



BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CALLED WORK SESSION/MEETING

Courthouse Annex Boardroom | 150 Hudson Ridge | Homer, GA 30547

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ch. Griffith called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Chairman Taylor Griffith
Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell
Commissioner Chris Ausburn
Commissioner Keith Gardiner
Commissioner Bo Garrison

STAFF

Deputy County Clerk Erin Decker
County Clerk Regina Gailey
Human Resources Officer Arlene Ivey
Chief Finance Officer Randy Failyer
Carter & Sloope Engineer Matt Smith

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.

Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner,
Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL

Motion to enter into an executive session concerning personnel at 4:02 p.m.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Maxwell, Seconded by Commissioner Ausburn.

Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner,
Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

Motion to close the executive session at 4:36 p.m.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Maxwell, Seconded by Commissioner Garrison.

Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner,
Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

(Copy of Affidavit filed in Attachment to Minute Book 11-2)

4. WORK SESSION:

a. Public Utilities: WasteWater Plant Discussion - Carter & Sloope Engineers

Ch. Griffith stated we were towards the end of our wastewater treatment plant project and this meeting would just be informational about the history of the project and where we were at now.

Matt Smith stated he was one of the project engineers with Carter and Sloope and had been working with the County about 13 years. He stated other engineers that were with him today were Mark Hain, Spencer Centerman and Jeremy Pirkle.

Mr. Smith stated the property was purchased in 2007 and at that time Rindt McDuff and Associates were the engineering firm.

He further stated in 2018 Carter & Sloope picked up from where Rindt McDuff left off and he stated that Hannah Mullins Economic Developer had contacted him about getting sewer and he had worked with the Development Authority.

In September 2018 Horace Gee Public Utilities Director at the time became the primary contact.

Mr. Smith stated that a \$5M GEFA Loan and a \$1.5M EDA Grant was acquired for sewer treatment of waste from MarJac & RAI, which were businesses that had located in the County.

Mr. Smith stated December 2018 was the first meeting about the Hudson River Water Reclamation Facility.

In October 2020 there was a public hearing held concerning the \$25M GEFA Loan and in August 2022 the loan amount was increased to \$42.5M because of the price increase of the project due to the COVID Pandemic.

Ch. Griffith asked in 2022 where were we at with construction of the project. Mr. Smith stated the project was awarded in July 2022.

Ch. Griffith and Comm. Ausburn stated they were told by Mr. Gee that they were at the point of no return and the project couldn't be changed.

The Commissioners asked several questions concerning significant changes to the project that included who took direction of the project, what led to the archeological study and the timeframe of acquiring the permits.

Ch. Griffith stated he was concerned with the warranty period for the equipment at the Hudson River Wastewater Facility. Mr. Pirkle stated he had several options for making sure the equipment could operate without the plant being in operation which would make the warranty valid.

Ch. Griffith wanted to set up a meeting with Waste Management and Carter and Sloope about treatment of leachate.

Mr. Smith wanted to make sure who Carter and Sloope needed to report to. Ch. Griffith stated they should still be reporting to our Public Utilities Director Chad Wilbanks.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Maxwell, Seconded by Commissioner Garrison.

Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

Chairman

Deputy County Clerk