

In attendance, Chairman Banes, Commissioners Edwards, Mason, Sanders, Henderson and Cowan, Interim County Manager Jarvis Sims, Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter and Deputy Clerk Susan Nolley.

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Banes
- 2. Invocation:** Commissioner Sanders
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance:** led by Commissioner Cowan

Chairman Banes acknowledged and welcomed Mr. Jarvis Sims, Newton County's newly appointed Interim County Manager and offered him an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Sims thanked the Chairman, stating that he's truly thankful and honored to serve as the Interim County Manager for Newton County, adding that he is committed to serve Newton County as a public servant leader who places Newton County's values and traditions at the core while also embracing innovated ideas. He expressed, he looks forward to working with the Commissioners, the elected officials, department heads and staff as well as the community and business leaders to build on the successes that Newton County has achieved thus far. We are #OneNewton moving forward.

4. Agenda Adoption: Amended to add items #9d) and #26a)

#9d) Juvenile Court requesting to apply for Delinquency Financial & Technical Prevention Grant Assistance.

#26a-Discussion to utilize ARPA Broadband funds in the underserved Dial Mill community area. Commissioner Henderson motioned to approve agenda adoption as amended, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

5. Citizens Comments: None

6. Chairman's Report: Chairman Banes has been selected to participate in "Dancing with the Stars" a fundraiser hosted by Project ReNewal Saturday, March 19, 2022 @ 7:00-10:00 P.M. Tickets are \$30.00 and proceeds will support the domestic violence intervention program.

7. County Managers Report: Jarvis Sims read in detail the Monthly Departmental Reports and a PowerPoint presentation was displayed.

Celebrations and Highlights

Nwaka Hughes-received the 2021 Spirit of Excellence Award
(Covington/Newton Chamber of Commerce)

Newton County Water Resources awarded as Water Plant of the Year (James Brown, Director)

Senior Services Center to host a Silent Auction Fundraiser March 14-17 2022

Free Pet Vaccination Clinic March 26, 2022 @ 900-Noon

8. Old Business: None

9. Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Edwards motioned approval of the consent agenda as listed, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

9a) Approval of Minutes; March 1, 2022 Work Session - March 1, 2022 Regular Meeting

9b) Fire Services-To apply for CSX Grant for \$5,000.00 to purchase fire hose.

9c) Newton County Sheriff's Office-To apply for the Project Safe Neighborhood Grant

9d) Juvenile Court- To apply for Delinquency Financial & Technical Prevention Grant

Regular Agenda

10. Juvenile Court-Chief Judge Candace Branche-Full time position of Truancy Intake Officer.

Cost: \$4,936.02 Funding Source: Juvenile General Fund Budget

Commissioner Cowan motioned approval of the full time position of Truancy Intake Officer as requested by Juvenile Court, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

11. Juvenile Court-Chief Judge Candace Branche-Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Southeastern Psychological Associates, Inc. for Juvenile Family Treatment Court and approval to terminate the current provider. *Termination requires a notice period of 15 days.

New contract-\$16,055.01. Funding Source: Juvenile Court Budget

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Southeastern Psychological Associates, Inc. and to terminate the current provider as requested, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

12. Finance Department-Brittany White gave a PowerPoint presentation of the February 2022 Financial Report

7:30 ZONINGS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Rezoning Case Number-REZ22-000001

Applicant: Gerson Funes

Location: 3231 Hwy 212

Map & Parcel Numbers: 33-63C

District: 1 (One)

FLUM: RR (Rural Residential)

Zoning: MHS (Mobile Home Subdivision)

Acreage: 5.9 acres

February 22, 2022 the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval with staff conditions by a vote of (4-0).

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve Rezoning Case #REZ22-000001 as recommended by the Planning Commission with staff conditions, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

2. Rezoning Case Number-REZ22-000002

Applicant: Marvin Funes

Location: 3255 Hwy 212

Map & Parcel Numbers: 33-63A

District: 1 (One)

FLUM: RR (Rural Residential)

Zoning: MHS (Mobile Home Subdivision)

Acreage: 6.03 acres

February 22, 2022 the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval with staff conditions by a vote of (4-0).

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve Rezoning Case #REZ22-000002 as recommended by the Planning Commission with staff conditions, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

Chairman Banes utilized his chairman privilege to change the order of the agenda and allowed the reading of the Alcohol License to follow.

Alcohol License

Final Reading: CVS Pharmacy #8418 10267 Hwy 36 Covington, GA 30014

Applicant: Bernard Kennedy, Sr. District 5

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approved the final reading of CVS Pharmacy #8418, seconded by Commissioner Edward and passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

1st Reading: United Brown Bridge INC. (Food Land) 15036 Brown Bridge Rd Covington, GA 30016

Applicant: Rita Jeram District 2

13. Fire Services-Approval of request to utilize \$150,000.00 in available unallocated SPLOST collections for the full acquisition of fire truck and equipment.

Cost: \$150,000.00 Funding Source: Available unallocated SPLOST Collections

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve Fire Services request to utilize \$150,000.00 of unallocated SPLOST collections for the full acquisition of a fire truck and equipment, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

14. Fire Services-Approval of amendment to the Fire Budget to purchase a used 2010 fire engine to replace a wrecked fire engine. Budget Transfer & Amendment Request is attached and officially made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve the Fire Services Budget amendment in the amount of \$131,492.00 to purchase a used 2010 fire engine, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

15. Finance/SPLOST -Approval of request to utilize \$3,000,000.00 in available unallocated SPLOST collections to complete Springhill Park.

