

COBB COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

September 17, 2007

The monthly meeting of the Cobb County Retired Employees Association was held on Monday, September 17, 2007 at the West Cobb Senior Center with 67 members and 2 guests in attendance. Co-president Roswell Story called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Invocation was given by James Daniel followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flay.

President Story welcomed guests Johnny Woodward and Jim Bland. He also reported that Mike Bolek is very ill. Carolyn Landers and Alvin Woodruff were absent because of illness.

PROGRAM: Former Cobb Commission Chairman Bill Byrne was the guest speaker. He is seeking the position of Chairman and will be running on the Republican ballot in the primary election. He stated that the fundamental reason for seeking the office again is because Cobb County is the finest county in the state because the attitude of the employees is "what can I do to help" and not "what I can do to stop you".

Over the decade of the 90's Cobb County became a very unique and special county because of the hard work of all the departments working with a great attitude. Crime decreased; we obtained the best CSO rating in the state; 5 senior service centers were opened; a financial AAA rating was realized (only 2 in the state); the water system reached a AAA credit rating (only one in the country); cash was paid for improvements; parks and recreational facilities were implemented; and personnel increased to approximately 5000 employees. The bar was set high for those who followed us.

The two issues of former Chairman Byrne's campaign will be as follows:

- 1. Health benefits package for employees, both current and retired. He stated that retiree benefits were earned and should be awarded to us. The purpose of the Rule of 80 Plan which was passed during his administration was to attract and keep the best employees. Healthcare benefits were downsized 2 years ago. He stated that if he is returned to office as Chairman, the quality of our healthcare will improve and the county will bear the burden.**

- 2. Transportation problems will be brought to the forefront. The present regional concept of solving the traffic problems will not work. His proposal is to work with Paulding, Cherokee and Bartow counties to develop economic development centers so that the people who live in those counties will work there. He proposes any high density development be within the cities and that no more than 750,000 people will live in Cobb County. It will be a different approach to managing growth. We must change our growth pattern. Mr. Byrne stated that he will fight any proposal to impose a regional sales tax which is now being proposed by the ARC.**

TREASURY: Ruby Lowry reported a balance of \$1,983.78. Motion and second were made to accept the report. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of July, 2007 as printed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: President Story stated that the newsletter item will be held.

NEW BUSINESS: President Story reported that he, Shelia Buckner and Pat Cromer will be a part of the Insurance Focus Group to look at increases in our insurance premiums.

TRIP TO CALLAWAY GARDENS: Anyone interested in a group trip to Callaway Gardens to see the lights is to notify Marge Young.

NEW MEMBERS: Two new members were recognized: Linda Smith and Reba Hunsucker.

NEXT MEETING: We will have information on insurance changes and renewal from Cobb Human Resources. The next meeting date is October 15, 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Watson