



**PAULDING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 08, 2022**

**Watson Government Complex
Second Floor – Board of Commissioners Meeting Room**

CALL TO ORDER: David L. Carmichael, Chairman

**INVOCATION
& PLEDGE:** David L. Carmichael, Chairman

PRESENT: David L. Carmichael, Chairman; Keith Dunn, Post I; Sandy Kaecher, Post II; Chuck Hart, Post III; Brian Stover, Post IV; Jayson Phillips, County Attorney; Frank Baker, County Administrator; Rebecca Merideth, County Clerk

MINUTES:

- 1. The January 25, 2022 Work Session Minutes and the January 25, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes were available for review.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Team Paulding: The February 2022 Employee of the Month: Leah Wilson with the Community Development Department aired for the Commissioners and audience.

INVITED GUESTS: None

BID AWARDS: None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS:

Tabitha Pollard, Finance Director Re: Mid-year update.

Laurie Ashmore, Water System Director Re: Water System Project updates

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Paul Taylor spoke to the Board of Commissioners regarding Resolution 22-05. Mr. Taylor stated he believes there should have been more openness and transparency with this Resolution and asked for it to be tabled.

Mr. Jim Tully spoke to the Board of Commissioners regarding Resolution 22-05. Mr. Tully stated he understands the policy of publishing notice of this amendment and the process of publishing the agenda. He further stated he believes this amendment and Resolution is above the day-to-day operation of the Commission and asked them to table the item and allow him the same amount of time and opportunity to research the item.

Ms. Virginia Galloway spoke to the Board of Commissioners regarding Resolution 22-05. Ms. Galloway stated she is concerned about the legislation because people didn't know about it. Ms. Galloway discussed three options regarding the amended changes and provided handouts with citizen comments for the Commissioners.

Ms. Nancy Hollingshed spoke to the Board of Commissioners regarding Resolution 22-05. Ms. Hollingshed stated that her job with the Republican Party is to inform them of what is going on with the Commission. She stated that she requested a copy of the Resolution from the County Clerk to put on social media for the public to view and believes there should be more transparency.

Ms. Carol McLeod spoke to the Board of Commissioners regarding Resolution 22-05. Ms. McLeod stated she just wanted to get some clarification on the proposed amendments and did some research. She referenced several other Georgia Counties that operate under this same form of government and the governing Boards of those Counties are charged with making the changes and that every County Manager or whatever name that position holds is different. She further stated that if she understood correctly if this Board votes to approve and move the proposed amendments forward, it would then go to the legislation for approval.

Mr. Todd Pownall spoke to the Board of Commissioners Regarding Resolution 22-05. Mr. Pownall asked the Board to table the Resolution and think about what it says, talk with citizens, and give the citizen's time to read it. He further stated that there were some concerns. Mr. Pownall asked them to take a second and third look at it. He further stated that this Board does have some time to review it and let citizens review it and still get it down to the State in time.

CONSENT AGENDA: Chairman Carmichael read the following consent agenda items:

2. *Amend the 2022 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Schedule and the 2022 Planning and Zoning Commission Regular Meeting Schedule for April 2022.*
3. *Approve the conveyance of the underground power easements to Georgia Power Company on County property along West Memorial Drive and South Main Street.*
4. *Approve the acceptance of the streets listed below for perpetual maintenance by the County:*
Regency Park Phase 3 (Post 1)
Lanier Court
Lenore Court
Imperial Court
Royalty Lane
5. *Adopt the Sheriff's Office updated pay scales.*

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

6. *Resolution 22-05 a Resolution requesting Amendments to the Paulding County Form of Government:*

Discussed action to adopt Resolution 22-05 a Resolution requesting Amendments to the Paulding County Form of Government. Jayson Phillips, County Attorney stated this Resolution is a shifting of executive authority from the Chairman to the County Manager form of government. Our form of government has three branches of government; Judicial, Legislative and Executive. The legislative branch at the County level is the five elected Commissioners. The executive branch at the County level are the department heads, as it stands our Chairman wears two hats. The purpose of this resolution is to take the executive functions away from the Chairman, leaving the legislative functions. Then, put the executive functions in a County Manager form of government. In 1999, the position of County Administrator was created, which did not carry over the executive power, which remained with the Chairman. At that time the population and budget of Paulding County was much smaller, because of the growth with the population and budget I was asked to draft a Resolution changing that form of government, transferring executive power to a County Manager role. Mr. Phillips continued by stating the Board of Commissioner has the authority to terminate the County Manager with a majority vote at any time. The County Manager serves at the will of the Board, and as it stands now, the County has no remedy if the Chairman mismanages or abuses his power, the Board has no tool to change that other than with the voters every four years to vote in a new Chairman. Should this Resolution pass, the General Assembly will make the decision for the County to go forward or not go forward with it.

Commissioner Hart asked if there was any proposed cost to this change.

Mr. Phillips stated there is nothing in the proposed Resolution that addresses any issue of cost.

Commissioner Hart asked Mr. Phillips if this action promotes transparency.

Mr. Phillips stated this Resolution states exactly what the intensions are. He stated he drafted the Resolution in the way the General Assembly does; cross out what is being removed, underline what is being added.

Commissioner Stover asked if this model is the same as companies of our size.

Mr. Phillips stated this model tracks the major corporations in the United States.

Commissioner Stover commented on how much the County has changed over the past 20 years. He further stated the right people have to be in place for a business to run smoothly and to meet

the needs. The County form of Government needs to change to be able to meet those needs. Commissioner Stover further stated that citizens could call him to discuss issues at any time.

Commissioner Hart stated the Board has been proactive and has analyzed these issues over a period of time. He wanted to let those citizens who spoke today know, that the Board respects, listens and appreciates them.

Commissioner Dunn asked Mr. Phillips if this agenda item has been treated any differently than any other agenda item.

Mr. Phillips stated this agenda item has not been handled any different. This has been handled as all agenda items that are not required by law to have public hearings. He further stated this agenda item was not added yesterday or this morning or as an emergency situation.

Commissioner Dunn stated he likes face-to-face interaction. He has been on the phone a lot over the past three days he is proud to represent those citizens that voted for him and proud to represent those who couldn't be here today.

Commissioner Kaecher thanked everyone who came to speak. She stated that the Board has listened to the concerns. She asked the citizens to trust the Board to do their job.

Chairman Carmichael stated that he appreciates the Board, the staff, and the expertise of those involved in getting the work done. He further stated that giving some executive duties up would allow him to focus on many duties of the chairman and represent the County in a more positive way. Lastly, he stated this form of government can be changed in the future if it is found not to work.

CONCLUSION OF REGULAR BUSINESS

Chairman Carmichael asked the Commissioners if they had any comments or announcements.

Commissioner Stover announced the first public meeting for the Paulding County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update, will be on February 15, 2022 from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Events Place in Hiram.

Commissioner Dunn thanked Frank Baker, Michael Justus, and Commissioner Stover for joining him in a meeting with a group of County senior citizens at the Senior Citizen Center.

Chairman Carmichael recognized Felicia Womack for recently receiving an Associate's Degree in Business Technology.

Chairman Carmichael also shared a "Fun Fact" that Commissioner Kaecher is a twin.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chuck Hart made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of Pending and Potential Litigation, seconded by Brian Stover. Voting Yea: Chairman Carmichael, Post I Keith Dunn, Post II Sandy Kaecher, Post III Chuck Hart, Post IV Brian Stover.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Carmichael made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brian Stover. Voting Yea: Chairman Carmichael, Post I Keith Dunn, Post II Sandy Kaecher, Post III Chuck Hart, Post IV Brian Stover.