

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2023**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman, James Dowdy, III, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 305 of the Crisp County Government Center, with Commissioners Larry Felton, 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 Dowdy welcomed all in attendance.

AGENDA AMENDMENT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested the Board's consideration in amending the Agenda for an additional Resolution that was not listed prior to the original Agenda. The Resolution is to support the Chamber of Commerce. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the agenda amendment, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

ELECTION APPOINTMENTS

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board election appointments for 2023 need to be made for the position of Chairman, Vice-Chair, County Attorney, and County Clerk. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to re-appoint James Dowdy, III to the position of Chairman, Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to re-appoint Larry Felton to the position of Vice-Chairman, both motions seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously as all-in-one-vote. Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to re-appoint Monica Irwin to the position of County Clerk, Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to re-appoint Rick Lawson to the position of County Attorney, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously as all-in-one vote.**

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 13, 2022, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock reported things are staying about the same as last month at the Sheriff's Office. Inmate population is around 211, court papers are down at this time but court is now back in session so those numbers will be increasing. The year has ended with 12,887 calls for service plus 5423 traffic stops totaling almost 18,000 calls for service out of the Sheriff's Office for 2022. The Sheriff proudly reported only 36 burglaries reported with 16 of those being cleared by an arrest and 14 cleared due to lack of evidence or proof and only 5 remain as an open investigation through-out the year. The Sheriff also commended his staff for the job well-done during the year especially being short-staffed. The Sheriff's Office also answered 125 calls within the city limits of Cordele during 2022. Sheriff Hancock also informed the Board, as well as Crisp County citizens, the Sheriff's Office has received between \$18-\$19 million dollars in Federal Grants since 2014. The Bearcat Special Response Vehicle was purchased in

2019 with grant money. After, Sheriff Hancock made a presentation explaining the purpose of the vehicle, the capabilities of the vehicle, and the benefits the vehicle brings to Crisp County and surrounding counties.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, along with Public Works Director, Carl Gamble, recognized Hubbard Odom for his dedication and loyalty of 25.8 years of service to Crisp County as a heavy equipment operator. Mr. Harrell and Mr. Gamble also recognized Alvin Beal for his dedication and loyalty of 32.8 years of service to Crisp County as a heavy equipment operator. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt Resolutions 2023-004 and 2023-005 honoring the services of Mr. Odom and Mr. Beal, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARINGS – UPDATES TO CURRENT CODES

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board of three public hearings regarding a text amendment needing their consideration. Planning and Zoning Director, Mickey Dunnavant, explained to the Board the text amendment to add language to Sec 2-21 County Commission Public Hearing; Drug Dependency Facility, based on Georgia House Bill 1405 and it changes how Public Notice is given for drug dependency centers. Public Hearing for text amendment to change Sec 2-87 Process for granting an appeal; Subsection (d). The proposed text amendment is based on Georgia House Bill 1405, and it changes how Public Notice is given for Zoning Board of Appeals Hearings. Public Hearing for text amendment to change Article VII Prohibited Uses, Section 4-45 Uses not allowed; Subsection (d). The proposed text amendment will change Recreational Vehicle use from not allowed as temporary housing to allowed, with conditions during the construction of a permanent dwelling. **Public Hearing Closed 9:43am.**

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION 2023-006

Crisp County Chamber of Commerce President, Monica Simmons and President of Planters First Bank, Tim Powers, both addressed the Board explaining the community opportunities with Archway Partnership, such as job opportunities, health care, poverty prevention, etc., along with the understanding and recognition of services available as well as the application process of becoming a Connected Resilient Community with the University of Georgia. The University of Georgia brings someone into the community to determine needs and how to meet those needs. Mrs. Simmons and Mr. Powers asked for the Board's support in the application process to become a Connected Resilient Community with UGA. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Resolution to support the Chamber of Commerce submission of application to the University of Georgia Archway Partnership for consideration of the County's designation as a Connected Resilient Community, and if selected, to participate in said program. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt Resolution 2023-006 in support of the application to Archway Partnership to become a Connected Resilient Community with UGA, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

ORDINANCE 2023-001 AMENDING LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated this Ordinance is to amend the land development code of the unincorporated area of Crisp County. Mr. Harrell read the Ordinance allowing the creation of Subsection C and Subsection D for Drug Dependency Facility. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt Ordinance 2023-001 amending the Land Development Code, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

ORDINANCE 2023-002 AMENDING LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated this Ordinance is to amend the land development code of the unincorporated area of Crisp County. Mr. Harrell read the Ordinance allowing the creation of Section 2-87 Subsection D and Subsection E for the Process of Granting an Appeal. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt Ordinance 2023-002 amending the Land Development Code, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

ORDINANCE 2023-003 AMENDING LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated this Ordinance is to amend the land development code of the unincorporated area of Crisp County. Mr. Harrell read the Ordinance allowing the creation of Section 4-45 Subsection D to allow the use of Recreation Vehicle for Temporary Housing while Permanent Residence is Under Construction. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt Ordinance 2023-003 amending the Land Development Code, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

MEADOW PARK – COMMUNITY BLOCK DEVELOPMENT GRANT BID AWARD

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated several companies bid on the project and Concrete Enterprises was the lowest bid at \$1,201,300.92. The recommendation from the engineer partners, Lanier & Associates, is that the County accepts this bid and move forward with the project for street and drainage improvements. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to accept the bid from Concrete Enterprises, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

