

Newton County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.  
Historic Courthouse-1124 Clark Street  
Covington, Georgia 30014

In attendance were, Chairman Banes, Commissioners Stan Edwards, Demond Mason, Alana Sanders, J.C. Henderson and Ronnie Cowan, Interim County Manager Jarvis Sims, Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter and Deputy Clerk Susan Nolley. In addition, other administrative staff and the media staff were present.

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman Banes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Invocation:** Commissioner Demond Mason

**3. Pledge of Allegiance:** led by Commissioner Alana Sanders

**4. Agenda Adoption:** Amended to add item #21a

21a) Board Discussion-Update on distribution of ARPA Funds and Agreement with Salvation Army.

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

**5. Citizens Comments:** None

**6. Reports from Chairman Banes:** Chairman Banes recognized and welcomed Asher Dozier, Vice President of the Economic Development Authority and Dr. Tarvareze Holston, President of Georgia Piedmont Technical College to share information and updates pertaining to educational programs and opportunity in the workforce.

EDA & GPTC will host a joint Regional Job Fair on April 12<sup>th</sup>. 10:00 am – 2: 00 pm. at the GPTC Covington/Newton Campus @ 8100 Bob Williams Parkway.

**7. Reports from ICM Jarvis Sims:** Jarvis read the departmental reports for March. Update on the Free Pet Vaccination Clinic that was held on March 26, 2022

Special recognition to James Brown, Director of Newton County Resources for being invited to attend the Design-Build Institute of America Water Wastewater/Conference in Orlando, Florida.

\*Soon to come-A monthly report of the Elected Officials

**8. Unfinished Business:** None to consider

### **9. Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items 9a, 9b, and 9c, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0.

9a) Approval of Minutes: March 15, 2022-Work Session 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

9b) Newton County Sheriff's Office Grant Proposal-FY21 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program Grant

9c) Service Area Agreement-Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority and Rockdale County.

### **Public Hearing**

Chairman Banes opened the Public Hearing @ 7:17 p.m.  
There was no discussion from the public.

Shena Applewhaite, Interim Director of Development Services made a request for the board to adopt Transmittal Resolution R04052022 and to approve the FY21 CIE (Capital Improvement Element)/(STWP) Short Term Work Program report to send to DCA for review and approval.

### **Transmittal Resolution R04052022**

**Whereas**, Newton County, Georgia has prepared an annual update to a Capital Improvements Element and Short Term Work Program; and

**Whereas**, the annual update of the Capital Improvements Element and Short Term Work Program was prepared in accordance with the Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements and the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning established by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, and a Public Hearing was held on April 5, 2022 at the Newton County Historic Courthouse, Commission Meeting Room.

**Be It Therefore Resolved**, that the Newton County Board of Commissioners does hereby submit the annual update of the Capital Improvements Element and Short Term Work Program covering the five-year period of 2021-2025 to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission for regional review, as per the requirements of the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, specifically including rule 110-12-1.04(2)(b)1. (“Annual Update Option”).

Adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

Commissioner Edwards motioned to adopt Transmittal Resolution R04052022 and approval of the FY21 CIE/STWP report, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0.

Public Hearing closed.

### **Agenda Items for Board Discussion and Consideration**

10. Approval to award Professional Services Agreement RFP 22-15 Resurfacing of Tennis and Basketball Courts to A Better Court to resurface the tennis and basketball courts of the Newton County Parks and Recreation Department. Cost: \$84,900.00. SPLOST Funded

Commissioner Henderson motioned approval to award Professional Services Agreement RFP 22-15 to A Better Court in the amount of \$84,900.00 to resurface the tennis and basketball courts of the Newton County Parks and Recreation Department, seconded by Commissioner Mason.

11. Approval of Ascension Program Management, LLC Task Order #C.09 Amendment #1- Proposal for Project Management Services for Springhill Community Park Project. Cost: \$78,000.00. SPLOST Funded

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve Ascension Program Management, LLC Task Order #C.09 Amendment 1-Proposal for Project Management Services for Springhill Community Park Project, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0.

12. Approval of Ascension Program Management, LLC Task Order #C.14 Proposal for Project Management Services– Newton County Westside Youth Facility @ Fairview Community Park. Cost: \$93,600.00. SPLOST Funded

Commissioner Sanders motioned to approve Ascension Program Management, LLC Task Order #C.14 Proposal for Project Management Services – Newton County Westside Youth Facility @ Fairview Community Park, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0.

13. Approval of Ascension Program Management Task Order #C6 Amendment #1 Proposal for Project Management Services-Newton County Parks & Recreation Facility Renovation Projects. Cost: \$ 62,400.00. SPLOST Funded

Commissioner Henderson motioned to approve Ascension Program Management Task Order #C6 Amendment #1 Proposal for Project Management Services-Newton County Parks & Recreation Facility Renovation Projects, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0.

14. Approval of Amendment #1 Phase 2 Denny Dobbs Skate Park Project #RFP 21-07 for Gridline Skateparks Inc. Cost: \$750,000.00. SPLOST Funded

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve Amendment # 1 Phase 2 Denny Dobbs Skate Park Project #RFQ 21-07 for Gridline Skateparks Inc., seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0.

