



BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CALLED JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITIES OF ALTO, BALDWIN, GILLSVILLE, HOMER, LULA, MAYSVILLE TO CONSIDER HOUSE BILL 581 FLOATING HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Courthouse Annex Boardroom | 150 Hudson Ridge | Homer, GA 30547

Friday, January 17, 2025 at 10:00 AM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ch. Griffith called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Chairman Taylor Griffith
Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell
Commissioner Chris Ausburn
Commissioner Keith Gardiner
Commissioner Bo Garrison

STAFF

Deputy County Clerk Erin Decker
Chief Finance Officer Randy Failyer
(Copy of Sign-in Sheet filed in Attachment to Minute Book 11-2)

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Gardiner, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.

Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. House Bill 581 Floating Homestead Exemption

Ch. Griffith stated this meeting was to discuss and consider who was opting in or out of HB581. He stated the question was how it would affect the cities and the county.

Town of Homer Council Member James Dumas stated they had consulted with their City Atty and were still confused on what would be best for the town. He continues to state as a homeowner staying in was a benefit but as a government it would be a challenge.

Ch. Griffith stated our decision-making process should be based on the citizens and as a government we should make it work.

Comm. Gardiner stated the first year would be the most challenging.

Comm. Ausburn stated in order to make HB581 work you would have to have the Floating Homestead Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST).

City of Lula Acting City Manager Frank Etheridge stated they were struggling with the decision of opting in or out.

Comm. Gardiner stated you would only be collecting less on homestead but other values would still increase.

Maysville City Council Member Robert Jackson stated whether you opt in or out you would still get the same amount of property tax just in a different way.

Ch. Griffith stated our job was to benefit the tax payers and the people that live here and vote.

City of Baldwin Chief Administrative Officer Emily Woodmaster stated FLOST would benefit everyone and was supposed to off set taxes for everyone.

City of Maysville Council Member Amanda Farley stated the FLOST was still a tax you had to pay.

Ms. Woodmaster stated tax exemptions existed for the owners of the community, but a sales tax could shift some of the burden to whoever may be traveling through your city or town.

Ch. Griffith stated our first priority was looking out for the citizens. He further stated 67% of voters voted for this homestead and we as a government needed to make it work.

Comm. Gardiner stated that voters wanted this and it was the governments job to make it work.

Council Member Dumas asked what cities was planning on opting out.

Council Member Jackson stated they needed more time to discuss the outcome of staying in or opting out.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison, Seconded by Commissioner Gardiner.

Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Gardiner, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

Chairman

Deputy County Clerk