

**Newton County Board of Commissioners**  
**1124 Clark Street**  
**Covington, GA 30014**  
**May 18, 2021**

**Minutes**

7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Banes called the meeting to order at 7:01. The entire Board was in attendance with exception of Commissioner Edwards as he was connected telephonically. Also present, County Manager Lloyd Kerr, County Attorney Megan Martin and Acting as Clerk Judy Johnson, Deputy Clerk Susan Nolley

**Invocation** Commissioner Henderson

**Pledge of Allegiance** Led by Commissioner Mason

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Banes requested a motion to approve the agenda as presented and noted to include agenda item 10a. A motion was made by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Cowan and was passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Victoria Redding

Mary James

Verna (\*unintelligible)

Thomas Buckner

**CHAIRMANS REPORT:** None

**COUNTY MANAGERS REPORT:**

Lloyd Kerr reported:

Significant progress at Station 4 and completion could possibly be ahead of schedule.

Public Works has collected 1571 bags of trash bringing the total to approximately 31 tons for the Adopt-A- Road Program.

A PowerPoint with upcoming county activities and past events was shared. This information is also available @ [www.co.newton.ga.us](http://www.co.newton.ga.us)

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**7:30 Zonings-Public Hearings**

The applicant and those in favor of the petition are allowed ten minutes to address the Board. In addition, ten minutes are allotted for those in opposition of the petition.

**Appeal Case #APP21-00001**

Applicant(s): Timothy and Cheryl Bell

Location: 520 Smith Store Road

Map and Parcel #14-250

District 2 (Two)

FLUM: DN (Development Node)

Zoning: AR (Agricultural Residential)

Acreage: 1.4 Acres

The applicant(s) appeared before the Board of Commissioners May 4<sup>th</sup> due to the denial of Variance Case #VAR21-000003. The petition was tabled until May 18<sup>th</sup> to allow staff time and opportunity for thorough research of previous ordinances regarding Truck Parking regulations. In findings, per Planning and Zoning the allowance of parking one (1) Commercial Dump Truck is permitted as grandfathered (legal-non conforming).

Commissioner Mason made a motion to approve parking of one (1) Commercial Dump Truck as grandfathered (legal-non conforming), seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Vote passed 3-1-1 with Commissioner Henderson abstaining, Commissioner Sanders opposed.

### **Conditional Use Permit**

#### **Case # CUP21-000001:**

Applicant(s) Cindy Ramos and Marbella Ayala

Location: 19 Poplar Hill Road

Map and Parcel #104-003

District 5 (Five)

FLUM: AF (Farming Agricultural)

Zoning: A (Agricultural)

Acreage: 45.06 Acres

The applicant(s) request is to establish a Special Events Facility for weddings, reunions and other event gatherings.

**Applicant(s) has requested the Board to table for 60 days for the purpose to obtain a survey as needed for setbacks and to purchase a building permit.**

**\*Planning and Zoning did advise they received complaints that the building was being constructed without a permit. This matter has been addressed and a Stop Work Order has been issued due to the findings of no building permit.**

Commissioner Cowan made a motion to table for 60 days with contingency that no special events be held on the property during this time, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and passed unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Banes called for motion to approve Consent Agenda items as listed. The motion was made by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and passed unanimously.

Finance Department requests to have such as surplus property:

- 1991 Ford F350 Truck
- IT Data Tapes
- 17 Push/Riding mowers
- 2 Weed Eaters
- 1 Chainsaw

County Clerk: Approval of SCM minutes dated February 2, 2021

Approval of ES minutes dated May 4, 2021

### **Board Discussion/Considerations**

**External Appropriations:** County Attorney, Megan Martin addressed the Board giving clarification and the purpose of the External Appropriations policy. A PowerPoint document was presented with details to include a timeline for submission and consideration.

Lloyd Kerr made recommendation that the Board table until a later date and not make a decision to adopt the policy at this time for further research and to make adjustments.

Attorney Megan Martin commented that the policy can be adopted and put in place and amended at any time.

