

Newton County Board of Commissioners
Work Session
Minutes
October 11, 2022
6:00 p.m.
Historic Courthouse-1124 Clark Street
Covington, Georgia 30014

Present 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. Other administrative staff and the media staff were also present.

Chairman Banes called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Cowan gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Edwards.

Chairman Banes opened the floor to Interim County Manager Jarvis Sims.

Jarvis opened the floor to Jeff Prine, of Ascension Program Management to give the presentation.

Jeff Prine said the goal tonight was to present the information of the Westside Youth Facility Site Assessment & Evaluation, to answer questions and proceed with the next steps on to how to move forward as direction is given.

Point presentation was of the displayed and handouts were given to the board. A copy of the presentation is attached and officially a part of the minutes.

Jarvis thanked Jeff for the presentation.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Sanders stated she did an Open Records Request three months ago and there has never been a site analysis for any other commissioner for projects in their district and expressed it is very strategic.

Commissioner Cowan commented, Springhill Park was set aside as a SPLOST project by a previous board and he personally had conducted meetings with the community for site suggestions. The site was predominately selected by residents of the community.

Commissioner Mason commented he sat on the prior board and there were no specifics that determined the facility had to be placed in district three, only on the west side. The Westside encompasses three different district, district two (2), three (3) and four (4) and the facility will serve all three districts.

Jarvis added, the site selections presented, were for all three districts that represent the west side and different strategies are being provided to move the county forward in making better decisions.

Commissioner Henderson commented the prior board wanted to do something in all districts and expressed the need for something nice to be in district three and for the kids in the community.

Chairman Banes stated for clarification, the discussion is about the Westside Youth Facility and a location for the facility, not a park. The park will be on the next SPLOST.

Commissioner Sanders expressed concerns about crime and the lack of activities accessible for youth in district 3.

Jarvis reiterated the purpose of the presentation was to bring the best locations in the three districts before the board and for the board to make the best decision for the county. No prejudice is being shown towards any particular district or the sites presented, they are only options.

Chairman Banes asked Jeff what he needs from the board tonight.

Jeff commented that he basically needs direction on how the board wants to move forward, the project is at a standstill until they get to the next point.

Chairman Banes said he was going to give the commissioners an opportunity to take the sites home for further review.

Chairman Banes took a consensus to see if the board wanted to go into executive session for additional discussion. There will be no executive session.

The board discussed various property sizes and it's uses.

Chairman Banes called for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Edwards motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

7:25 p.m.

Adjourn

Marcello Banes Chairman

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan G. Nolley Deputy Clerk