

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Murray County Commissioner will hold a called public meeting on Monday March 22, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Hearing Room of the Murray County Annex. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. New Business

A. Resolution: To enact a temporary moratorium for zoning changes that would accommodate new commercial agricultural operations

Adjourn
Commissioner Available for Questions or Comments

GEORGIA, Murray County

MINUTES

The Murray County Commissioner held a public meeting Monday March 22, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the hearing room of the Murray County Annex.

Commissioner Hogan called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Under new business the following items were addressed and approved.

A. *Resolution: To enact a temporary moratorium for zoning changes that would accommodate new commercial agricultural operations (documents are stored in the 2021 Auxiliary Files)*

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA,

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING A TEMPORARY EMERGENCY MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS FOR ZONING APPROVALS, BUILDING PERMITS, LAND DISTURBANCE PERMITS, AND ANY OTHER APPROVALS OR PERMITS, OR PROCESSING OF OR ISSUANCE OF DECISIONS ON ANY SUCH APPLICATIONS, REGARDING NEW COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE OPERATIONS OR THE EXPANSION OF EXISTING CONFINED FEEDING/COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE OPERATIONS.

WHEREAS, The Murray County Sole Commissioner amended The Code of Murray County on November 6, 2018, to provide the Standards for Confined feeding/Commercial Agricultural Operations now found in Appendix B, Chapter 2 of the Code of Murray County. The Commissioner enacted this amendment after hearings attended by numerous residents, poultry farmers, and poultry industry representatives. By enacting the amendment, the Commissioner intended to reach a balance between the rights of poultry growers to use their land and the rights of neighbors to enjoy their own land without suffering odors, noise, dust, and other conditions caused by large commercial poultry operations.

WHEREAS, Since the adoption of the revised Standards on November 6, 2018, the Commissioner has received complaints from County residents alleging that certain clusters of Poultry houses are negatively affecting their property values, use and enjoyment of their land. Some of the existing and planned clusters of poultry houses could result in over 150 mega houses. The term mega house, when used in context refers to Poultry houses that may be as large as 66 feet wide and 600 feet long and holding up to 65,000 birds each. This could place over 9,000,000 birds in a concentrated area.: and

WHEREAS, the concept of the mega poultry house is relatively new. Often, these are designated as industrial type feed operations and are not consistent with the family farm operations that have been common in Murray County; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner is aware that waste disposal practices associated with Confined Feeding/Commercial Agriculture operations contributes to high nutrient loading on waters of the United States. The current disposal practices severely impact the ability of the State of Georgia to meet the water quality standards in the Coosa River Basin set by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner is aware that with the increase in the number of poultry farms in Murray County that are proposing buying property with no existing potable water available is becoming an issue to meet the demand; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner has determined that additional evaluation is necessary to determine the effect of mega poultry operations on the natural resources, infrastructure, environment, citizens and neighbors of Murray County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed moratorium duration is 180 days, which duration is determined to be the minimum adequate time to review the County Ordinances pertaining to Confined Feeding/Commercial Agriculture Operations, consider drafted changes, advertise and hold public hearing(s) required by law, and adopt said changes;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND RESOLVED, AND IT HEREBY IS ORDAINED AND RESOLVED, by virtue of the authority vested in the Sole Commissioner by law, that a moratorium is temporarily established as follows:

1. This moratorium is enacted for temporary and emergency purposes only, and shall be in effect through and including 180 days from its adoption, or until it is repealed, whichever occurs first.
2. This moratorium applies to all applications for any permit approval or issuance required for the construction, expansion or operation of new or expanded confined feeding/commercial agriculture operations. For the purposes of this moratorium, *Confined Feeding/Commercial Agriculture Operation* shall mean any structure, group of structures or facilities designed to house or process 1,000 or more chickens or turkeys at one time.
3. Neither the County nor any of its staff or departments shall accept applications for zoning approval, building permits, land disturbance permits, or any other approvals or permits, or process or issue any decisions on any such applications regarding facilities or structures for new or expanded confined feeding/commercial agriculture operations.
4. No action taken by any person or entity during this temporary moratorium shall serve to vest rights to develop or operate any confined feeding/commercial agriculture operation.
5. Previously approved confined feeding/commercial agriculture operations shall not be prevented by this moratorium from operation under and consistent with prior final approval.

BE IT SO RESOLVED, this 22nd day of March, 2021

By: Greg Hogan

Greg Hogan, Sole Commissioner

Attest: Tommy Parker

Tommy Parker, Clerk

ADJOURNMENT:

Executed this 6th day of April 2021

ATTEST:

Tommy Parker, County Clerk

Greg Hogan, Commissioner

In Attendance: Greg Hogan, Jimmy Espy, Dickie Barnes, Tony Lotspeich