

CLIFTONDALE COMMUNITY CLUB, INC.

February 11, 2008

Draft Minutes

The Cliftondale Community Club, Inc. met February 11, 2008 at the Cliftondale Community Center. About 43 members and guests were present.

President Ben Dye opened the meeting, and Director Elbert Rowell provided the invocation.

Mr. Dye opened the order of business by asking for volunteers to form a nominating committee for the 2008 Club elections, as called for in the By-Laws. The Committee will be comprised of Ron Coleman, Shirley Smith, Storm Mitchell, Rowell Elbert, and Cliff Rainey.

Corporal T. Blackmon of the Fulton County Police Department provided the community's crime report: 17 burglaries, 3 aggravated assaults (2 domestic and one among relatives), 3 shots-fired reports, 10 open-door alarm system calls (usually false alarms), 2 dead persons (one natural death, one possible suicide), and one recovered stolen vehicle (the three perpetrators were captured). Mr. Dye thanked Corporal Blackmon for his visit.

Treasurer Greg Wachsler summarized the Club's financial activity: beginning balance, \$3,492.26; payouts (website costs), \$446.25; deposits, \$.42 in interest; and ending balance of \$3,046.43.

Mr. Dye provided an overview of the very full schedule of upcoming meetings and activities.

- The committee on Merk-Miles development will meet again in March.

- There will be a meeting at Westlake High School featuring Speaker of the House Glenn Richardson on February 12.

- The Community Zoning Information Meeting (CZIM) will be held on February 14 at the South Fulton Service Center.

-The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice will present its plans for the Larmore Probation Detention Center (located at 5651 Stonewall Tell Road) on February 22 at the South Fulton Service Center.

-Congressman David Scott will have his quarterly meeting at the Cliftdale Community Clubhouse on March 1, starting at 10 am.

-The Board of Commissioners will meet at the Government Center downtown at 10 am on March 5, taking action on applications for the January-March zoning cycle.

-The Cliftdale Clean-up takes place on March 8, from 9 am to noon, followed by lunch.

Mr. Dye introduced State Representative Sharon Beasley-Teague. She spoke first about House Bill 900, which she is co-sponsoring with Representatives Virgil Fludd, Roger Bruce, and Bob Holmes. HB 900 will define how Local Option Sales Taxes (LOST) are distributed to a “qualified district”. The intention is to have South Fulton share in LOST revenue whether it remains unincorporated or becomes a township. The bill would help alleviate future shortfalls in South Fulton’s revenues. The bill would be defined as “local legislation,” which means the votes in the two chambers will probably follow the recommendation of the South Fulton members. Bruce Moody asked how we can help to get the bill passed if we decide to support it.

Ms. Beasley-Teague then turned to House Resolution 900, which would replace property taxes with a statewide comprehensive flat sales tax. The case against HR 900 is that such a tax would allow no provision for local needs, would be extended to tax services, and would be outsourced for collection with accompanying overhead. She does not support HR 900. Comments from the audience included that taxpayers would lose the federal income tax deduction for property taxes (sales taxes are not deductible); and that the centralized system would remove any local flexibility, such as school spending.

Mr. Dye thanked Ms. Beasley-Teague.

In other business, Mr. Moody stressed that Clifftondale needs to turn out in large numbers for distinguished guest speakers. He and Mr. Wachsler will form a calling group for such occasions.

Donzella James, a Clifftondale resident and former State Senator, announced that she is running for Congress from our district.

Secretary Gayle Lesser summarized news from the February meeting of the South Fulton Parkway Alliance. Reflecting the recent downturn in the housing market, Wal-Mart is said to have pulled out of its proposed store at the intersection of Highway 92 and the South Fulton Parkway, and Home Depot has put its construction at the same intersection on indefinite hold. Further down the Parkway, a development at the intersection of Cedar Grove Road is also on hold, and the Minerva development at Rivertown Road is postponed for several years. At the County level, Commissioner Bill Edwards put \$500,000 into the budget for an economic development effort for South Fulton.

Cliff Rainey noted signs announcing a Kroger were posted at the intersection of Stonewall Tell Road and the South Fulton Parkway. He understands that the intersection does not have access to sewer and may not be able to secure it.

Mr. Mitchell and former president Harold Reid called attention to a request for a change in the Land Use Plan (LUP) for the corner of Cascade-Palmetto and Highway 92. The current LUP calls for commercial only on the corner where Charley's service station is located. A developer wants to rezone the second Cedar Grove corner for 200,000 square feet of commercial and retail – which would inevitably affect the Clifftondale side of Highway 92, because the landowners of our two corners will surely request the same right.

Irving Harris asked about the large amount of illegal dumping near Young's Supermarket. Tony Phillips of Code Enforcement, who was in the audience, says that the County is after the owner to fine him or put a lien on the property for failure to secure it against dumping.

Mr. Dye announced that following the Club's business meeting, a rezoning meeting would be held with representatives from the Camp Creek

Church of Christ, who are requesting several variances for their property.
He invited the audience to remain.

The meeting was adjourned.

Gayle Lesser, Secretary