



Hart County Board of Commissioners
Called Meeting Monday February 5, 2024, at 6:00 PM
At the Administrative and Emergency Services
Building

1. Appeal Hearing Recreation Advisory Board
2. Executive Session – Real Estate, Personnel
3. Other Items as time allows.
4. Sewer System Grant Extension – City of Lavonia
5. Discussion – Catering License

Hart County Board of Commissioners
February 5, 2024
Called Meeting
6:00 p.m.

The Hart County Board of Commissioners met February 5, 2024, at Hart County Administrative & Emergency Services Center.

Chairman Marshall Sayer presided with Commissioners Michael Bennett, Frankie Teasley, Jeff Brown, and Joey Dorsey in attendance.

Chairman Sayer called the meeting to order and announced the purpose of the meeting is for an appeal hearing; he reminded everyone of the order of conduct.

Commissioner Brown moved to amend the agenda to include Grant Extension-City of Lavonia; Litigation to Executive Session and Discussion-Catering License. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

1. Appeal Hearing Recreation Advisory Board

Attorney Kim Higginbotham presented information that was presented to her concerning Kyle Whalen, code of ethics and sportsmanship guidelines.

Mr. Whelan responded that he did not have information that was provided to Attorney Higginbotham; issues that happened in 2022 has nothing to do with the reason he is here; his appeal is for being banned for one year from baseball, football, HYDRA, and the MEGA ramp. There was an incident with his father and Mr. Wehunt at the Rec Park which did not involve him; he did not show anyone a gun at the park.

Monica Whalen spoke on behalf of her son and issues with ex-daughter-in-law and her family; she felt that Rec Advisory Board Member Steve Wehunt abused his power for the action taken by the RAB due to an incident with her husband.

Steve Wehunt responded facts presented by Mr. Whelan were incorrect; Kyle and his father were obstructing the view at a game, Mr. Wehunt's wife asked them to move; there have been several verbal confrontations involving Kyle and he cannot address the issue with a weapon.

Recreation Director Jim Owens stated that the 2022 issue was not handled by the Recreation Advisory Board; he was instructed by the RAB to draft a warning notification to Mr. Whalen; he did not witness and incident September 9 however, October 14, 2023 he had to calm down an argument at the concession stand between Whalen and ex-wife/family involving foul language.

Recreation Advisory Chairman Bob Frye stated he was not aware of an incident involving Kyle Whalen; after hearing Kyle's appeal to the RAC there was a 2-2 vote to ban him for a year; he doesn't agree with a year banishment.

Commissioner Brown questioned the number of one-year suspensions that have been issued by the RAB and if penalties were given to the other party involved. RAB Chairman Frye responded none.

Chairman Sayer stated according to GA. Recreation and Park Association manual states "language unbecoming to the League" results in a one-year suspension.

2. Executive Session – Real Estate, Personnel, Litigation

Commissioner Dorsey moved to exit into Executive Session to discuss real estate, personnel, and to include Sheriff Cleveland to attend. Commissioner Bennett provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Teasley moved to reconvene the called meeting session, Commissioner Dorsey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Sayer moved to suspend Mr. Whalen two 2024 football games based on language and actions; adding there will be zero tolerance for future skirmishes which will be subject to a year banishment. Commissioner Dorsey provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

3. Sewer System Grant Extension – City of Lavonia

Commissioner Dorsey moved to authorize Chairman Sayer to sign the grant extension for the City of Lavonia on behalf of the county. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

4. Discussion – Catering License

No official action was taken.

5. Other Items as time allows

Sheriff Mike Cleveland requested two additional deputy positions and equipment for the department.

Commissioner Bennett moved to grant two additional deputy positions and equipment for the Sheriff's Department funding from the GF contingency. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Dorsey moved to authorize County Administrator Terrell Partain to file Arbitration for Annexation Disputes with Georgia Department of Community Affairs concerning Highland Avenue annexation parcel. Commissioner Bennett provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Dorsey moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brown provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Marshal Sayer, Chairman

Lawana Kahn, County Clerk