Lloyd Kerr added, Newton County currently has Standards and Operations of Procedures policies that follow in similarity with the proposed External Appropriations policy.

A motion to approve the External Appropriations policy as written by County Attorney Meghan Martin was made by Commissioner Sanders, and seconded by Commissioner Mason and passed unanimously.

**Juneteenth Festival:** County Attorney Meghan Martin stated that she and the entire Board had received an email stating three Commissioners wished to recall their previous vote on May 4, 2021 for funding \$1,500 to the Black Historical Society for the Juneteenth Festival. The County Attorney recommends the Board vote to rescind the previous motion made to approve the funding. Chairman Banes called for a motion to rescind, motion made by Commissioner Cowan, seconded by Commissioner Mason, passed 3-2. Commissioners Sanders and Henderson opposed.

### **Financial Reports for April 20, 2021**

Brittany White gave a PowerPoint presentation of the following:

General Fund Revenue

General Fund Expenditures

General Fund Totals

Enterprise Funds

2017 SPLOST

2017 SPLOST Collections

Impact Fee Funds

### **Budget Transfers**

(Contingency positions list Miscellaneous Depts.)

1. Facilities Maintenance Tech

2. Kitchen Custodian Aid @ Senior Services

3. Receptionist @ Senior Services

4. 5 Equipment Operators @ Public Works

5. 2 Animal Control Officer

5. Deputy Clerk for Clerk of Courts

6. Assistant Training Coordinator

7. Investigator for District Attorney

8. 16 Fire Fighters EMT Recruits

A call for motion to approve budget transfers from the Contingency Fund to fill new positions as listed by Chairman Banes. Motion was made by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Mason to approve budget transfers and passed unanimously.

**Public Works Department requests to transfer funds to the Capital Line for the purchase of two tractors.** A motion was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Commissioner Sanders and passed unanimously.

**Newton County Parks and Recreation requests a motion to disperse the \$316,000.00 balance of the Recreation Commission Appropriation funds into the Newton County Recreation Capital Improvements funds for the use of Capital Projects.** Commissioner Cowan made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mason and passed 4-0. \*Commissioner Edwards was not telephonically connected and no longer participating .

**Animal Services requests a motion to increase the shelter fee revenue to allow increase in the medical services expenditures.** Commissioner Cowan made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Sanders.  
Vote 3-1-0. Commissioner Henderson abstained.

**GEFA 02L21WJ (Debt Service Fund) \*inadvertently omitted from FY21 Budget**  
Commissioner Cowan made the motion acknowledging recognition, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and passed 4-0.

**GIS Department requests motion to approve the Professional Service agreement funding as indicated with Geographic Information Services, Inc.** Commissioner Henderson made motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Cowan, passed 4-0.

**Public Works request a motion for approval to purchase 2 John Deere Tractors from Ag-Pro. The total cost of \$162,902.02 is budgeted in the Public Works General Fund FY 2021.**  
Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mason, passed 4-0.

**Purchasing Department requests approval for renewal of Bonfire. The cost is \$5,000.00 annually for 3 years and is budgeted in General Funds.** Commissioner Henderson made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, passed 4-0.

**Newton County Parks and Recreation request approval of fees**  
Commissioner Henderson made motion to approve fees as provided, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, passed 4-0.

**Senior Services requests approval of a GA Food Contract (Home Delivered Meals for Senior Citizens) for FY2021-2022. Funds are budgeted and provided by State, Federal and private funding.** Commissioner Henderson made motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mason, passed 4-0.

**Citizen Comments**

Thelma Starr Nolley  
Denise Williams  
Archie Shepherd  
Nikki Church  
Susan Jackson

**Board Comments**

Commissioner Mason  
Commissioner Sanders  
Commissioner Henderson  
Commissioner Cowan

**Executive Session**

No executive session

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Henderson made motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sanders, passed unanimously.

---

Susan G Nolley, Deputy Clerk

---

Marcello Banes, Chairman