

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
April 3, 2007
MINUTES

Present: Chairman Aaron Varner, Commissioners Mort Ewing, Earnest Simmons, Ester Fleming, Jr., J.C. Henderson, and Monty Laster, Administrative Officer John Middleton, County Attorney Tommy Craig, Jenny Carter, James Griffin, and County Clerk Jackie Smith

Newspaper: Covington News – Rachel Osborn
Newton Citizen – Crystal Tatum
Group of citizens

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order, extended a welcome and read the thought for the day. Commissioner Mort Ewing gave the invocation and Chairman Varner led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great Flag.

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED MARCH 20, 2007

Motion: To approve the Minutes dated March 20, 2007 as written.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

LETTER OF CONSENT – AGAPE SANCTUARY FOR THE CHILDREN, INC.

- Applicant was not present at meeting.
- Commissioner Henderson asked the County Attorney if an individual commissioner could write a letter of support and he said that would not be acceptable.
- Chairman Varner suggested that the petitioner get a letter of support from those agencies that would be sending her clients.

Motion: To deny the request for a letter of consent for Agape Sanctuary for the Children, Inc.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

Motion Carried with Commissioner Simmons and Commissioner Henderson voting in opposition to the motion.

TREADWELL, TAMPLIN & COMPANY – AUDITORS REPORT

Auditors Wayne Tamplin and Pat Malcolm from Treadwell, Tamplin & Company appeared before the board to give a synopsis of the audit – June 30, 2006.

A copy is made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Ewing expressed appreciation to Mr. Middleton, Mrs. Allen and staff for a job well done. The board also expressed thanks to Mr. Tamplin and Mrs. Malcolm for all their work and assistance.

Motion: To accept the Audit as presented by Treadwell, Tamplin & Company.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

Motion Carried

SENIOR SERVICES, INC. PRESENTATION

Attorney James Griffin along with the Senior Services Board appeared before the board to provide an update.

Attorney Griffin noted the following:

- Newton County Senior Service, Inc. began in 2005
- Initial Board of Directors was Board of Commissioners
- Last year Board of Commissioners appointed the present Board of Directors. (One from each district).
- This Board of Directs has submitted to IRS an application for Tax Exempt Status (Form 1023)

Mr. Benny Phillips (Chairman of Board)

- On behalf of BOD expressed appreciation to serve and the wonderful job Ms. Josephine Brown does for the seniors.

No official action taken.

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE PROCLAMATION

Chairman Varner noted that April is Prevent Child Abuse Month in Georgia and presented proclamation for board approval. A copy of proclamation is made part of these minutes.

Motion: To adopt the proclamation for April 2007 as Prevent Child Abuse Month.

Proposed by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

NOTE: CHAIRMAN VARNER OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING

O-040307 ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE ORDINANCE

Administrative Officer John Middleton presented amendment to board and stated this amendment was discussed at earlier work sessions.

Chairman Varner requested questions and/or comments from the audience, but none were given.

Motion: To approve O-040307 Ordinance to adopt Amendments to the Development Impact Fee Ordinance.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

R040307 A TRANSMITTAL RESOLUTION FOR CIE & STWP

Administrative Officer John Middleton noted this resolution is a housekeeping measure that is required by the state.

Motion: To approve R040307 a Transmittal Resolution for Newton County's Capital Improvement Element and Short Term Work Program as presented.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Note: The original resolution is contained in file number R040307, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.

Chairman Varner closed the Public Hearing.

GAITHER PLANTATION MASTER PLAN

Commissioner Henderson:

- Expressed thanks to all the people who have worked so hard to make such a wonderful place for the citizens to enjoy and children to be educated.
- Appreciates the influence that Gaither Plantation has had throughout county.
- Need more places like this where the community can come together.

Commissioner Ewing:

- Gave a synopsis of the history of this great place.
- Board purchased in 1996 when planning for another reservoir
- Board had a dream to set aside 2000 acres and within this acreage sat Gaither Plantation.
- Friends of Gaither's was formed
- Expressed thanks for all the money, time, and hard work that volunteers have put towards the success of Gaither's.
- Money has been raised by special events and movies (location for a movie) over the past ten years as well as donations from people in the community.

Administrative Officer John Middleton:

- Met with people
- Met with JJ&G
- Reviewed Master Plan
- 75% paid for by FOG (Friends of Gaither's)
- 25% from Bear Creek Fund
- FOG is seeking approval for Gaither's to be placed on the National Historic Register.

Motion: To approve the Gaither Plantation Master Plan as outlined and presented for an amount not to exceed \$55,300.00 with 75% of cost being paid for by Friends of Gaither's and 25% of cost from the Bear Creek Fund as recommended by FOG and Purchasing.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

FIRE STATION ALERTING SYSTEM FOR THE 911 SYSTEMS

Administrative Officer John Middleton noted the following:

- Change order to the original contract
- Original contract approved January 2006
- Allows the communication center to manage the assets of multiple fire stations.
- Recommends approval of change order

Motion: To approve the Change Order to the contract with M/A-Com (Tyco Electronics) for a not to exceed amount of \$119,099.49 as presented.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried

TASK ORDER #5 FOR TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANT URS

County Engineer Kevin Walter appeared before the board to present this request.

- Discussed at prior work session
- BOC wanted to move forward
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)
- Grant for \$250,000 from ARC
- Requires an additional \$62,500 match by county
- The Center for Community Planning & Preservation will provide the public involvement portion of this task under a separate agreement with the county for a note to exceed amount of \$40,000 that will be funded by SPLOST.
- URS cost is not to exceed \$272,500.00
- \$250,000 will be provided by ARC
- \$22,500 will be funded by SPLOST
- Newton County's total cost is \$62,500

Motion: To approve Task Order #5 for Transportation Consultants URS in an amount not to exceed \$272,500, and a purchase order to the Center in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

Second by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Motion Carried

ALCOHOL LICENSE:

First Reading

West Fork Convenience Store

Charleston Place

Owners: Hubert White (100%)

District Two

First Reading

Texaco Food Mart

2156 Hwy. 81

Oxford, Georgia 30354

Owner: Showkat Hossain (100%)

District Five

COUNTY CHECKS:

Motion: To approve the county checks as read by the chairman.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried

STREETLIGHTS:

The Fields @ Twin Rivers

District One

Motion: To approve the streetlight request for The Fields @ Twin Rivers located in the first commission district.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

Fairview Estates

District 3

Motion: To approve the streetlight request for Fairview Estates located in the third commission district.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 8:25 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel, pending litigation.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

REGULAR SESSION

Time: 8:55 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Regular Session

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

ADJOURN

Time: 8:56 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie B. Smith
County Clerk

