

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

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Banes
2. **Invocation:** Commissioner Mason
3. **Pledge:** led by Commissioner Edwards
4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairman Banes stated he would like to add agenda items:
 - 12a) Newton County Chamber of Commerce – David Kent, Board Chairman
 - 12b) Salvation Army to reallocate ARPA fundsCommissioner Edwards motioned to approve adoption of the agenda to add item 12a and 12b, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.
5. **Citizen Comments:** None
6. **Reports from Chairman Banes:**
7. **Reports from ICM Jarvis Sims**
 - 1st Coffee and Conversation with the ICM update
 - Working with PIO and Information Services to upgrade website
 - Departmental Updates
8. **Unfinished Business:** None to consider
9. **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve Consent Agenda items as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mason as was passed unanimously.

 - 9a) Approval of the Minutes: 05/17/2022 Work Session 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m. Special Called Meeting 05/31/2022 5:00 p.m.
 - 9b) Board Appointment(s): Ms. Lisa Feuer-Library Board/District 3
 - 9c) Newton County Adult Drug Court/Superior Court
Acceptance of 2023 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Grant Award
Grant Amount: \$262,497.00
 - 9d) Juvenile Mental Health Court/Juvenile Court
Acceptance of 2023 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Grant Award
Grant Amount: \$99,038.00
 - 9e) Newton County Veterans Court/Superior Court
Acceptance of 2023 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Grant Award
Grant Amount: \$92,353.00
 - 9f) Newton Co. Juvenile Family Treatment Court/Juvenile Court
Acceptance of 2023 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Grant Award
Grant Amount: \$72,603.00
 - 9g) Newton County Juvenile Mental Health Court/Superior Court
Acceptance of 2023 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Grant Award
Grant Amount: \$299,511.00
 - 9h) Newton County Sheriff's Office-Grant Proposal to accept supplemental RSAT Funding.
Grant Amount: \$65,101.00 through the (CJCC) Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Agenda Items for Board Discussion/Consideration

10. District Attorney Randy McGinley presented a letter to the board requesting approval for his state paid employees that are assigned to Newton County receive the same raise to their county supplement equal to the percentage raise to be received by County employees. The state paid employees include the Newton County Office Manager, the Newton County Chief Investigator and 6 Assistant District Attorney's.

Commissioner Cowan motioned to the request, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously.

11. Approval for (3) service provider contracts for FY 2023 for required Juvenile Accountability Courts including treatment provider and attorney. Total not to exceed \$116,000.00 Funding Source: Juvenile Court budget and grant funding.

Southeastern Psychological Associates, Inc., (Behavioral Court)
Pemberton Law, LLC, (Family Treatment Court)
Southeastern Psychological Associates, Inc., (Family Treatment Court)

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously.

12. Approval for FY 2023 4 contracts for indigent defense program, including 3 attorneys and court reporter. Cost: \$167,000.00 Funding Source: Juvenile Court Budget

Pemberton Law, LLC,
Giget C. Johnson, Attorney at Law
DeVona B. Roseberry, Attorney at Law
Cindy McCranie

Commissioner Henderson motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Cowan and was passed unanimously.

- 12a David Kent, Board Chairman, Newton County Chamber of Commerce addressed the board referencing future growth, land use, planning and community development with the announcement of the Rivian plant coming to this area. Rivian is one of the largest economic development projects in the history of Georgia.

Mr. Kent stated that the Chamber board and staff has had discussions regarding the potential growth and possible population surge, and they would like to suggest the county seek additional help and in preparation, the Chamber is willing to commit with funding to offset the cost of hiring an independent consultant that has expertise in land planning and zoning to assist.

Chairman Banes opened the floor for Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter to expound.

Patrick said that this is not an uncommon procedure for local governments to go through when they revisit their zoning codes.

Patrick offered to draft a proposal along with ICM Jarvis Sims and staff if the board approves, adding that it would be extensive and time consuming and an expensive proposition.

