

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 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 Planning & Zoning Director, Mickey Dunnanvant sitting in for 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.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to adopt the agenda for the September 12, 2023 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 8, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Nance-, motion carried unanimously.**

**SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Sheriff Hancock took a moment to remember Sheriff Robert Rodgers who was killed in the line of duty August 29, 2023. The Sheriff stated the staff is doing as well as possible under the circumstances of several losses the past year. Sheriff Hancock reported the last month has been busy, current jail population is 232 inmates, over 400 citations written, and less than 20 accidents worked. Sheriff Hancock recognized the Crisp County Maintenance Department thanking them for all their hard work and dedication when it comes to fixing maintenance issues in the jail. Also, the firing range should be a realization within 6 months to a year for training as well as use for citizens. Courts still seems to be a problem due to stacked-up cases as a result of COVID. The Sheriff's Office transported 131 inmates with court man hours totaling 490 hours. Vehicle maintenance is still up due to deer accidents. 911 calls totaled 6, 574 for the month of August. Sheriff Hancock also informed the Board a nurse was assaulted by an inmate two weeks ago. The nurse had to be taken to a medical facility to be treated for her injuries.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS: JOEL AND APRIL OWENS – INCREASE IN STARTING PAY FOR FIREFIGHTERS**

Mr. Owens thanked the Board for allowing him and his wife, April Owens, to be a part of the Commission Meeting. Mr. Owens stated he felt the pay of the Crisp County Fire Department along with the topic of helping these men seemed an appropriate discussion following the day of 9/11. Mr. Owens continued with statistics of Firefighters deaths as a result of 9/11 in New York. Mr. Owens proceeded with thanking County Administrator, Clark Harrell, for his hard work over the past month addressing the pay scale issue for the Crisp County Firefighters. Mr. Owens reminded the Board Crisp County Firefighters are working at a 2-Man Station, 1-Man at a time. When comparing Firefighter Salaries, Crisp County is not comparing job for job due to the fact Crisp County Firefighters are manning stations by

themselves. Also, Crisp County Firefighters pay structure is set up to work 212 hours in a month before overtime is payed. Mr. Owens restated to the Board, Crisp County Firefighters are receiving less pay per hour, working in dangerous conditions, manning stations individually, having to work 212 hours per month before being payed overtime, and working 24 hour days. Crisp County Firefighters need to be appreciated and their pay scale needs to be adjusted.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **REZONING REQUEST**

Rezoning request from Sheila Knight to rezone approximately 1(+/-) acres from RS1 to GC for the purpose of building a 1259 sq. ft. business office located at 2140 Hwy 300. Ms. Knight stated to the Board she wishes to rezone the lot from Residential to Commercial. The lot is located on the corner of Antioch and HWY 300, which is predominately commercial. Plans are to build a small business office for her husband's electrical business and her real estate business.

**No Opposition**

**No Decision Made At This Time**

### **SPECIAL USE REQUEST**

A Special use request from Ed & Beth Collier for a Private Recreation Facility. The purpose of the request is to enclose an open carport to use as a private recreational facility that will exceed the minimum allowed square footage of 180 sq. ft. The property is zoned residential single family located at 115 Smoak Bridge Circle. Ed Collier stated to the Board his request is to close in an open-air carport that is located on the property. The carport is 18x18, 324 sq. ft. The request is to close in arear and add a bathroom. Mr. Collier also stated surrounding residents are all in favor of his request.

**No Opposition**

**Public Hearings closed 9:30 am**

### **RESOLUTION 2023-020**

A Resolution granting a Special Use Permit in a residential single family zone by the applicant Ed Collier, to enclose and use a detached 18x18 open carport with the addition of a 8x9 bathroom, totaling 396 sq. ft. as a private recreation facility. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

### **GIS PLANNING & ZONING CONTRACT CITY REPORTER SOFTWARE**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board the GIS Planning Contract is already approved in the budget by the Board, the request is to allow the Chairman to sign the contract. Also, the City Reporter Software, both Jimmie Mumphery and Mickey Dunnavant has been exhaustingly working towards finding the appropriate software for the Planning & Zoning Department allowing more convenience and access for citizens to apply for permits. This has also been approved in the budget requesting the Chairman be allowed to sign off on both items. **Motion was made by Commissioner**

