

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held the regular meeting on November 8, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Banks County Courthouse Annex. Present were Chairman Milton Dalton, Vice Chairman Charles Turk and Commissioners Danny Maxwell, Sammy Reece and Ernest Rogers. County Attorney Randall Frost was also present.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Dalton called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Maxwell made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Rogers seconded. All aye votes and motion carried.

3. Prayer

Ch. Dalton asked for a moment of silent prayer.

4. Pledge to the American Flag

Comm. Reece led the pledge to the American Flag.

5. Approval of Invoices

Vice Ch. Turk made a motion to approve the invoices as listed. Comm. Maxwell seconded. All aye votes and motion carried.

6. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – 10/11

Comm. Reece made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Vice Ch. Turk seconded. All aye votes and motion carried.

7. Planning Commission Recommendations:

a. Z-11-01 – Development Authority of Banks County – Application to rezone 30.9 acres on Highway 441 North from ARR, Agricultural, Rural-Residential to C-2, General Commercial.

Ch. Dalton closed the meeting and opened the public hearing and turned the hearing over to County Attorney Randall Frost. Atty Frost asked Code Enforcement Officer Keith Covington to present the application. Officer Covington stated the applicant was the Development Authority of Banks County. The current use of the property was vacant and the proposed use is an office complex. He stated the property was located on Tax Map/Parcel B52-10 partial. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the application. Banks County Economic Developer Brad Day spoke in favor of the application by stating this property had been newly designated as Hudson River Business Park and in the effort to locate new businesses to the park, the rezoning is a necessary step. He further stated the county had previously deeded the property to the Development Authority for development. Atty Frost closed the public hearing and Ch. Dalton reopened the meeting. Comm. Reece made a motion to approve the application. Comm. Maxwell seconded. All aye votes and motion carried.

b. V-11-01 – Ramesh Patel, Homer Grocery – Variance application for a store expansion at 2004 Highway 59.

Ch. Dalton closed the meeting and opened the public hearing and turned the hearing over to County Attorney Randall Frost. Atty Frost asked Code Enforcement Officer Keith Covington to present the application. Officer Covington stated the applicant was not yet present. Comm. Reece made a motion to postpone the public hearing until the December 11, 2011 meeting. Comm. Rogers seconded. All aye votes and motion carried. Mr. Patel arrived at the meeting at approximately 7:08 p.m. Vice Ch. Turk made a motion to bring the item from the table. Comm. Rogers seconded. All aye votes and motion carried. Ch. Dalton closed the meeting and opened the public hearing and turned the hearing over to Atty Frost. Officer Covington stated the applicant was Ramesh Patel. The property is currently zoned C-2 and will remain C-2 but will be for the addition of a 24'x34' cooler next to the fuel tanks. Officer Covington also stated the variance was needed because of not meeting the setbacks from the road right of way. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the application. Mr. Patel stated he just wanted to expand the cooler. Comm. Rogers stated concerns with the location of the fuel tanks. Atty Frost closed the public hearing and Ch. Dalton reopened the meeting. Comm. Rogers made a motion to approve the application with the condition that the dug footings be probed by the county Building Inspector to ensure that no underground tanks exist in the location before construction. Vice Ch. Turk seconded. All aye votes and motion carried.

8. Youth Hunt on County Property

Tim Boling with the Banks County school system asked for permission to hold a youth hunt and cookout for one of the school clubs on the Windmill Farm property. Vice Ch. Turk made a motion to approve the hunt for December 17, 2011. Comm. Maxwell seconded. Four aye votes and motion carried. Comm. Rogers abstained from voting.

9. Firefighter Equipment

Brian Eubanks

Chief Eubanks stated the fire department had come a long way and he was proud to present a new group of volunteers currently in training and would like to also present a request for gear for the new recruits. He asked Training Officer Richard Crowder to present a timed demonstration by two of the recruits on suiting up in firefighter turnout gear. The goal is to be fully dressed in less than two minutes. Both recruits met the goal. Chief Eubanks then asked Volunteer Captain Greg Wells to present the equipment request. Captain Wells stated there was currently a class of 29 in training and an additional class will begin in January 2012. He stated the need for turnout gear for the new volunteers. He stated this opportunity would allow for more firefighters in the field and would help improve response time. He also stated it would help give back first response in the outlying stations. He said they would continue to search for donated gear when available. Chief Eubanks stated that much of the current coats and pants have rips and holes and do not meet safety standards. Ch. Dalton made a motion to purchase up to 50 sets of pants & coats as needed. Vice Ch. Turk seconded. All aye votes and motion carried. Vice Ch. Turk made a motion to purchase 30 sets of gloves, boots, 50 pagers, 20 radios and up to 30 helmets as needed. Ch. Dalton seconded. Finance Officer Randy Failyer asked what account the equipment would be purchased from. Vice Ch. Turk and Comm. Rogers both agreed that the fire/ems portion of the Capital Fund would be the best fund for the purchase. All aye votes and motion carried.

10. Contracts:

a. Clearwell Construction Contract Amendment – Higgins Construction Steve Reece

Mr. Reece stated this would close out the project and is a net decrease in the contract of \$25,929.08. Comm. Rogers made a motion to approve the contract amendment. Comm. Reece seconded. All aye votes and motion carried. ***(Copy of contract filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9-3)***

b. Grady Tower Contract Amendment – Gunby Communications

Deidra Moore

Ms. Moore stated this was for additional site work that will have to be done in order to install the tower in the amount of \$4,500 and \$135 for the performance bond for a total amount of \$4,635 for the Tower Sales Agreement. Comm. Rogers made a motion to approve the contract amendments. Comm. Reece seconded. All aye votes and motion carried. ***(Copy of contracts filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9-3)***

11. Planning Commission Member

Ch. Dalton stated Melinda Cochran had been serving in this position and had indicated she would like to remain on the commission. He also stated Dennis Ervin of Damascus Rd had also applied for appointment on the commission. Comm. Reece made a motion to reappoint Melinda Cochran to the position for a 4 year term to expire October 31, 2015. Comm. Maxwell seconded. All aye votes and motion carried.

12. Resolutions:

a. FY2012 Budget Amendment Resolution

Randy Failyer

Mr. Failyer stated this was an amendment to move \$14,000 from the Senior Center budget to the Public Transportation budget to better account for the Director's salary between the two departments. Vice Ch. Turk made a motion to approve the resolution. Comm. Maxwell seconded. All aye votes and motion carried. ***(Copy of resolution filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9-3) 2011-15***

b. Conservation Use Tax Assessment Acreage Amendment Resolution

Randall Frost

Atty Frost stated this was an amendment to a previous resolution to further clarify that renewals of parcels with less than 20 acres can be renewed if there is no reduction in acreage. Same acreage or additions to acreage would be allowable. Comm. Rogers made a motion to approve the resolution to be effective January 1, 2012. Comm. Reece seconded. All aye votes and motion carried. ***(Copy of resolution filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9-3) 2011-16***

c. Redevelopment Powers – Call for an Election

Brad Day

Mr. Day stated this was a continuation of the process for establishing the redevelopment powers of the county. The referendum will be held on March 6, 2012. Comm. Reece made a motion to approve the resolution. Comm. Rogers seconded. All aye votes and motion carried. ***(Copy of resolution filed in Attachment to Minutes Book #9-3) 2011-17***

Atty Frost also stated the SPLOST referendum would also be on March 6, 2012. The resolution will be considered in the December meeting.

13. Adjournment

With no more business, Comm. Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Comm. Reece seconded. All aye votes and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Chairman

County Clerk