LOCAL MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT 2023

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the state is actively seeking this information. For the next LMIG Project, the County will receive a check for \$630,423.69. Because we are in the area of the Transportation Investment Act, the County only has to match ten percent, which is \$63,042.37. Total required to spend on project is \$693,466.05. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, recommended the following projects for the LMIG 2023 Grant - Level, resurface, stripe and backfill the following roads: North Cedar Creek-Coney Road-Scenic Route 2.15 miles; Right-of-way staking, and realign Rock Road-Bedgood Road-Hawpond Road 1.15 miles; Right-of-way staking Fenn Road-U.S. 41-Macedonia Church Road 2.10 miles and Barry Road 0.27 miles. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve LMIG 2023 Grant Projects, motion was seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

BUDGET CALENDAR

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested the Board's approval of the Proposed Budget/Ad Valorem Tax Calendar Year 2023 Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the budget calendar for 2023 fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Board the District Attorney has sent a letter for approval for the PAC FY2023 VOCA Award allocation. Crisp County has a grant period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. CJCC Sub-Grant C22-8-076 total grant amount is \$195,870.00 with a base waived match total of \$48,968.00. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve and accept CJCC Sub-Grant C22-8-076, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report of revenues and expenditures as of 12/31/2022 for the County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds. Combined, these funds are reporting year to date revenues of \$12.1 million and year to date expenditures of just under \$12.0 million, basically leaving an even revenue over expenditure position of about \$84,000 at the end of December. As of this report, the Finance Department has received about 62% of the ad valorem tax revenue projections for this fiscal year. The proprietary funds, December activity increased the the Water Fund net income to \$24,881 for the year. Water consumption billed for the month was 6,137,000 gallons to 1,486 customers and The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund, accrued revenues and expenses at 12/31/22 leave this fund with a YTD net income of \$735,223. The total tonnage received for the month of December was 4,428.91. 42% of that being received under the Commercial waste contract, 12% under the City of Cordele residential contract and 6% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA loans are current at \$1.1 Million. The General and Special Revenue funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$19.9 million; the proprietary funds \$9.9 million and the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds \$12.1 million. There is no activity to report over the last 30 days for the 2011 SPLOST issue. For the 2017 Issue, distribution no. 59 in the amount of \$466,967 is up 9.4% over this same reporting period from last year. It brings issue to date collections to \$22.6 million. 12/31/22 appropriations are being reported at \$15.4. \$532,919 was spent in total Special Local Option Sales Tax Pennies during the month. Projects benefiting were, the Fire Department, the Sheriff's Office, Roads, Public Works, Sanitation & Solid Waste, and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. Issue to date report on the 2012 TSPLOST ISSUE, both capital and operating projects supported by the local transportation tax dollars, in summary, issue to date collections have reached \$8.2 million. Combine that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue and we have appropriated over \$12.9 million in local road projects through local TSPLOST Funds. Local Option Sales Tax Distributions, like SPLOST, this month's distribution is also up 9.4% over this same time last year. The preliminary revenue by fund and expenditures by department report summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. Because this report is preliminary all expenditures should be at 50% or below. Overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are running slightly over budget at 52%; the Water Fund is also over at 54%; and the Landfill fund right on target at 49%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported to the Board he is still waiting for a status update on the Lake Blackshear Area water system grant totaling 9 million dollars. All property has been acquired for the Rock Road Railway Project and the MOU/Agreement with the railroad has been signed. The check for \$915,000.00 from Norfolk Southern has been received. Meadow Park Subdivision Project bid award is before the Commission with the lower bid being Concrete Enterprises. Mr. Harrell also restated again, the 2023 LMIG must be submitted to the state before the end of January. Georgia Department of Transportation has awarded Crisp County \$1 million dollars towards resurfacing improvements on Fenn Road as an LMIG road project. The project will consist of resurfacing and widening. Mr. Harrell also stated he attended several meeting last month and this month.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to go into Executive Session for personnel, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 10:27 am.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to come out of Executive Session at 10:57 am, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

ADVERTISED COMMUNITY SERVICES OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ON VARIOUS BOARDS

DFACS – No one has applied to serve on this board

CRISP COUNTY RECREATION BOARD – By Common Consent, Commissioners agree to re-appoint Herbert Hughes and Michael Walters

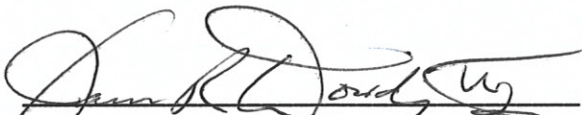
CRISP IDA BOARD – By Common Consent, Commissioners agree to re-appoint Jeffrey Hester

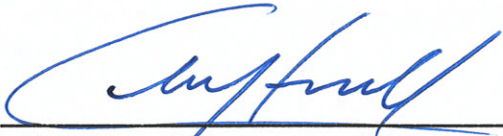
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – By Common Consent, Commissioners agree to re-appoint Dale Mitchell and Wendy Peavy

MIDDLE FLINT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH – By Common Consent, Commissioners agree to appoint Kim Floyd

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator