

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Vice Chairman, Larry Felton, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 305 of the Crisp County Government Center, with Commissioners A. James Nance, Jr, Sam Farrow, and Mark Crenshaw in attendance. Others present were County Administrator Clark Harrell, County Attorney Rick Lawson, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett and County Clerk Monica Irwin. Rick Smarr gave the invocation and Administrator Harrell led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Chairman Felton welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 9, 2022, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously. Motion was also made by Commissioner Nance to approve the called meeting minutes of August 26, 2022, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock was unable to attend the Commission meeting. Colonel Denise Youngblood presented a check totaling \$63,171.00 to Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, for August's inmate housing. Colonel Youngblood also informed the Board it was time to apply for the Victim Advocate Grant.

PUBLIC HEARING:

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board of 2 Public Hearings: (1) a request for the rezoning of Cordele RV Inc. located at 191 Floyd Road from Rural Residential to Heavy Commercial. (2) Text Amendment to make a change in the policy for solar energy systems which is a building mount for energy system on a house. This policy change will be for single family residential and multi-family residential changing from special use to allow in the unified land development code.

REZONING 16 +/- ACRES RR TO HC 191 FLOYD ROAD

Elaine Raynor along with her two sisters, Susan Beninger and Christine Wilson, explained to the Board their application for rezoning is to have the front of the property and the back of the property to both be zoned the same which is Heavy Commercial. This request is to ensure the new owner will be able to complete park phases without running into issues due to part of the property being zoned Rural Residential. The three sisters have inherited "active contract" of the property due to the passing of their father in March, 2022. As it stands, the property is "grandfathered in" to be run as an RV Park. The new owner, Greg Moree, is set to continue to run the property as an RV Park. Our goal is to make sure everything is in compliance with Crisp County and to speed-up the process of the contractual sale. The County has been given a plan of the parcel separation by zoning. Carl Young, Kimmie Carden, and Annelle Carden all spoke in opposition to rezoning the back of the property as Heavy Commercial due to the fact they have Rural Residential property that adjoins the backside of the RV Park property. **Public Hearing closed at 9:26am and no decision made at this time.**

TEXT AMENDMENT – TO ALLOW FOR BUILDING MOUNTED SOLAR SYSTEMS

Planning and Zoning Director, Mickey Dunnavant, spoke in agreement to the policy change of allowing the use of solar energy systems building mount be changed from special use to be allowed in rural residential single family and multi-family residential. This will allow Planning and Zoning to make the decision to allow homeowners the ability to mount solar energy panels on the home and homeowners will be denied if codes are not met which will then go to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Right now, solar panel energy requests is around a two month process with public hearing, decision hearing, plus another month or so for the homeowner to come together with Planning and Zoning and Commission Board for a final decision. This is the reason for the request to change solar energy systems mount to “allowed.” Herbert Gladney also spoke in agreement of solar energy panels being allowed in rural residential single family and multi-family residential but objects to the \$75.00 application fee for solar ordinance. **Public Hearing closed at 9:35am and decision will be made later in meeting when new business is discussed.**

NEW BUSINESS

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Commissioners of several items under new business needing their consideration:

5311 TRANSIT AGREEMENT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, asked the Board to ratify the contract which was processed electronically on August 29, 2022. It is a continuation of the 5311 Transit Contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to ratify the FY23 Contract with GDOT for 5311 Rural Transit Services , seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2022-018 AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATION FOR FY24 5311 TRANSIT SERVICE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the resolution authorizing the filing of an application for FY24 with Georgia Department of Transportation and the United States Department of Transportation for a grant for public transportation assistance under Title 49 USC Section 5311. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to authorize the filling of application for the FY24 5311 Transit Service and adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2022-017 CRISP COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES TAX BOND

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the resolution providing for the levy and collection of an annual tax to provide funds for the payment of principal and interest on \$15,000,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of Crisp County School District general obligations sales tax bonds series 2022. Superintendent, Cindy Hughes, and Attorney, Corey Kirby, representing the Crisp County Board of Education explained the projects to be accomplished with the bond. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to bind the Commission to levy the millage rate determined necessary by the Board of Education to pay the principal and interest of the general obligation funds and adopt the resolution , seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Crenshaw opposed the resolution.**

