

**PUBLIC HEARING, PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2009 AT 6:00 PM.**

Board Members Present:

James Dennison, Chairman  
K. Neal Bennett, District 1  
Mike Streat, District 2  
Aldeen Davis, District 4

News Media Present:

None

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive input from the citizens of Pierce County pertaining to the application of Brandy Bowers, owner of Sandy Bottom Gab & Go located at 1021 Sandy Bottom Road, Blackshear, GA, applying for an alcoholic beverage license-selling of beer only.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Dennison called the public hearing to order at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Tommy Lucas stated that he was ok with a store in the Sandy Bottom area, but he is concerned that there are a lot of kids in that neighborhood and he didn't think that she should be allowed to sell liquor.

Ms. Bowers stated that she was applying for a license to sell beer only. Ms. Bowers stated that she knew the rules and regulations for selling beer from her store. She said that all neighborhoods will have children and she will make sure that no beer is sold to minors.

Commissioner Alden Davis stated the when Ms. Bowers first came before the board for rezoning of the property; she did not mention that she was going to apply for a beer license. Commissioner Davis stated that he was pleased with a convenience store going into the Sandy bottom area, but he disagreed with the selling of beer.

Commissioner Neal Bennett wanted to know if Ms. Bowers had started any work on the store. Ms. Bowers stated that she was waiting on the outcome of the application for a beer license. Commissioner Bennett stated that he had about 16 calls for citizens opposing a liquor license.

Chairman Dennison stated that Ms. Bowers was not applying for a liquor license, only a beer license and that she had met all of the criteria for the license.

Mr. Lucas stated that he was satisfied with the clarification on the type of license that Ms. Bowers was applying for and at this time he had no objection to the beer license.

Paul Davis stated that the tax for the sell of beer needs to stay in Pierce County.

Having no further comments from the citizens or the board members, Chairman Dennison adjourned the public hearing at 6:30 PM.

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James Dennison, Chairman

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K. Neal Bennett, District 1

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Mike Streat, District 2

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Aldeen Davis, District 4

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2009 AT 6:30 PM.**

Board Members Present:

James Dennison, Chairman  
K. Neal Bennett, District 1  
Mike Streat, District 2  
Randy Dixon, District 3  
Aldeen Davis, District 4

News Media Present:

The Blackshear Times  
Pierce County Press

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Dennison called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Mike Streat gave the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER MINTUES:** Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to approve the September 2009 minutes. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis asked to address the board. Commissioner Davis stated that he wanted the board to take action on three (3) items on the agenda and to add one item entitled Polices and Procedures-Agendas to the agenda. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion that the board take action on Future of Economic Development in Pierce County, Pierce County Agriculture Building, Horseshoe Road/Mossy Pond Road and add another heading entitled Policies and Procedures-Agendas. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

**LICENSES**

**SANDY BOTTOM GRAB & GO, BRANDY BOWERS-**Application for an alcoholic beverage license-beer. Public notices had been run and a Public Hearing was scheduled for October 06, 2009 at 6:00PM. Brandy Bowers, owner of Sandy Bottom Grab and Go, came before the board requesting approval on her application for a beer license.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis asked Ms. Bowers if the store would not open if she did not get approval for the beer license. Ms. Bowers replied that "I am hopeful that the board would approve my request, but if not, it would definitely put a damper on my store plans." "I can't say that I won't open, but I will have to seriously rethink things."

Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that maybe the board needs to see a site plan. He stated that if he voted with the citizens he would have to vote no. Commissioner Aldeen Davis agreed with Commissioner Bennett.

Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to table the discussion on the approval for a beer license for Sandy Bottom Grab and Go convenience store located in Sandy Bottom area until more information can be obtain from the owner and the Code Enforcement office. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**SCOTT PURVIS-DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**-Advantage to being part of a joint development authority. Mr. Purvis presented an outline of the advantage of being a member of a joint development authority (JDA). Mr. Purvis stated the JDA was created by state law. He outlined some of the advantages such as an extra \$500 credit for the job tax credit training program, an extra \$500 added to the \$2500 tax credit for each new job created in the county and that it is easier to market 2-3 counties that joined together. Mr. Purvis stated that with multi-county marketing, you will have more skilled labor; 2-3 counties could own one industrial park, which will mean lower shared cost for water, sewer and electricity. Also, Mr. Purvis stated that the state could more easily justify spending state dollars on counties that were in a JDA. He said that if only one county had a development authority, the state would allocate \$200,000, but if 2-3 counties were joined the allocation goes to \$300,000 and if 3 or more the allocation goes to \$500,000. Mr. Purvis stated that a county can belong to more than one JDA and there are no limits on how many counties can join a JDA. Mr. Purvis thanked the board and stated that he hoped that this information was useful to Pierce County.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **FUTURE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PIERCE COUNTY-**

Commissioner Davis would like for Pierce County, the cities of Blackshear, Offerman and Patterson and the Pierce County Industrial Development Authority to hold work sessions to allow all in attendance to give their input concerning future economic development. Commissioner Aldeen Davis stated that the board had made their decision on OADA and "We need to stop looking back. It is time to look forward. We need to work together to formulate a plan for economic development for Pierce County." Commissioner Davis would like to have a definite plan in place by the first of 2010. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to set up work sessions with Pierce County, the cities of Blackshear, Offerman and Patterson and the Pierce County Industrial Development Authority in the near future to discuss economic development in Pierce County. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

**AGRICULTURE BUILDING**-Commissioner Aldeen Davis asked the board to consider making improvements on the Ag Building including repairing and repainting woodwork and trim, replacing doorknobs, pressure washing the building and moving an old Transit van from the site. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion for the Pierce County Board of Commissioners to make the necessary maintenance repairs to the Pierce County Agriculture Building. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

**HORSESHOE ROAD/MOSSY POND ROAD**-Commissioner Aldeen Davis stated that where Horseshoe Road intersects with Mossy Pond Road at Wayne Turner's house is a safety concern to the county. The road makes a sharp L shape turn with only a 90 degree warning signs. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to have the county move forward with the realignment of Mossy Point Road at its intersection with Horseshoe Road and to add rumble strips and warning signs. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

## **POLICIES & PROCEDURES-AGENDAS**

**AGENDAS**-Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that he would like to see the board set up a policy on the board's agendas. Commissioner Bennett also stated that he wants the agendas posted in the Commissioners' Office. Commissioner Aldeen Davis stated that he would like to have the agendas mailed to all commissioners at least 8 days before the meeting. Commissioner Bennett said that the agenda deadline would be the Friday two

weeks prior to the first Tuesday of each month regular meeting. Also, Commissioners Bennett and Davis would like for the board to vote on any change, brought up during the meeting, to the agendas once they have been prepared. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion for a policy on the board agendas to be in place for the following items: (1) The cut off date for a request to be on the agenda would be the Friday two weeks prior to the first Tuesday of each month regular scheduled meeting, (2) the agendas will be mailed to the commissioners on the following Monday or Tuesday after the Friday cutoff date, and (3) the meeting dates will be posted in the Commissioner's Office. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

## **CONTRACTS**

**GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTING UNLIMITED, INC**-Agreement between the Pierce County Board of Commissioners and Governmental Consulting Unlimited, Inc. for the 2009 CBDG. Pierce County will agree to pay no more than 6% of the total CBDG administration fees as set in the CDBG application as \$28,172.00. This will be paid from the grant monies. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve the contract with Governmental Consulting Unlimited, Inc. for the 2009 CBDG in the amount of \$28,172.00. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

