

**HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
5:30 P.M., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022
HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM
295 LLEWELLYN ST
CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523**

The Habersham County Board of Commissioners held a work session on November 21, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room of the Habersham County Courthouse located at 295 Llewellyn St, Clarkesville, GA 30523.

Present were Chairman Bruce Palmer, Vice Chairman Bruce Harkness, Commissioner Akins, Commissioner Tench, County Attorney Ralph Taylor, County Manager Alicia Vaughn, County Clerk Brandalin Carnes, County Staff, Members of the Media and the Public.

Commissioner Meador and County Attorney Donnie Hunt were absent from the work session.

Commissioner Palmer called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Commissioner Akins lead the invocation.

Commissioner Tench lead the pledge.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Harkness, seconded by Commissioner Akins and voted unanimously 4-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- a. Discussion of Clarkesville's Annexation of 2.29 Acres at 317 Ellison Street (Parcel#104-156)

Planning Director Mike Beecham informed the Commission that the property in question is in the R2 district which allows for single family residential housing, duplexes, and townhomes. The property in question would be used for one of those three items. Commissioner Palmer informed the other Commissioners that he placed this item on the agenda so that the rest of the Commissioners could be made aware of the annexation, however no action is necessary. There were no questions from the other Commissioners or further discussion.

- b. Discussion of Baldwin's Annexation of 1.29 Acres on Industrial Park Road (Parcel#090-025 Tract 3A)

Commissioner Palmer informed the other Commissioners that Steelcell intends to use the property in question for an addition to their warehouse. He went on to state that only 1.29 acres of the Reed property would be annexed, not the entire property. Planning Director Mike Beecham informed the Commissioners that the property has not yet been purchased, it is under contract with one of the requirements being that the Development Authority have the property annexed into the City of Baldwin.

c. Discussion on Landfill and Recycling

Commissioner Palmer gave a presentation on the current state of the Habersham County landfill and a comparison to landfills and recycling centers in other counties. Commissioner Palmer stated that he, Commissioner Akins, Public Works Director Jerry Baggett and Solid Waste Director Laurie Church visited several other landfills and recycling centers and conducted research which they compiled into this presentation. The solid waste department operates as an enterprise fund. In 2021 the landfill took in 38,460 tons of garbage which averaged to about 124.46 tones per day over a 309 day period. A 2012 survey projected the landfill as lasting until 2072. However there has been an exponential decrease in the projected life of the landfill, with a 2022 survey now projecting it as only lasting until 2037. Reasons for this decreased lifespan include an increase in municipal solid waste (MSW) garbage, the lack of a separate Construction & Demolition Cell and the lack of an adequate recycling program. At this time, it is approximated that only 2% of waste gets recycled in Habersham County. Having a more robust recycling program could help extend the life of the landfill. He gave examples of the recycling centers that are provided to citizens of other counties, which provide convenient locations, hours of operation and ease of use.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Akins stated that Habersham Counties landfill usage has more than doubled. He pointed out that a lot of counties around Habersham do not have a landfill and must pay to have trash transported to landfills elsewhere. He stated that regardless of how one feels about the environment, the citizens of Habersham County shouldn't have to pay to have materials hauled off that other counties are making money recycling.

Commissioner Harkness had no additional comments.

Commissioner Palmer had no additional comments.

Commissioner Tench had no additional comments.

ADJOURN

Motion by Harkness, seconded by Akins and voted unanimously 4-0 to adjourn at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Commission Chairman Bruce Palmer

Attest: _____
County Clerk Brandalin Carnes