

April 26, 2005 - Workshop

The Walton County Coalition met in a workshop on Tuesday, April 26, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at the Freeport City Hall.

The following individuals were present: Commissioner Brannon, Chairman, Ms. Jean Arrant, City of Freeport, and Mr. James Huffman, Mayor Pro Tempore.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Brannon. He asked for a motion to approve the March 22, 2005 minutes.

Motion by Ms. Arrant, second by Mr. Huffman, to approve the March 22, 2005 minutes. Ayes 3, Nays 0. Brannon Aye, Huffman Aye, Arrant Aye.

Commissioner Brannon discussed the nominations from the previous meeting, stating that he accepted the position of Chairman and Mr. David Barnhill accepted the position of Vice-chairman. Commissioner Brannon addressed the vacancy of Mayor in the city of Paxton. He also discussed current issues being handled by the Board of County Commissioners. He informed the Coalition members of the following new county employees: Ms. Pat Blackshear, Planning Director; Mr. John Johnson, Public Works Director; and Attorney David Holland, County Attorney.

Commissioner Brannon discussed the flooding issues regarding JW Hollington Road, stating the Board of County Commissioners approved a change order to work towards correcting the drainage problems. He also discussed the list of county maintained roads, stating that the BCC directed Public Works to update the list, along with providing additional information regarding the actual distance

of the road being maintained. Discussion was held regarding the paving, flooding, and maintenance of county maintained roads. Commissioner Brannon stated that the BCC adopted an Ordinance that will require a parking plan for major commercial and residential developments. He stated that this requirement would be made a part of the Development Order process. Discussion was held regarding local cities adopting this ordinance as well. Mr. Huffman requested a copy of the parking ordinance be sent to him. Commissioner Brannon requested that the cities of DeFuniak Springs and Freeport be sent a copy of the Parking Ordinance.

Commissioner Brannon discussed the update that was given to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the traffic concurrency analysis for the county being performed by the Genesis Group. He stated that the BCC will be using the traffic analysis as an aid in deciding on new construction developments. Discussion was held regarding the purpose of the traffic concurrency analysis, and the need for a traffic analysis inside the cities of DeFuniak Springs and Freeport. Additional discussion was held regarding specific city roads that are in need of a traffic concurrency analysis. Commissioner Brannon asked the committee about their thoughts on implementing a transportation improvement fund. He gave a brief summary for the purpose of the fund, stating that the money could be used by the county or city for road improvements. Discussion was held regarding impact fees.

Mr. Huffman questioned Commissioner Brannon about the status of the bypass. Ms. Arrant stated that it was in the process to begin construction in May 2005. Commissioner Brannon stated that he was in the process of gathering

information regarding ways to resolve traffic and road conditions. Mr. Huffman discussed the traffic issues regarding the turning lane located at the intersection of Highway 90 and 331 in DeFuniak Springs. Discussion was held regarding ways to resolve the traffic issues throughout the county.

Commissioner Brannon informed the Committee that the county is in the process of creating additional land use categories. He suggested interconnecting the city and county's land development codes. He stated that by blending the city and county land development code, it will assist in the process of creating additional land use categories.

Mr. Huffman discussed an exchange with the DOT, stating that the city is placing a new water line in the DOT's new facility on Highway 331, in exchange for the old DOT site. He stated that the old DOT site will house the equipment currently being housed at the city shop. Mr. Huffman also discussed renovations taking place in DeFuniak Springs. He stated that the DeFuniak Springs Airport is in the process of building more hangars, with future construction plans for an additional forty (40) hangars. Mr. Huffman discussed expanding the water lines to the King Lake Area, along with constructing a new water storage tank. Commissioner Brannon questioned Mr. Huffman about the status of the Picket's Project. Mr. Huffman stated that the Picket's Project is still in the works. Discussion was held regarding the status of the Magnolia Subdivision project. Mr. Huffman stated that there were plans in the works for the beautification of the medians from Interstate 10 to the Tom Thumb. Discussion was held regarding future plans for DeFuniak Springs in regards to future businesses and projects.

Additional discussion was held regarding the protection of forestry in Walton County.

Commissioner Brannon discussed the proposed height restriction north of the bay. He expressed the need for clarification regarding the restriction before it is brought to the Board for approval. Ms. Arrant discussed the Freeport Comprehensive Plan, in regards to height restrictions.

Commissioner Brannon informed the Committee that the BCC presented the Walton County School Board with twenty (20) acres of land, located in Mossy Head, for the construction of a new school. Commissioner Brannon stated that he is requesting that the BCC is provided with a five (5) year Facilities Plan from the School Board, which would provide the Board with information regarding the need for additional schools.

Mr. Huffman expressed the need for Walton County to establish a sign ordinance to help control the increasing amount of signage in Walton County. Discussion was held regarding the issue of signage in DeFuniak Springs and Freeport.

Commissioner Brannon stated that Ms. Rhonda Skipper (Tax Collector) expressed her interest in becoming a member or assisting the Coalition Committee. He asked for the Committee's thoughts on allowing representatives from different county departments to be a part of the Coalition Committee. Mr. Huffman expressed his concern regarding the committee losing vision by allowing an increasing number of individuals to attend the meeting. Mr. Huffman suggested providing all interested parties with a copy of the minutes, and to allow

interested parties to come in front of the Committee if they have a specific concern. Discussion was held regarding having representatives from the county attend a meeting to discuss issues such as traffic, signage, and growth management.

Motion by Mr. Huffman, second by Ms. Arrant, to invite the following individuals to the next Coalition meeting on May 24, 2005 at 5:00 pm at the Freeport City Hall: Ms. Pat Blackshear, Planning Director, Ms. Latilda Henninger, City Planner for Freeport, Mr. Larry Laird, and Mr. Mike Stanley, DeFuniak Springs City Manager. Ayes 3, Nays 0. Brannon Aye, Ms. Arrant Aye, Mr. Huffman Aye.

The Committee agreed to schedule the next meeting for May 24, 2005 at 5:00 pm at the City Hall of Freeport.

Motion by Mr. Huffman, second by Ms. Arrant, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes 3, Nays 0. Brannon Aye, Ms. Arrant Aye, Mr. Huffman Aye.

APPROVED: _____

Scott Brannon, Chair

ATTEST: _____

Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court