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve the request to utilize \$3,000,000.00 of available unallocated SPLOST Collections to complete the Springhill Park, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously. Vote 5

16. SPLOST/Recreation- Approval of request to utilize \$750,000.00 in available unallocated SPLOST collections to complete the master plan build out for the Denny Dobbs Skate Park.

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve the request to utilize \$750,000.00 of available unallocated SPLOST Collections to complete the master plan build out for Denny Dobbs Skate Park, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

17. Finance/SPLOST/Senior Services -Approval of request to utilize \$1,125,000.00 in available unallocated SPLOST collections to further complete the Senior Services Expansion.

Commissioner Henderson motioned to approve the request to utilize \$1,125,000.00 of available unallocated SPLOST Collections for completion of the Senior Services Expansion, seconded by Commissioner Mason and passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

18. Finance/SPLOST/Recreation-Approval of request to utilize \$3,755,000.00 in available unallocated SPLOST collections to complete the Westside Youth Facility project.

Commissioner Sanders motioned to approve the request to utilize \$3,755,000.00 in available unallocated SPLOST Collections to complete the Westside Youth Facility, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Sanders was commended for her efforts to bring this project into District 3.
- Is there a master plan as of yet for the project?
- Currently no master plan complete
- Parks and Recreation staff to look at options to where the facility might go.
- engage a design consultant, and come up with a site location of the facility
- Seek a construction company

19. Recreation/Purchasing-Approval of contract of the Professional Services Agreement for Yellow River Trail System Amendment Proposal #1 Yellow River Trail System Southern Segment Master Plan, and Amendment Proposal #2 Yellow River Trail System Phase 1 Construction Documents for Lose & Associates, Inc. d/b/a/ Lose Design. Funding Source: SPLOST

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

20. BOC/Purchasing-Approval of Amendment #3 for Sunbelt Construction for additional items requested for the design phase of renovations for the Washington Street Community Center.

Funding Source: SPLOST

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

21. IT/Purchasing-Approval of Amendment #1 for the Newton County Administrative Building Emergency Power with Sunbelt. Emergency power retrofit Project #RFP 22-14

Amendment Cost: \$750,000.00/ total contract cost \$777,500.00 Funding Source: Capital Improvements

Commissioner Henderson motioned to approve Amendment #1 for the Newton County Administrative Building Emergency Power with Sunbelt. Emergency power retrofit Project #RFP 22-14, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

Discussion:

Will this be the total cost?

The contingency for escalation cost was included for the allowance cost of a generator.

22. Information Services-Approval of annual renewal of Statement of Work– ClosedPort Email Security spam quarantine system. Cost: \$6873.78/Funding Source: Information Services FY22 Budget

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve annual renewal of Statement of Work– ClosedPort Email Security spam quarantine system in the amount of \$6,873.78, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

23. Board Discussion/Consideration of relaxing Newton County’s Mask Policy and allow the wearing of a facial mask as optional.

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve relaxing of Newton County’s Mask Policy for the allowance of wearing a facial mask optional only, seconded by Commissioner Cowan and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

Discussion:

- number of people to be allowed in the building
- seating will not be changed
- the county will continue to follow CDC guidelines

24. Public Works-Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Mansfield and Addendum #1 with Newton Trails for paving Cricket Frog Trail inside the City of Mansfield.

Cost: \$50,000.00/Funding Source: City of Mansfield

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Mansfield and Addendum #1 with Newton Trails for paving Cricket Frog Trail inside the City of Mansfield as stated by the Public Works Director Chester Clegg, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

25. Human Resources-Approval of the MissionSquare Retirement Government Purchase Plan Adoption Agreement of the existing defined contribution Money Purchase Plan.

Human Resource Director, Amanda Shoemaker reported the IRS requires that we execute adoption of the 401 plan every 6 years due to changes in legislature and regulatory updates. The current plan will no longer limit the amount of loans that participants can acquire.

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

26. RESOLUTION # R031522

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JARRARD & DAVIS, LLP AS INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY AND APPROVING PROFESSIONAL FEE SCHEDULE

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve Resolution #R031522-Resolution utilizing Jarrard & Davis, LLP as Interim County Attorney and approving the Professional Fee Schedule, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed. Vote 3-2

Discussion:

- when will the bid be extended again for an in-house attorney
- the bid is expected go out the first of next month.
- The fee cap for the Interim County Attorney is \$650,000.00. exclusive to any litigation expenses.

26a) Approval to utilize ARPA Broadband funds in the amount of \$6,127.63 to extend broadband service in the underserved Dial Mill community area where broadband service is not accessible.

Cost: \$6,127.63 Funding Source: ARPA Broadband Funds

Commissioner Sanders motioned to approve utilization of ARPA Broadband funds in the amount of \$6,127.63 for the extension of broadband service in the Dial Mill area community in Newton County, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and passed unanimously. Vote 5-0

Discussion:

- Who will the check be written to
- service provider will be contacted directly
- ARPA funds for Broadband service to be distributed as stated in the Resolution

29. Citizen Comments

David Brannon
Robert Hughes
J.B. Brockman
Fred Johnson
Denise Williams
John Dobbs

30. Board Comments

31. Executive Session If Needed

32. Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Banes called for a motion to adjourn.
Commissioner Henderson motioned to adjourn this meeting at **8:43 p.m.**, seconded by
Commissioner Mason. Vote 5-0.

Marcello Banes, Chairman

ATTEST:

Susan G. Nolley