15. Approval of Ascension Program Management Task Order #C.13 Proposal for Project Management Services –Newton County Senior Services Center Phase 2. Cost: \$46,900.00. SPLOST Funded

Commissioner Henderson motioned to approve of Ascension Program Management Task Order #C.13 Proposal for Project Management Services –Newton County Senior Services Center Phase 2, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0.

16. Approval of SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) Contract with AT&T. Annual cost: \$27, 336.00.

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve SIEM contract with AT&T as requested by Greg Mann, Director of Information Services, seconded by Commissioner Cowan and was passed unanimously.  
Vote 5-0.

17. Approval to amend the Agriculture Resources/Extension and 4-H FY22 budget for the purpose to purchase a van. Amendment amount \$10,000.00

Commissioner Sanders motioned to approve the Agriculture Resources/Extension and 4-H FY22 budget amendment amount of \$10,000 for the purpose to purchase a van, seconded by Commissioner Mason. Passed. Vote 4-0. \*Commissioner Henderson was not seated and did not participate when call for the vote was taken. 7:34 p.m.

\*Commissioner Henderson returned and seated. 7:36 p.m.

18. Approval of the City of Covington's request to install an Electric Vehicle Charging Station which will occupy 2 parking spaces at the rear of the Historic Courthouse. The required parking spaces are located next to the City of Covington's transformer and currently reserved for the Commissioners. The City of Covington will fund 100%.

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve the City of Covington's request to install an Electric Vehicle Charging Station in the 2 parking spaces behind the Historic Courthouse located next to the City of Covington's transformer, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0.

19. Approval to continue the contract agreement for Ashley Best between Newton County Board of Commissioners and the Georgia Board of Regents of the University of Georgia on behalf of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. Contract amount: \$58,288.00. Contract period July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve the contract agreement for Ashley Best between Newton County Board of Commissioners and the Georgia Board of Regents of the University of Georgia on behalf of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0.

20. Approval to award Bid #22-10 PI 0015096 to Wrights Brothers Construction for the Yellow River bridge replacement project @ CR511/Brown Bridge Road. Cost: \$8,109,119.82.

Commissioner Henderson motioned to approve to award Bid #22-10 PI 0015096 to Wright Brothers Construction, seconded by Commissioner Cowan and was passed unanimously.

21. Board Discussion/Consideration of the request to waive penalties and interest due on unpaid taxes for Linda Elnabarawy in the amount of \$2,164.72. Property address: 3835 Mote Road Covington, Georgia 30016.

Commissioner Cowan motioned to deny the request, Commissioner Henderson seconded. Denied. Vote 5-0

21a) Board Discussion- ARPA Funds Distribution Agreement with Salvation Army update.

County Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter reported the Salvation Army requires 15% of the initial \$700,000.00 ARPA funds it will distribute to do the work. The agency has been working for two weeks to complete the paperwork that is required for the job.

In addition, Patrick said he recommended to require applicants to have no more than 150% of the median family income to qualify for assistance. That amount is based on what is required to qualify for the Federal Government Housing Assistance Fund.

## **22. Alcohol License**

### **Final Reading**

United Brown Bridge Inc. (Food Land) 15036 Brown Bridge Road Covington, GA 30016.

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve the final reading for United Brown Bridge Inc. 15036 Brown Bridge Road Covington, GA 30016, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously. Vote 5-0.

## **23. Citizen Comments**

Lloyd Jackson expressed concerns regarding safety and parking due to the single entry of his subdivision and a recent fire in March that destroyed a home.

Trevor Berry said there is new construction in the Lyndhurst subdivision and he has concerns of crime, would like to know the process to have security lights placed in the subdivision.

Fred Johnson thanked the board for approving the Springhill Community Park project, and questioned the timeline for the bridge replacement project @ Brown Bridge and Yellow River.

## **24. Board Comments**

Commissioner Edwards commented on the issues of entrances of past platted subdivision and suggested further review of all PUD (Planned Urban Development) zonings in the county.

Commissioner Mason gave the startup process of the streetlight petition in response to the inquiry of Mr. Berry of Lyndhurst subdivision and offered his assistance.

Commissioner Sanders acknowledged and reiterated the danger and concern of Mr. Jackson regarding the single entry of his subdivision.

Commissioner Henderson commented on the R.L. Cousins building.

Commissioner Cowan said that he is excited about Springhill Park and he feels it is a good plan and more information to come out soon.

ICM Jarvis Sims announced the Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department to be held @ City Pond Park, Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

## **25. Executive Session** Enter into Executive Session for the purpose to discuss pending Litigation. 8:15 p.m.

Commissioner Edwards motioned to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Mason.

**26. Adjournment:** There being no further business, Chairman Banes called for a motion to adjourn. **8:50 p.m.** Commissioner Mason motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and was passed unanimously.

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**Marcello Banes, Chairman**

ATTEST:

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Susan G. Nolley

Deputy Clerk