Discussion

Commissioner Mason inquired on:

- Timing of preparation
- Invest/Cost/time line
- Concern of the process and the expense
- Moratorium

Patrick recommends separating this conversation from the moratorium. The moratorium is scheduled to be lifted in July and suggested, a time good time to address this is when you address your comprehensive plan.

The proposal will be very extensive and a several month process and the cost will very well be in six figures, adding that this is a substantial project that will be cost effective if added with the comprehensive plan.

ICM Sims added, that he feels that what is being presented along with comprehensive plan would be perfect timing with and agrees the need for a third party that specializes in this type of service would be beneficial to the county.

Commissioner Henderson expressed concern for not receiving any information about Rivian prior to seeing and hearing of it publicly and said there is need for planning and the Commissioners and residents should be involved because of the cost.

Commissioner Sanders questioned where would the funding come from if the county decides to move forward, and she agrees the residents should be involved.

ICM Sims said upon approval of the board, it could possibly be added to the proposed budget.

Commissioner Sanders said that she would be against adding it to the proposed budget and she has faith in the employees doing the job.

ICM Sims said he has spoken with Interim Director of Development Services, Shena Applewhaithe and she was excited about having the expertise assistance on this.

ICM Sims added, he received notification that the comprehensive plan is due in 2023 and Ms. Applewhaithe has indicated that she would appreciate the assistance of a third party. Commissioner Cowan commented, Rivian will not be located in Newton County, but the affects and impact of it will be, and expressed the need of the comprehensive plan as recommended by the county attorney.

Commissioner Cowan added in the best interest of the county, and to avoid any potential problems with moratorium, he is in support of hiring a consultant because of it being complicated.

Commissioner Edwards added the time is now, and agrees that with the timing of the comprehensive plan being due, the consultant would help, in addition to potential projects.

Commissioner Edwards mentioned if it's possible that ARPA funds could assist with the cost, and stated that he is in support of hiring a consultant.

Patrick reiterated that planning is the greater affect in this instance opposed to zoning and the consultant will assist with the land use element consistent with the comprehensive plan.

Patrick suggested to reach out to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission which provides this type of service.

Chairman Banes said the county is a member of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission and he didn't think that the service would be that expensive.

Commissioner Mason questioned if there was a timeline of the cost and expense.

Patrick suggested the board vote tonight to direct the staff to initiate a request for a proposal of qualifications for these services to include the comprehensive plan and the zoning.

ICM Sims added that an RFQ would be more appropriate.

Commissioner Edwards stated he would like for the partnership continue with the input of the Chamber and suggested ICM Sims to incorporate them as we move forward.

Commissioner Henderson questioned, if an estimate of the cost had been determined.

Chairman Banes said he wasn't exactly sure, but possibly around \$100,000.00, and he could take a look to see what the cost was for the strategic planning.

Chairman Banes called for the vote and stated that if you would like for the Chamber to be involved, state that in the motion.

Patrick stated if this meets the approval of the board, he recommends the motion to state; a motion to direct the County Manager to initiate a request for qualifications from consultants to commence work on the comprehensive plan and a zoning review and to solicit and to accept the communication and support from the Newton County Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve as stated by the county attorney, a motion to direct the County Manager to initiate a request for qualifications from consultants to commence work on the comprehensive plan and a zoning review to solicit and to accept the communication and support of the Newton County Chamber of Commerce, seconded by Commissioner Henderson.

Discussion

ICM Sims noted: he had received notification and per Ms. Applewhaithe, there is presently an RFQ out for the comprehensive plan, and asked if changes would be needed.

Patrick suggested to amend the motion to call for zoning services in connection with the comprehensive plan and support of the Newton County Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Cowan motioned to amend his previous motion to state as suggested by the County attorney; a motion to direct the County Manager to call for zoning services in connection with the comprehensive plan and support of the Newton County Chamber of Commerce, seconded by Commissioner Henderson.

Discussion

Commissioner Edwards asked Patrick for clarity of the amendment statement.

