Fulton County Fiscal Court

Regular Session

May 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Judge Jim Martin. The Pledge was led by Wade Adams and invocation given by Hugh Caldwell.

**Attendance:** Jim Martin, Hugh Caldwell, Wade Adams, Jim Paitsel, Shaun Parks, Naomi Jones, Leslie Woods, Barbara Atwill, J L Atwill, Rick Major, Alan Coffey, David Thomas, Adam Lyons, Jeremy Harmon, April Gallimore, Bob Heisner and Charles Choate.

**BUSINESS**

Adam Lyons stated that Cayce Volunteer Fire and Fulton County Rescue Squad merged in hopes that more grant funding would be available for our fire and rescue. They are now Fulton County Fire & Rescue. Fiscal Court has been covering the insurance premiums for the buildings and vehicles. It has been researched and Mr. Lyons believes that Fulton County Rescue and Fire will be better paying the premiums themselves under the new name, which would actually save money. The FCF&R is formulating a budget and a plan on how to maintain funds to run FCF&R. FCF&R is looking to be able to handle this budget by utilizing agreements between the cities, grant funding, and a possible fire district tax/membership charge. There is also the ability to generate savings for individuals who pay homeowners insurance, since the rating for parts of the county will change due to the merge and the agreements between cities. This plan has several steps to go through before FCF&R is up and running in the capacity needed to get all the savings for homeowners. There are possibly 3 additional stations that would need to be built, along with more equipment to be purchased. Mr. Lyons’ is here today to present the Fiscal Court with the need to have some budgetary funds in the County’s general funds budget. These funds from Fiscal Court would be to maintain equipment and purchase additional equipment. Wade Adams stated there is $7500.00 for the rescue squad, $2500.00 for the fire department and $2500.00 for utilities, that has already been put in the County budget. They are requesting the EM funds for enhanced mutual aid, in the amount of $40900.00, with the Fiscal Court receiving budget updates from FCF&R whenever it is requested. Hugh Caldwell would like to see the EM funds be given in increments. Jim Martin stated a lump sum is fine with him as long as both cities have signed the mutual aid agreement. Adam requested the court allow certain amounts be given at the beginning to cover expenses that are currently due. The FCF&R is looking at a subscription model instead of a taxing district by a County ordinance. Rick Major has been looking into drafting an ordinance to cover the needs of FCF&R. Hugh Caldwell did ask if they would be responding to all calls in Fulton County, and Wade Adams stated they would respond to every call.

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve moving the $40900.00 from the line item of mutual aid in the EM budget, to the FCF&R, contingent upon the agreements from the surrounding cities.

Jeremy Harmon of Harp Enterprises and Bob Heisner with Hart Inter Civic spoke to the Fiscal Court about the new voting equipment available. Jeremy Harmon is the sales rep for Harp. Bob Heisner is the rep for the manufacturing of the actual machines by Hart. The new machines have better accessibility for the disabled voters, better scanning abilities to allow for double sided ballots, and clearer instructions on problematic ballots that have been scanned. Jim Paitsel would like to see all ballots printed in house as voters come in and vote, which would likely slow down the voting process. The new ADA compliant machine is now a paper ballot marking device. It allows for the voter to make their selections and then print a ballot that has to be scanned just as the regular voters do. This also makes the entire election voter verifiable, which means the voter can look at the ballot before scanning to be sure all selections are correct prior to scanning the ballot. Optical character recognition is also utilized in these machines. This machine doesn’t use barcodes for names on the ballot. This new machine actually reads each character in the name of the person running for each race. The barcode on the top of the ballot just allows the machine to know if this ballot has ever been scanned before.

**INRE: Minutes (Rec. Minute BK 2 PG 125; 128; 130)**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Jim Paitsel, carried by all members present to approve the minutes.

**INRE: Fulton County Clerk Calculation of Motor Vehicle & Boat Bills for 2020 (Rec. Order BK 27 PG 490)**

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the Calculation of Motor Vehicle and Boat Bills for 2020 in the amount of $932.25.

