

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2008

The Dougherty County Commission met for its Regular Meeting in the Commission Chambers of the Central Square Government Center on May 5, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Sinyard called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Muarlean Edwards, John Hayes, Lamar Hudgins, Chuck Lingle, Art Searles and Jack Stone. Also present were Richard Crowdis, County Administrator; Thomas Thomas, Assistant County Administrator; Spencer Lee, County Attorney; Barbara Engram, County Clerk, and Nancy Hillsman, Administrative Secretary. Representatives of the media were present.

The Chairman gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman called for approval of the April 14 Work Session, April 14 Special Called Session, and April 21, 2008 Regular Meeting minutes.

Commissioner Searles moved to approve the minutes. Upon a second by Commissioner Lingle, the minutes were passed unanimously.

The Chairman recognized Kimberly Smith, Director for County Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS), who was present to introduce herself to the Commission and notify them that Mac Wilcox is resigning from their Board with one year left on his term.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Woody Hicks, Chairman of the Citizens Greenspace Advisory Committee, who was present to update the Commission on the April 24th approval of the Land Conservation Grant Program application for the former Radium Springs Country Club acquisition. The \$721,000 grant, coupled with a grant for the Boy Scout property, means \$1.22 million in state grant funds have been awarded, creating a seven mile tract of land to be protected for the enjoyment of generations to come.

The Chairman presented a Proclamation proclaiming May 7, 2008 as “National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy”. Angie Barber, Director; Hope Harrelson, RN; and Tracy Short, Executive Office Manager, Network of Trust, Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, received the Proclamation which reads as follows:

National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
Dougherty County
May 7, 2008

Proclamation

- WHEREAS, Over the past decade, the pregnancy rate for teens in Georgia has declined an impressive 30 percent;
- WHEREAS, Despite this progress, there is no time for complacency in our state. Nearly 18,000 teens give birth in Georgia every year. Our state has the 8th highest teen birth rate in the country at 67 / 1000; and Dougherty County's rate is higher than the state at 87 / 1000.
- WHEREAS, Over one-fourth of teen pregnancies are repeat pregnancies. Having multiple children compounds the challenges a teen mother faces in finishing school or keeping a job; and 25.6% of Dougherty County's Teen pregnancies are repeats.
- WHEREAS, Teen pregnancy is linked to many issues of critical interest to our state and our local communities, such as child poverty, out-of-wedlock births, educational attainment, and workforce readiness.
- WHEREAS, Teen childbearing in our state costs taxpayers at least \$344 million in 2004; and Dougherty County taxpayers \$5.8 million.
- WHEREAS, The National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy on May 7 is an opportunity for Georgians to encourage teens to focus attention on the importance of avoiding teen pregnancy; an opportunity for community awareness, and community action in Dougherty County.
- WHEREAS, Local organizations and institutions that seek to promote education and awareness concerning teen pregnancy prevention, including Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital Network of Trust, Girl Scouts, Girls Inc., Georgia Southern University Jiann Ping Hsu School of Public Health, Department of Human Resources Georgia, Peach State Health Plan, Southern Rural Black Women, Dougherty County Adolescent Health & Youth, Lee County Family Connection, Dougherty County School System, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Dougherty County Even Start, Child Care Resource and Referral of SWGA Darton College, 100 Black Men, Babies Can't Wait, Easter Seals, Ideal Communications, Albany State University, Communities and Schools, First Steps, Albany Recreation Department and "Yes You" program will hold events and activities on the National Day and throughout the entire month of May to encourage teens to participate in community-led teen pregnancy prevention efforts.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jeff Sinyard, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2008, as “The National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy” for Dougherty County and commend this observance to our citizens.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

By _____
Jeff “Bodine” Sinyard

ATTEST:

County Clerk

The Chairman recognized Jim Vaught, Deputy Emergency Management Director, who was present to update the Commission on activation of the CodeRed Warning System. The system is up and running and many people have already registered in response to advertising.

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing on the application of Lisa Council Philips and Council Farms, Inc., owner’s request to rezone 3918 and 3928 Fleming Road (13.26 acres) from AG (Agricultural District) to R-1 (Single Family Residential District). The Planning Commission recommends approval. There being no support for or opposition to the application, the Public Hearing was closed.

The Chairman called for consideration of the zoning application of Harold Farnsworth, owner’s request for Special Approval to allow racing of stock cars and trucks, go-carts, 4-wheeler bikes, motorized and non-motorized bicycles, and legends race cars at the Albany Motor Speedway Racetrack at 1303 Williamsburg Rd. (C-8) Commercial Recreation District). The Planning Commission recommends approval.

Mary Teter reviewed nine conditions offered by the applicant:

- 1) Days of operation will be Friday and Saturday with the exception of holidays and the day before a holiday;
- 2) Friday night activities to include rental vehicles to the general public (stock cars, go carts, motorcycles, 4 wheelers and bicycles);
- 3) Saturday night activities to include classic racing with various classes of stock cars and trucks;
- 4) Cars will not be permitted on the track after 11:00 p.m. unless there is a rain delay (not to exceed three times a calendar year);
- 5) Mufflers will be installed on all motorized vehicles;
- 6) A dirt berm, 100 feet in length, 10 feet high, will be constructed on the north side of the property;
- 7) Greenery 6 feet in height, spaced 8 feet apart and extending 200 feet in length, will be planted on the west side of the property. Greenery will be maintained to insure a continued growth to exceed 6 feet;

- 8) Dixie Pipeline property will be clear of dirt and greenery at all times; and
- 9) Off-duty police officers, EMS personnel and firemen will be present at all events.

Commissioner Hayes moved to deny the request permitting additional vehicles, and to approve the Legends vehicles to continue to operate.

Commissioner Lingle seconded the motion. A brief discussion ensued.

Chairman Sinyard made a substitute motion to approve the application as written, with the added requirement of a 25' U-shaped berm.

Commissioner Searles seconded the substitute motion. Another discussion ensued.

The Chairman specified that the owners will be given ten days to accept or decline these conditions and they will have 6 - 8 months to meet the conditions if they do accept. Commission staff will be responsible for monitoring progress of the conditions.

The Chairman called the question on the motion to deny the application. The motion failed with a vote of two yeas, one abstention by Commissioner Ston, and four nays by Chairman Sinyard, Commissioners Hudgins, Searles and Edwards.

The Chairman then called the question on the substitute motion which carried with four yeas, one abstention by Commissioner Stone, and two nays by Commissioners Hayes and Lingle.

The Chairman commended Commissioner Edwards for the most expedient completion of her ACCG Commissioner training and receiving her certification in Savannah last weekend.

County Administrator Crowdis recommended that the Commission choose a date to tour the Bridge House which is currently under renovation. The Chairman requested several dates be presented at the next meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK