to live. In closing, Dr. Blackaby stated that he was glad to be here and to be a part of what God is doing in this place.
6. Read and presented a Proclamation entitled Daughters of the American Revolution Observe “Constitution Week – September 17-23, 2008” (presented to Becky Rostron; Augustin-Clayton DAR Regent and Ruth Smith; Augustin-Clayton DAR Historian). [NOTE: A group photo was also taken.]
7. Chairman Bell awarded a Scholarship Check (\$1,000.00) to Mundy’s Mill High School Senior Danielle Willis, who will be attending Emory University. He also announced that Xavier Ross, a recent graduate of Riverdale High School, would receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship check. Mr. Ross will be attending Morehouse College. [NOTE: Mr. Ross was not present to accept the check. A photo of Chairman Bell and Danielle Willis was taken.]
8. Sue Franklin, Contract Administrator/Central Services, presented this item which resulted in the following action:
 - 1) Approved a Purchase Requisition (P. R. #135) for IBM Software Subscription and Support

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Renewals, as requested by Information Technology. The recommended vendor is Optimus Solutions of Norcross, Georgia. This purchase would be made using the GA State Contract #SWC70766, at a purchase cost of \$42,741.80.

9. Approved Resolution 2008-147, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to enter into a reimbursable agreement with the Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration, providing for the terms and conditions under which temporary tower services will be rendered to Clayton County (in the amount of \$7,640.60/payable in advance); to authorize the Chairman or his designee to execute the agreement, and otherwise to perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of the resolution; to authorize the Finance Director to amend the budget where necessary to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense; etc.

10. Approved Resolution 2008-148, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to enter into a grant award agreement with the Office of the Courts and, in accordance therewith, accept grant funds (\$24,965.00) on behalf of the Clayton County State Court to be used in connection with the contract for Surveillance Officers and contract for Electronic Monitoring Services; to authorize the Chairman's authority to execute the grant award agreement, and otherwise to perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; to authorize the Finance Director to amend the budget to reflect the required appropriation and expenditures as they may relate to the grant; etc. No county match is required.

11. Approved Resolution 2008-149, a Resolution approving the final terms and conditions of the Professional Services Agreement with Forensic Photography, Inc. providing for the provision of Forensic Photography Services to various county departments; to authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement and otherwise perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; etc. [NOTE: The differences between this resolution and the previously approved Resolution 2008-144 are as follows: 1) all blanks in the agreement will be eliminated; 2) the scope of services provides both photography and video services; 3) the photographer maintains archival files of negatives, digital images and videos on behalf of the county for use by the county indefinitely; 4) Section 3/Paragraph B – photographer designates a film processor and the county will pay that processor directly; 5) the photographer will purchase all equipment; 6) the photographer will maintain three (3) autos and the county will insure them; and 7) the photographer will pay the 1st \$1,000.00 per incident in the event of vehicular damage -- only if he/she were liable.]

It was determined through Board discussion that although Forensic Photography, Inc. initially purchased the three (3) autos for county photographic services, the autos are conveyed to the county and the county insures them. Forensic Photographic, Inc. also carries a 3 million dollar auto insurance policy beyond what the county insures. Risk Management requested that Forensic Photography follow-up by providing it with certification of this extra auto insurance. Commissioner Singleton asked Risk Management to give her a list of automobiles that the county is presently insuring.

11. The Board made the following actions concerning several seized vehicle requests from the Clayton County Police Department:

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- (a) Accepted and added a 2000 BMW 740i sedan to the Police Department fleet to be used as an unmarked undercover vehicle during undercover and surveillance investigations.
 - (b) Accepted and added two (2) vehicles (a 2001 Mercedes ML320 SUV and a 2001 Chrysler Voyager Mini-Van) to the Police Department fleet to be used as unmarked vehicles during undercover and surveillance investigations.
 - (c) Approved a 1988 Jaguar XJ6 sedan to be turned in to Central Services as surplus property to be sold, as provided in the court order.
12. Appointed Cynthia Freeman (Vice Chairman Ralph) to the DFCS Board. New term is for five (5) years; expiring on 6-30-13. Also reappointed Eddie White (Commissioner Edmondson) to this same board. New term is for five years; expiring on 6-30-12 (from Mr. White's last term expiration of 6-30-07).
13. Reappointed DeMont Davis (Chairman Bell) and appointed Russel Rogers (Commissioner Singleton) to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The new term of DeMont Davis expires on 9-2-11, and the term of Russel Rogers expires on 9-2-10.
14. The following appointments/reappointments (with staggered terms) were made to the Zoning Advisory Group:
- 1) Reappointed Herman Turner (Commissioner Gray). New term is for one (1) year; expiring on 9-2-09.
 - 2) Appointed Bob Hartley (Full Board/Commissioner Singleton). New term is for two (2) years; expiring on 9-2-10.
 - 3) Appointed Joel Callero (Full Board/Commissioner Edmondson). New term is for two (2) years; expiring on 9-2-10. [The motion carried 3-2. Chairman Bell and Commissioner Gray opposed.]