**INRE: County Attorney’s Report**

Court previously voted to close Beech Groove Road. Rick Major stated he wanted to get more clarification on closing a road. There other option is various degrees of maintenance. Hugh Caldwell wanted to know if we could leave the road open but not maintain it due to funds. Jim Paitsel wants to know if we can abandon the road. Rick stated that abandonment usually ends up in litigation. More information will be ready for the next meeting.

**INRE: County Treasurer’s Report (Rec. Order BK 27 PG 491)**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by all members present to approve the treasurer’s report.

**INRE: Bills**

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Wade Adams, carried by Hugh Caldwell, Wade Adams and Shaun Parks, with Jim Paitsel abstaining, to approve the bills. Jim Paitsel inquired about increasing the treasurer’s bond. Jim Paitsel also asked about the mowing bill. Jim Paitsel stated that the mowing job should have been bid out, but Jim Martin stated that our procurement code stated that jobs like this and that are not going to exceed the $20,000.00 cap do not have to be bid out.

**INRE: Transfers (Rec. Order BK 27 PG 499)**

Motion made by Shaun Parks, 2nd by Wade Adams, carried by all members present to approve the transfers. April Gallimore stated that the dumpster at the Cayce Fire Department was put out late, and Republic has agreed to leave it there for a few additional days.

**INRE: Fulton County Employees (Rec. Order BK 27 PG 500)**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the employees.

**INRE:** **Approval of Budget Amendment**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by all members present to approve the FY 20/21 budget amendment. This was to allow for the receipt of American Rescue Act Funds.

**INRE: First reading of the Fulton County Budget & Salary Order for FY 2021/2022**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by all members present to approve the first reading of the 2021/2022 Fiscal Court budget. Shaun Parks asked if the Fiscal Court is required to pay expenses for training of the magistrates. The incentive pay is mandated by statute, but is room & board, meals and gas mandated?

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Wade Adams, carried by all members present to approve the 2021/2022 salary order.

Motion made by Jim Paitsel, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the preexisting recurring expenses.

**INRE: Road Department Debt**

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Wade Adams, carried by all members present to approve paying off the balloon debt payment with Security Bank out of the road fund effective July 1, 2021. Jim Martin the Road Department borrowed $199,000.00 @ 3.05% for 60 months. The Road Department has surplus revenue and it would benefit the Road Department $1802.18 in interest.

**INRE: Discussion of HRA Fund**

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Wade Adams, carried by all members present to approve keeping a balance of $50,000.00 in this account at all times, and begin July 1, 2021 contributing 71% of what the demand is on the plan, subject to any adjustments during the year, such as increased employees and such.

**INRE: Designating the Depository of ARPA account (American Rescue Plan Act)**

Motion made by Jim Paitsel, died for a lack of a 2nd, to approve moving the HRA account and ARPA accounts to Security Bank with a 1.25 or 1.26% interest rate. Jim Paitsel said these accounts were bid out with all the other accounts. Jim Martin presented the bid specs for the financials from the previous bids. The HRA was not included due to the interruption of coverage for the employees being able to use their HRA cards. Jim Martin rebid the HRA account and the Grant accounts and Security Bank sent a bid back at 0.46%. Jim Paitsel stated that Security Bank told him they would give the 1.25 or 1.26%.

Motion made by Jim Paitsel, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by all members present to approve moving the HRA account to Security Bank contingent on the Bank giving 1.25% APR interest rates.

Motion made by Jim Paitsel, dies for lack of second to move the ARPA account to Security Bank with 1.25 APR interest rate.

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Wade Adams, carried by Hugh Caldwell, Wade Adams, and Shaun Parks, with Jim Paitsel opposing, using the existing federal government grant account.

Motion made by Jim Paitsel, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the bid from Coffey Construction of $88,200.00 for the 80/20 road project for Clinton-Moscow Road and Walker Road, and authorize the County Judge Executive to sign the contract. **(Rec. Order BK 27 PG 505)**

There was no closed session.

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to adjourn at 11:47 AM.

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Naomi T. Jones, Fulton County Clerk