Patrick replied, planning and zoning goes hand in hand and being that the planning element is already out of the way, only add zoning.

Chairman Banes added, if the County Manager wants to specify to make sure that we look heavily at the planning, it could be done.

Commissioner Edwards said that he was satisfied.

Chairman Banes asked if there was any more discussion and called for the vote.
Vote 5-0. Passed unanimously.

12b ICM Sims stated the Salvation Army has requested to change their initial budget from

utilities to rental and mortgage in the amount of \$125,000.00 with findings that more citizens are needing assistance with rent and mortgage versus utilities.

Patrick added, there are no additional funds needed at this time, and this request is just to shift a line item.

Chairman Banes called for a motion

Commissioner Henderson motioned to approve the request of the Salvation Army to change their budget for utilities assistance to rental and mortgage assistance in the amount of \$125, 000.00, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

The Request for Newton County Board of Commissioners to adopt Resolution R060722.
R060722-A RESOLUTION TERMINATING LEASES OF COMMUNITY CENTERS AND FACILITIES; APPROVING UNIFORM POLICIES GOVERNING COMMUNITY CENTERS AND FACILITIES; AND APPROVING APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR LEASES OF COMMUNITY CENTERS AND FACILITIES.

Chairman Banes called for a motion.

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve for allowance of discussion, seconded by Commissioner Mason.

Discussion

- Not enough time allowed to review the lease documents
- Past and current operation and occupancy of facilities
- Terms of the lease agreements of non-governmental properties
- Procedural methods for handling lease agreements
- Termination of current lease agreements
- Update and put lease agreements in place
- Uniformity of lease agreements
- Board control of county property
- At will lease for current tenants

Patrick suggested the board allow he and ICM Sims the opportunity to review and revise the lease documents, to expand, eliminate and to clean it up legally. County owned facilities will be distinguished in the lease.

Commissioner Cowan motioned to withdraw his motion, and Commissioner Henderson seconded. Resolution R060722 will be presented at a later date.

14. Citizen Comments

Ms. Barbara Morgan-Read a publication letter regarding mass shootings/ expressed concerns regarding gun control.

Mr. Archie Shepherd-voiced objection of the proposed leasing agreement, policies and procedures.

Mr. Howard Griggs-voiced concerns of the history of the T.K. Adams Band Room

Mr. Johnny Stone-concerns of tax increase, suggested a tax freeze, sr. citizen school tax, gun control.

Ms. Thelma Nolley-voiced concerns of tax increase, gun control and leasing of the facilities.

Ms. Annette Austin-voiced concerns of the proposed facilities lease and gun control.

15. Board Comments

Commissioner Mason-Movie in the Park 7:00 p.m. June 10th @ Denny Dobbs Park
Facebook Live Community Conversation (A Child's Voice/A Child's Advocacy) June 9th @ 6:00 p.m.,

Washington Street Community Ctr. Hosts Jazz in the Village June 11th 7:00 p.m. Porterdale Gymnasium

African American Male Symposium 10:00 -2:00 p.m. June 25th @ New Birth Missionary Baptist Church

Commissioner Sanders-Dinner en Rouge @ 7:00 p.m. June 11th Legion Field
Juneteenth Parade and Celebration June 18th

Westside Youth Facility Discussion June Newton County Sheriff's Office Westside Precinct
June 23rd @ 6:00 p.m, Town Hall meeting (District 4) June 27th,

Joint Heirs Church Community Day July 9th, Ladies Retreat August 20th @ 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Henderson-Building dedication to Mr. T.K. Adams, Juneteenth Parade and Celebration,

Commissioner Cowan-Thanked the ICM Jarvis Sims for preparation and presentation of Resolution R060722. Acknowledged the board for the discussion and input of the Resolution, donation for Juneteenth.

Chairman Banes announced the County will cover the cost for rental of Legion Field for the Juneteenth Celebration.

Adjourn 9:13 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Banes called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Henderson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Cowan.

Marcello Banes Chairman

ATTEST:

Susan G. Nolley Deputy Clerk