On another issue, Chairman Bell reminded the other commissioners that they had received a letter regarding Indigent Defense for the county. Discussion on this issue will take place in the upcoming Work Session on September 9, 2008.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Cynthia Freeman thanked the Board for giving the Ethics Advisory Group an opportunity to present findings in the near future, with Representative Michael Glanton as the presenter. She also acknowledged that several members of this group were present in the audience.

Ms. Freeman alerted the commissioners that, despite the lack of sidewalks in the River's Edge community in

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which she lives, she looks forward to walking over to the Water Reservoir and the Clayton State University campus. Walking through these areas lately, however, has become very unpleasant due to dog droppings left on the edge of the Water Reservoir (a result of people walking their dogs). Unfortunately, this spoils a very beautiful area and she can no longer enjoy the benches. She expressed that she would like to be a part of cleaning that area because it is such an important part of the community, just like the Spivey Hall area on the Clayton State University campus. Ms. Freeman indicated that there is at least one (1) well-meaning citizen who feeds the geese that flock to the campus. She opined that these geese, in turn, leave large droppings which are unacceptable, unhealthy, and desecrate this beautiful area (especially when she tries to walk through it). Ms. Freeman reiterated that she wants to be a part of an effort to clean up the two (2) spots she had mentioned (adjacent to the Water Reservoir and Clayton State University campus off the Spivey Hall area). She asked the Board to give her some direction on how she could become a part of the clean-up process.

Chairman Bell responded that Ms. Freeman's concern was a constituent services issue from both directions, and he would place a staff person to work with constituent services on this issue as well. He said he would love to keep in touch with Ms. Freeman or she could get in touch with the Commissioners' Office. Chairman Bell pointed out that both Vice Chairman Ralph and Commissioner Edmondson have constituent aides who can assist with this problem. Additionally, Chairman Bell stated that he has a staff member who operates in that arena and can help to resolve this issue. Since these areas fall on the Water Authority property and the Clayton State University property, the county must sort out who is responsible for upkeep and clean-up. He concluded that he would be happy to work with Ms. Freeman to find a resolution to this problem.

Ms. Freeman questioned who would contact her concerning this issue. Vice Chairman Ralph replied that he would have Constituent Aide Meloni Scurry to contact Ms. Freeman and ascertain who is responsible for the Water Reservoir property. Commissioner Singleton added that Clayton State University is in her district, and Ms. Scurry would be inquiring about that property also and contacting Ms. Freeman about a resolution to her concern.

FINAL ISSUE BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

Following an Executive Session on litigation issues, the Board reconvened the Regular Business Meeting to discuss a response to the absence of Sheriff Victor Hill at work since the Run-off Election of August 5, 2008. Chief Staff Attorney Michael Smith noted that the county has received several calls from concerned citizens about the Sheriff not showing up for work and still being paid. The number one issue is whether or not the county should get involved since the Sheriff is not a county employee. Actions that the county's Legal Department can undertake are: 1) to determine if the Sheriff should be paid when he is not showing up for work and 2) to investigate the claim of malfeasance if the Sheriff is indeed not coming to work. After these inquiries are made, Chairman Bell could send a letter to the Governor for resolution.

Commissioner Singleton informed everyone that another employee has not shown up for work as well, and she understood that several other employees have been shipped off to a mandate school. She questioned if anyone were familiar with these circumstances. Chairman Bell responded that those employees could indeed be in

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school because the Jail is now being run by Chief Deputy John Gibson. He knew that Chief Deputy Gibson had personally handled a number of employee grievances and they have fallen off dramatically. Apparently, Sheriff Hill gave Chief Deputy Gibson authority to solve or settle those cases with his signature. Regarding the mandate school, Commissioner Singleton stressed that Angela Jackson, Director of Finance, would have to cut a check for the employees to attend (which could be a means of verification).

(NOTE: The general consensus of the Board was to let the Legal Department do an investigation and then come back with its findings. Based on those findings, a determination could be made on how to best pursue this issue.)