TEXT AMENDMENT TO ALLOW FOR BUILDING MOUNTED SOLAR SYSTEMS

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, explained to the Board the text amendment changing the solar energy building mount ordinance will allow for an update to the unified land development code that will allow the building mounted solar systems. Mr. Harrell read the findings of fact of the proposed amendment. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to allow the text amendment change to allow Planning and Zoning to make the decision to allow mounted solar energy panels, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, gave a preliminary executive summary of the financial status for the first two months of FY23 on the major funds of the County. The County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined YTD revenues received \$2.2 million and YTD expenditures \$4.6 million leaving current expenditure over revenue shortfall balance of -\$2,437,199. With YTD net income of only \$1,389, the Water Fund ended the two-month period basically breaking even. Water consumption billed for the month was 6.5 million gallons to 1470 customers and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.2 million. The Landfill is showing an accrued YTD net income of \$542,039. At 27,087.78 tons for the month, the total tonnage received continues to be way above average. 79% (21,346.40) of that total was coal ash, leaving 7% delivered under the commercial waste contract, 2% under the City of Cordele's residential contract and 1% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA Loans are current at \$1.2 million. The General and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$16.8 million; The proprietary funds at \$9.4 million and the SPLOST & TSLOST funds at \$10.1 million; bringing the County wide total to \$36.4 million at 8/31/22. There is no change to report for the SPLOST 2011 Issue from last month. For the 2017 SPLOST Issue, distribution number 55 is up 9% from this same reporting period one year ago. Actual expenditures and appropriations have reached \$14.2 million for this issue. Projects benefiting from the Special Local Option Sales Tax penny for the month of August were Recreation, CCSO, Public Works, Roads, Solid Waste and the cities of Arabi and Cordele for a total amount expended of \$289,003. The 2012 TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX Fund issue to date collections have now reached \$7.9 million. Combine that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue, the county has expended and/or obligated \$11.3 million in local road maintenance and capital projects. Mirroring SPLOST, the monthly LOST distribution is also up 9% over last July. Nine CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts total outstanding balance is \$1.8 million. Ms. Leverett reported, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are ahead of budget at 20%; the Water Fund was over at 18% & at 20% the Landfill Fund also finished this reporting period slightly ahead of budget.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell advised the Board that he has attempted and resolved the issue with Mrs. Rosie Watkins and Family Connections concerning the office space rental agreement in the Dowdy Center. The county staff will clean the Dowdy Building weekly and Mrs. Watkins will remain in the building and continue to operate her program. Mr. Harrell also reported several pending projects for 2022: 1) Lake Blackshear area water system grant 2) Rock Road railroad project 3) Recreation Grant 4) Meadow Park Subdivision-CDBG 5) LMIG 6) Federal Highway Administration 7) Airport. Mr. Harrell attended several meetings this month and will be attending the ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference at the end of the month.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR LITIGATION AND PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to go into Executive Session for personnel and litigation, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 10:23 am.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to come out of Executive Session at 11:00 am, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 4

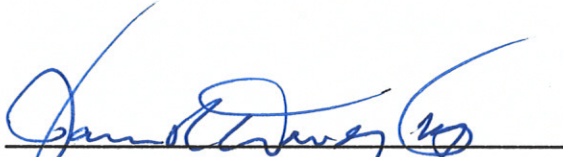
Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to correct agenda item number four on the original agenda for the August 26, 2022, called meeting, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

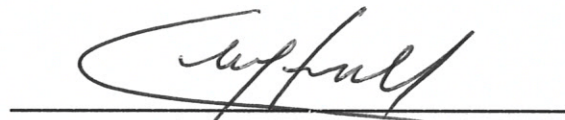
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Motion made by Commissioner Nance to allow Mr. Waters to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Felton on the Recreation Department Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator