

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – December 16, 2024

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, December 16, 2024, in Richmond Hill. The following members were present: Chairman Carter Infinger, Commissioner Wade Price, Commissioner Dallas Daniel, Commissioner Noah Covington, Commissioner Gene Wallace and Commissioner Patrick Kisgen. Also present: County Administrator Ben Taylor, County Clerk Lori Tyson and County Attorney Aaron Kappler.

Chairman Infinger called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Infinger gave the invocation, and everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation of outgoing Commissioners – Chairman Infinger presented Noah Covington, District 1, and Dallas Daniel, District 3, plaques of recognition and thanked them for their commitment and service to the citizens of Bryan County.

A motion was made by Patrick Kisgen and seconded by Gene Wallace to approve the proposed agenda, with the following changes: strike item 7 from the Consent Agenda and add personnel and real estate to Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously. Vote 5:0

A motion was made by Gene Wallace and seconded by Dallas Daniel to approve the minutes of the November 2024 meetings as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Vote 5:0

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Dallas Daniel to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Vote 5:0

Audra Miller presented the following Community Development Non-Public Hearing item:

*** First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Map for property located at 1271 Olive Branch Rd, identified by Parcel Number 0291-045-01** – The applicant is requesting to rezone 1271 Olive Branch Rd, Parcel Number 0291-045-01, from the existing “RR-2.5”, Rural Residential Zoning District, to the “RR-1.5”, Rural Residential Zoning District in order to be able to subdivide the property. This is a First Reading, so no action was required.

Ben Taylor, County Administrator, met with the board on the following issues.

*** Adoption of the 2025 Bryan County Annual Budget** – Each year, the County is required by state law to adopt a budget to include revenues and expenditures by departments for the following year. Staff has worked hard over the past several months coordinating with all managers and directors to develop a balanced budget that continues to allow Bryan County to provide outstanding services and resources that will meet the needs of our continuously growing community. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Wade Price to approve and adopt the 2025 Bryan County Annual Budget and all fee schedules as presented in the 2025 budget book. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

*** 2025 LMIG Program** – Each year the Georgia Department of Transportation provides grant funding for local governments through the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant Program (LMIG) for road related construction projects. For 2025, Bryan County was awarded \$564,460.17. GDOT requires a local match of 30%, which equates to \$169,338.05. Additional funding has been allocated through TSPLOST funds, bringing the total to \$1,411,000 for the 2025 Bryan County Road Program. A motion was made by Gene Wallace and seconded by Patrick Kisgen to authorize the Chairman to execute the 2025

GDOT LMIG package for submittal to the Georgia Department of Transportation for their review. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

*** Atlantic Waste Contract Amendment #3** – Bryan County entered a three-year contract with Atlantic Waste on December 9, 2020, which was set to expire on February 29, 2024. A contract amendment was executed in 2024 which extended the expiration date to December 31, 2024. Atlantic Waste has made a formal request to renew the agreement for a new five year, annually renewable, term beginning on January 1, 2025. The agreement would be effective from January 1, 2025, until December 31, 2029, unless it is terminated by positive action taken by the BOC at least 90 days prior to the end of any calendar year (by Oct.1). The 2025 monthly rate to be charged with the new agreement would be \$19.00/month per residence to include a solid waste and a recycle cart (an 11% increase from the current \$17.10/month rate). This rate would adjust at the beginning of each new annual term by changes in the consumer price index (CPI) water, sewer and trash collection index. A motion was made by Gene Wallace and seconded by Dallas Daniel to approve Contract Amendment #3 of the Atlantic Waste Agreement, increasing the monthly fee for service to \$19.00 per residence and extending the expiration date of the contract to December 31, 2029. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

*** Bryan County Shooting Range Design Services** – Staff has worked in coordination with the Sheriff's office to complete preliminary concepts and site surveys. The project has now progressed to require professional design services. The proposed Task Order by Thomas & Hutton will provide engineering consulting services consisting of survey, civil design, structural design, permit assistance and construction administration for the proposed Bryan County Shooting Range. The proposed facility may consist of 50-yd and 150-yd range facilities equipped with covered shooting pavilions, a prefabricated training facility to include a garage, office space, restrooms, storage area and covered shoot house, detention ponds, a water well and septic field. Thomas & Hutton will assist with permitting associated with site work, septic approvals and erosion/sedimentation control. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Dallas Daniel to approve Thomas & Hutton Scope of Services and authorize the Chairman to execute Task Order #117 in the amount of \$182,500.00, for the Bryan County Shooting Range Design Services. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

*** Motorola Microwave System Upgrade and Equipment Relocation** – This item proposes replacing Bryan County's T-1 radio system connection with a Motorola ASTRO P25 700/800 MHz public safety communication system. This system integrates microwave paths and communication equipment and is a much more reliable connection, which is critical for public safety operations. As part of the five-year municipal lease, this contract includes the upgrade of microwave systems, the relocation of critical communication equipment, and the enhancement of infrastructure. This contract also involves relocating the building housing this current compatible equipment from the existing tower, owned by WVAN, to a new tower owned by PAC communications. A motion was made by Dallas Daniel and seconded by Patrick Kisgen to approve the Motorola Microwave System Upgrade and Communication Equipment Relocation, and authorize staff to execute all necessary paperwork to enter into a five-year lease-purchase agreement with Motorola Solutions, requiring five annual payments of \$551,891.72. Vote 4:0, motion carried unanimously. *Commissioner Covington recused himself from the vote of this item.*

*** Groundwater Sustainability Program (GSP) and IGA with Bulloch County to Establish the GSP** – This item authorizes Bryan County, Georgia, to approve the Groundwater Sustainability Program Agreement between Bryan County, Georgia, and Bulloch County, Georgia (the "Agreement"). The Agreement provides for the establishment of the Bryan-Bulloch Groundwater Sustainability Program, for the purpose of protecting access to the Floridan aquifer. A motion was made by Patrick Kisgen and

seconded by Gene Wallace to authorize the Chairman to execute the Groundwater Sustainability Agreement with Bulloch County, establishing the Bryan-Bulloch Groundwater Sustainability Program. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

*** Advisory Committee Appointments for Groundwater Sustainability Program (GSP)** – As part of the joint Bryan-Bulloch Groundwater Sustainability Program (GSP), both Counties are to establish and impanel an Advisory Committee of up to three (3) persons appointed by each County to make recommendations to the governing bodies on program administration, goals, and other related matters. Staff have evaluated multiple candidates and have identified three (3) individuals who can provide beneficial insights and recommendations on the implementation of the GSP. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Dallas Daniel to appoint Skip Youmans, Pete Peterson and Christopher Foldesi to the GSP Advisory Committee, with Stewart Dixon serving as alternate, per staff's recommendation. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

*** Genesis Drive Water & Sewer Extension** – Bryan County engaged Thomas & Hutton (T&H) Engineering to design and permit the Genesis Drive Water & Sewer Extension. T&H prepared contract bid documents and associated plans for the construction of the Genesis Drive Water & Sewer Extension and upon approval of the documents the project was subsequently advertised for construction bids. Bids were received for the project on October 29, 2024, and were evaluated by T&H. A motion was made by Gene Wallace and seconded by Wade Price to approve and award the Genesis Drive Water & Sewer Extension to McLendon Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$943,761.38, and authorize staff to execute the necessary contract documents to initiate the project. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

*** Seaport 16 Regional Water Main Change Order No. 1** – To accommodate the impending water system improvements within Bryan County, a portable backflow preventer testing system is needed to facilitate quick and easy filling and testing of the water line. At the request of the County five permanent sampling stations were installed along the alignment which is outside the scope of the current contract documents. The existing construction plans show the existing conveyance system as a 12" system. While in the field the Contractor found that the line is an existing 18" conveyance system. The Contractor ordered a new manhole and new piping to accommodate this change in field conditions. The efforts taken by the Contractor have resulted in additional costs to the previously approved project and are reflected in Change Order No. 1. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Wade Price to approve Change Order No. 1, for the Seaport 16 Regional Water Main, in the amount of \$120,451.00. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

*** Bryan County Sewer Flow Diversion to Richmond Hill Change Order No. 2** – Under the subject contract, there are Base Bid items to be deducted from the Bowridge Pump Station Upgrade Bid Allowance for prices that came-in less than the contract price, and Alternative Bid items to be added to the subject contract to incorporate SCADA upgrades, underground utility marking posts, tie-in of 2234 Belfast River Road, tie-in of Kingswood Drive lift station, and an electrical mag meter. Change Order No. represents an increase of \$110,637.60, and the time provided for subject contract completion is unchanged. A motion was made by Gene Wallace and seconded by Noah Covington to approve Change Order No. 2, for the Bryan County Sewer Flow Diversion project, in the amount of \$110,637.60. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

