

The Turner County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Turner County Agricultural Center for the monthly board meeting with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon present. Staff present were Latrice Wilson, County Clerk and Brent Hyde, County Attorney. Others present were Mr. Robert Caldwell, Mr. Jerry Lewis, Janet Winter, Elections Superintendent, Mr. Ben Baker, Editor of the Wiregrass Farmer, Councilman Burgess, Councilman Jordan, Mr. Bryce Johnson, Sheriff Andy Hester, Mayor Gary Walker, Mrs. Layton, Mrs. Julie Bullington, Partners Benefits, Daryl Hall, City Manager, Mrs. Rosemary Hall, Mrs. Mandi Cole, Investigator Horsley, Mrs. Mary Lee Green, Mr. Lester Green, Ezra Robinson, and others.

Chairman Calhoun called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Jerry Lewis gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Weaver to amend the agenda to add “discuss management of the County”, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Burgess seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to approve financial information for September 2023 as presented, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Burgess seconded by Commissioner Denham to approve minutes of previous meetings for the month of October 2023, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Public Comments: None.

Commissioners discussed Resolution No # 2023-11-01.

Motion by Commissioner Denham seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to adopt Resolution No # 2023-11-01 to amend an Act creating the State Court of Turner County, approved on April 18, 2002, as amended the district attorney of the judicial circuit within which Turner County is located shall represent the state in all criminal prosecutions in the State Court of Turner County and authorize the Chairman to sign resolution on behalf of the County, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Commissioners discussed delinquent garbage accounts less than \$100.00.

Commissioners discussed delinquent garbage accounts over \$100.00.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Denham to process all delinquent accounts over \$100.00 through Magistrate Court and accounts that are less than \$ 100.00 direct County Clerk Latrice Wilson to contact customers to clear up balance, motion passed with Commissioners Calhoun, Denham and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion. Commissioners Burgess and Weaver opposed the motion.

Commissioners discussed grass cutting contract.

Motion by Commissioner Burgess seconded by Commissioner Weaver to bid out the grass cutting contract, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Commissioners discussed the Jail Inmate Agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Denham seconded by Commissioner Burgess to approve the Jail Inmate Agreement between Turner County Sheriff’s Office, the City of Sycamore and Turner

County to house inmates in the Turner County Jail and authorize the Chairman to sign agreement on behalf of the County, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Commissioners discussed where to have the City of Ashburn 2024 Election. Elections Superintendent, Janet Winter, spoke her concerns about the different locations for the City of Ashburn Election. Mrs. Winter agreed to meet with City Officials to finalize the location.

Motion by Commissioner Denham seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to accept Partner Benefits as the insurance broker for Turner County, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Denham to approve Executive Session Minutes for Tuesday, September 26, 2023, as printed, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Weaver to observe Monday, December 25 and December 26 as Christmas Holidays for Turner County and combine Tuesday, December 26th, 2023 Work Session Meeting with Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Burgess to accept bid from Mitchell R. Morelock in the amount of \$25,800.00 for property located at 228 East College Avenue, designated as parcel number A14-064 and A14-065 in the Turner County Tax Assessor's Office, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Denham and seconded by Commissioner Burgess to start the process of closing Fire Tower Road, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Whiddon spoke stating her concerns about the management of the County in the absent of the County Manager. She would like for all board members to be informed on county matters not just one or two. Commissioner Whiddon requested that another email be sent out to all department heads, elected officials and staff informing them that all commissioners should be contacted on any County matters.

Chairman Updates:

GMASS Update – Meeting scheduled for Wednesday at County Annex Building.

ISO Update – Start late January 2024.

Update on Cleaning Contract.

Public Comments:

Councilman Burgess thanked the board for considering change of location for the 2024 Election for City of Ashburn.

Mayor Gary Walker thanked the board for all that they do for Rebecca.

Motion by Commissioner Whiddon seconded by Commissioner Burgess to go into closed session at 6:56 p.m. to discuss personnel, motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Burgess seconded by Commissioner Whiddon to end the closed session and return to the regular meeting at 7:16 p.m., motion passed with Commissioners Burgess, Calhoun, Denham, Weaver and Whiddon voting in favor of the motion.

Motion by Commissioner Calhoun seconded by Commissioner Denham to deny the County Manager's request for reasonable accommodation for work related reasons to work from home, motion passed with Commissioners Calhoun, Denham, and Weaver voting in favor of the motion. Commissioners Burgess and Whiddon opposed the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Brad Calhoun, Chairman

Attest: _____
Latrice L. Wilson, County Clerk