

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
1124 Clark Street
Covington, Georgia

June 27, 2023
6:00 p.m.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MINUTES

Present: Chairman Marcello Banes, Commissioners' Stan Edwards, Demond Mason, Alana Sanders, J.C. Henderson, Ronnie Cowan, County Manager Harold Cooper, County Attorney Priya Patel and Clerk Jackie Smith

Others Present: Large group of employees/citizens.

Chairman Banes called the meeting to order, and extended a welcome to those present. The invocation was given by Commissioner Demond Mason and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Stan Edwards.

Chairman Banes recognized County Manager Harold Cooper who noted that the BOC on June 15th was presented the proposed budget, and on June 20th they held a public hearing to receive citizen comments. He then recognized the county finance director, Brittany White.

COUNTY MANAGER/FINANCE: DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION R062723 – ADOPTION OF THE FY24 BUDGET.

Chairman Banes recognized county manager Harold Cooper. Mr. Cooper noted that on June 13th the proposed budget was presented to the board. On June 20th a public hearing was held to receive citizen comments. He then yielded the balance of his time to Brittany White to address the board and PowerPoint presentation.

- Presented by finance director Brittany White
- Recapped the proposed budget
- Presented PowerPoint presentation
- PP is attached to these minutes.
- 26% growth in the net digest
- Noted the COLA was reduced from 5% to 4%.
- Slight reduction in millage rate from 9.454 to 8.439.

Commissioner Sanders questioned the BOC travel & training budget and Ms. White explained this fiscal year the BOC was not over the travel budget, but they were over the training budget.

Commissioner Sanders also wanted to make sure that Juneteenth is budgeted for in the FY24 budget. She also voiced concerns she received from citizens regarding tax payer dollars being used to support Gaither's.

Brief discussion regarding Gaither's & Factory Shoals Park. Ms. White explained they are budgeted together...\$200,000.
\$134,000 – Factory Shoals and \$76,000 Gaither's.

Motion by Commissioner Cowan, second by Commissioner Edwards, to approve Resolution R062723, Adopting the annual budget for fiscal year 2024 beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.
Unanimously Approved (5/0)

COUNTY MANAGER/HUMAN RESOURCES: APPROVAL OF THE FY2024 HOLIDAY CALENDAR.

- Presented by human resource director Amanda Shoemaker.
- FY2024 Holiday Calendar is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Mason, to approve the FY2024 Holiday Calendar as presented.
Unanimously Approved (5/0)

COUNTY MANAGER/FINANCE: DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION R062723A – ADOPTION OF FUNDING FOR N.C. APPROPRIATIONS.

Presenter: Brittany White, Finance Director

Ms. White noted the following entities provide services that are very beneficial to our Newton County citizens:

- McIntosh Trail ECD Council, Inc.
- Newton County Community Partnership
- Nelson Heights Community Center
- Newton County Board of Health
- Washington Street Community Center
- Newton County Library System
- View Point Health
- Newton County IDA
- Newton County DFCS
- Alcovy CASA, Inc.
- Highway 278 CID
- Resolution R062723A is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Cowan, to approve Resolution R062723A, Adoption of funding for Newton County Appropriations.
Unanimously Approved (5/0)

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES: DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF
RESOLUTION R062723B - ADOPTION OF NEWTON COUNTY'S
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE 2023.**

- Presented by Shena Applewhaite, Development Services Director
- Briefly gave a recap of the process for adoption.
- Comp Plan has been approved by DCA
- Must be sent to NEGRC within 7 days of adoption.
- Copy of Resolution 062723B is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Cowan, to approve Resolution on R062723B – Adoption of Newton County’s Comprehensive Plan Update 2023.

Unanimously Approved (5/0)

With there being no further business, a motion by Commissioner Henderson, second by Commissioner Mason, the meeting adjourned @ 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Smith, County Clerk

Marcello Banes, Chairman