**Farrow to approve the Chairman to sign off on the GIS Planning Contract and the purchase of the City Reporter Software for the Planning & Zoning Department, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION 2023-017 AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A GRANT UNDER TITLE 49 U.S.C., SECTION 5311**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board the Resolution is to authorize the filing of an application with the Department of Transportation for a grant for the public transportation. Mr. Harrell read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to authorize the filing of an application for the public transportation grant , seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION 2023-019 TO ESTABLISH A SECOND BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board the Resolution is to establish a second board of equalization at the request of the Clerk of Court, this is done on a yearly basis. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to establish a second board of equalization, motion seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**FINANCE REPORT**

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report for the first two months of FY 24. Revenues and expenditures for the General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined, YTD revenues received of \$2.3 million and YTD expenditures at \$3.7 million leaving a current -6% expenditure over revenue shortfall balance of -\$1.4 million. The Water Fund ended the two-month period with a net income of \$25,203. Water consumption billed for the month was 6.3 million gallons to 1510 customers and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill is showing an accrued YTD net income of \$397,993. Total tonnage for the month came in at 9,730.92. Almost half, 49%, of that total was coal ash delivered by CCPC, leaving 19% being delivered under the commercial waste contract, 4% under the City of Cordele's residential contract and 3% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA Loans are current at \$885,674. The County's cash report, General and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$15.9 million; The proprietary funds at \$11.3 million and the SPLOST & TSLOST funds at \$12.9 million. The SPLOST Issue Reports, no change to report for the 2011 Issue from last month. The 2017 SPLOST Issue Report, distribution number 67 is down. The amount of \$512,420 includes an audit adjustment of \$23,301 which reduces the actual amount based on July sales down to \$489,119, resulting in a -1% decrease from this same reporting period one year ago. Actual expenditures and appropriations have now exceeded \$18.0 million. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny for the month of August were the CCSO, Public Works, Roads, Solid Waste and the cities of Arabi and Cordele for a total amount expended of \$281,149. Transportation sales tax in summary, issue to date collections for the 2012 issue closed out at \$8.3 million. Distributions received under the new issue have reached \$631,343. Combining those numbers with LMIG and GDOT Revenue and we have expended and/or obligated over \$14.0 million in local road maintenance and capital projects. L.O.S.T distributions, Mirroring SPLOST the monthly distribution includes an audit adjustment. The actual distribution based on sales is down slightly, less than -1% from last August. CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, which includes the balance and status of all our CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts shows eight loans with a total outstanding balance of \$1.7 million. The last report is the revenue by fund and expenditures by department report. The summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. At two months into the new fiscal year everyone should be at or below 17%. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined and the Water Fund are right on target at 16%; the Landfill Fund finished this reporting period slightly under at 12%.

## ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported the Rock Road Railroad Project is ongoing, the Meadow Park Subdivision/CDBG street and drainage improvement project is ongoing. The paving contract approved for the 2023 LMIG will be underway around October 16<sup>th</sup>. Pre-construction meeting was held last Thursday. Mr. Harrell also reported notification has been received in reference to the LMIG for next year. The amount for Crisp County will be \$660,842.48. This comes from the gas sales tax suspended by the Governor. Mr. Harrell stated he would like to submit an application to the state, which is done every year explaining how funds will be expended, to include Williford Crossing – 4.51 miles from Hwy 280 up to the Wilcox/Dooly line. Resurfacing estimate is at a little over 1 million. Crisp County will have to contribute a 10% match with additional SPLOST and/or TSPLOST monies to cover project costs. Mr. Harrell attended several meetings last month. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to submit application for 2024 LMIG project to include Williford Crossing resurfacing, motion seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

## CITIZEN COMMENTS

Bubba Reveals, resident of Antioch Road, requested to lower the speed limit on the county road from 55 MPH. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised he will initiate the process to lower the speed limit.

Fire Chief, Michael Postell, addressed the Board requesting a fair salary increase for the Crisp County Firefighters.

## GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL, LITIGATION, AND PROPERTY

**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 10:05 am.**

## COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

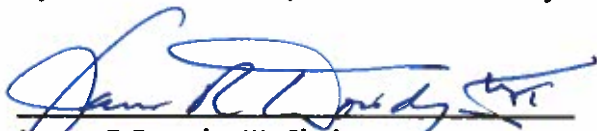
**Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to come out of Executive Session at 11:15 am, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.**

## RESOLUTION 2023-018 2023 TAX LEVY

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Resolution. The 2023 Tax Levy is for ordinary and extraordinary County purposes that all taxes be levied on all taxable property, real and personal including Crisp County Special Service District, maintenance and operation of School System, Planning & Zoning, and Solid Waste Collection. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

## ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

  
James R Dowdy, III, Chairman

  
Clark Harrell, County Administrator