## **BIDS**

**ALVIN WALKER ROAD BRIDGE BID**- Bids were accepted until 11:00 AM, October 06, 2009. County Clerk Mollie Howard announced that three (3) bids had been received. Batir Bridge Company of Vidalia bid \$120,892.50, Southern Concrete of Albany bid \$132,237 and Underground Excavating, Inc of Patterson bid \$144,053. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to award the bid to Batir Bridge Company, Inc. for \$120,892.50. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTOR GRADER**-Bids will be accepted for a motor grader. Commissioner Aldeen Davis stated that he would like to have a copy of the bid specifications. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to seek bids for a motor grader and to have the board approve the bid specifications before they are mailed out. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION-PERSONELL**

Chairman Dennison called for a motion to adjourn into executive session. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 7:40 PM. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

The regular monthly meeting was reconvened at 8:18 PM with a motion made by Commissioner Mike Streat and a second from Commissioner Randy Dixon. Chairman Dennison announced that no action had been taken.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to suspend county business due to the fact that the Chairman and 2 commissioners had to leave for Atlanta and to schedule another meeting for Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 6:30 PM. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Dennison called for a motion to adjourn the October regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to adjourn the October regular monthly meeting with a second from Commissioner Neal Bennett. Meeting adjourned at 8:21PM.

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James Dennison, Chairman

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K. Neal Bennett, District 1

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Mike Streat, District 2

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Randy Davis, District 3

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Aldeen Davis, District 4

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, CONTINUATION OF  
OCTOBER 06, 2009 REGULAR MEETING, HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20,  
2009 AT 6:30 PM.**

Board Members Present:

James Dennison, Chairman  
K. Neal Bennett, District 1  
Mike Streat, District 2  
Randy Dixon, District 3  
Aldeen Davis, District 4

News Media Present:

The Blackshear Times  
Pierce County Press

The purpose of this meeting is to continue the agenda from the October 06, 2009 regular monthly meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman James Dennison called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Neal Bennett gave the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis wanted to know if this was a called meeting or a continuation of the October 06 regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that the Executive Session from the October meeting had not been finished, so this meeting was to continue the executive session. Chairman Dennison had Assistant County Clerk Lynn Altman read the minutes from the October 6 meeting. The minutes stated that Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to suspend the October 06 meeting until October 13 at 6:30 PM. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis then made a motion to adjourn into executive session to continue the discussion from the October 6 meeting at 6:40 PM. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:05 PM by a motion from Commissioner Mike Streat and a second from Commissioner Randy Dixon. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis announced that due to an accounting situation that had occurred with the Pierce County Transit's GA Department of Transportation grant funds, he was making a motion to reduce the salary of those positions that had received the funds by the amount in the Pierce County Transit's budget to stay in line with their present salary. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Commissioner Randy Dixon voted aye, Commissioner Neal Bennett voted aye, Commissioner Aldeen Davis voted aye, Chairman James Dennison voted aye and Commissioner Mike Streat voted nay. Motion carried.

Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to bring up before the board an item on the agenda dealing with the bids received for a 10 ton AC unit for the Nichols Street Annex. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Three bids have been received for the unit. Waycross Heating & Cooling, Inc bid on a 10 ton heat pump system for \$9,000, or a 10 ton AC unit and blower \$8,500 or a 10 ton air handler for \$4,500 with the condenser coil replaced for \$2,200.

John's Heating & Air, Inc bid on a 10 ton split A/c unit with condenser, air handler and heater for \$9,238, or a 10 ton split A/C unit with a condenser, air handler and electric heater for \$8,897.

Stokes of Georgia bid on a 10 ton 3 phase straight cool condenser and air handler system with heat strips and R22 freon for \$7,460 or 2 -5 ton 3 phase straight cool condenser and air handler with heat strips and R410 freon for \$6,390.

After a discussion on heat pump vs. heating strips vs. electric heater, Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve the bid from Waycross Heating & Cooling, Inc for a 10 ton heat pump system for \$9,000 to replace the unit at Nichols Street Annex. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Having no further county business, Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to adjourn the October 06, 2009 continued meeting. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

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James Dennison, Chairman

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K. Neal Bennett, District 1

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Mike Streat, District 2

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Randy Dixon, District 3

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Aldeen Davis, District 4