*** Officer to Direct Traffic at SR 144 / Oak Level Road Roundabout** – Bryan County has requested that a line item for a police officer to direct traffic during the morning peak hours be added to the subject contract. The intent of this change order is to continue to provide traffic management during construction

of the intersection improvements. A motion was made by Patrick Kisgen and seconded by Gene Wallace to approve Change Order No. 1, in the amount of \$14,850.00, providing morning Law Enforcement Assistance for the duration of the SR 144/Oak Level Road construction project. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

*** Water and Sewer Service Agreement – Pulte Home Company, LLC** – Pulte Home Company, LLC, is developing a 690-lot residential subdivision in Waterways. Per the conditions of the sketch plat/preliminary plat approval, Pulte Home Company, LLC, is required to enter into a Water and Sewer Service Agreement to address the terms and conditions of obtaining water and sewer service from Bryan County, including but not limited to cost per ERU and phasing of development. A motion was made by Patrick Kisgen and seconded by Gene Wallace to authorize the Chairman to execute the Water and Sewer Service Agreement with Pulte Home Company, LLC, as presented. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

*** Match Commitment Letter to GEMA for Stormwater Master Plan** – In the spring of 2024 staff worked with Thomas & Hutton to apply to GEMA (Georgia Emergency Management Agency) for funding of \$355,000 to complete a stormwater master plan. Bryan County is required to provide a 25% local match in support of the funding request. The County's required local match is \$88,750. On Friday, December 13, 2024, GEMA emailed a notice of Request for Information asking for a letter of commitment. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Dallas Daniel to approve a commitment of matching funds, and authorize staff to submit a letter to GEMA, reflecting same. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

County Attorney, **Gage Hawkins**, presented the following County Attorney items:

*** Georgia Transmission Corporation (GTC) Easement on Old Cuyler Road at Structure 4** – In conjunction with the Bryan-Bulloch Regional Water Main Project it is necessary to acquire an easement from the Georgia Transmission Corporation (GTC) in order to construct water main improvements adjacent to Structure 42 located on Old Cuyler Road. The necessary documents needed to secure the easement include an Agreement to Modify Electrical Facilities in the amount of \$15,000.00, and Temporary Encroachment Agreement for Easement Application #EA 24-087. A motion was made by Patrick Kisgen and seconded by Gene Wallace to authorize the Chairman to execute the Amendment to Modify GTC Electrical Facilities for Ivanhoe Tap 115 kV T/L Structure 42 in the amount of \$15,000.00 and authorize staff to execute the corresponding Temporary Encroachment Agreement. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

*** Georgia Transmission Corporation (GTC) Easement on Old Cuyler Road at Structure 34** – In conjunction with the Bryan-Bulloch Regional Water Main Project it is necessary to acquire an easement from the Georgia Transmission Corporation (GTC) in order to construct water main improvements adjacent to Structure 34 located on Old Cuyler Road. The necessary documents needed to secure the easement include an Agreement to Modify Electrical Facilities in the amount of \$357,592.00, and Temporary Encroachment Agreement for Easement Application #EA 24-096. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Dallas Daniel to authorize the Chairman to execute the Amendment to Modify GTC Electrical Facilities for Ivanhoe Tap 115 kV T/L Structure 34 in the amount of \$357,592.00 and authorize staff to execute the corresponding Temporary Encroachment Agreement. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

The following citizens made **Public Comments**:

*** Cassandra Mikell** spoke on the Bryan-Bulloch Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

* **Belinda Davis** spoke on the Bryan-Bulloch Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

* **Lawton Sack** spoke on the Bryan-Bulloch Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

The following comments were made by the Board of Commissioners:

*Commissioner Daniel reflected on his time as a Commissioner and said it had been an honor to serve his community. He thanked staff and the citizens for allowing him the opportunity.

*Commissioner Covington thanked his wife, Kim, along with the residents of Bryan County for the support, during his time serving as a Commissioner. He noted that he was proud of the decisions that had been made by himself, and the Board with which he served.

At 6:16 p.m. a motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Patrick Kisgen to go into Executive Session for litigation, real estate and personnel. Vote 5:0; motion carried unanimously.

At 7:09 p.m. the Commissioners returned to the open meeting.

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Dallas Daniel to adjourn. Vote 5:0, motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.