

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
June 7, 2011
MINUTES

Present: Chairman Kathy Morgan, Commissioner's Mort Ewing, Lanier Sims, Nancy Schulz, J.C. Henderson, and Tim Fleming; Administrative Officer John Middleton, Attorney Jenny Carter, & Clerk Jackie Smith

Newspaper: Covington News-Gabe Khouli
Newton Citizen- Crystal Tatum
Small group of citizens

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Chamber President Hunter Hall appeared before the board to give an update on Economic Development in Newton County.

- Handout "Your Return On Investment"
- Handout "Tourism Works"
- Noted tourists spent \$72.75 million in Newton County in 2009.
- 900 jobs were generate
- Local Taxes: \$2.27 million
- Continues to work with small businesses during rough economy

APPROVAL OF BOC W/S MINUTES DATED MAY 17, 2011

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Motion by Commissioner Schulz, and seconded by Commissioner Henderson to approve the BOC WS Minutes dated May 17, 2011, and BOC Minutes dated May 17, 2011 as printed in board book.

Motion carried unanimously

SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION FOR KCNB

Administrative Officer/CFO John Middleton presented this request to the board on behalf of KCNB.

- Keep America Beautiful/Waste Management Think Green Grant
- To be used for beautification projects
- Landfill Entrance
- No matching funds required
- Minimal cost to water plants/trees
- Source for watering: Landfill budget

Motion by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve KCNB request to apply for the Keep America Beautiful/Waste Management Think Green Grant as outlined by Mr. Middleton and printed in board packet.

Motion carried unanimously

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY/GOVDEALS FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Administrative Officer/CFO John Middleton presented this request to the board on behalf of the Sheriff's Office.

- To be placed on GovDeals
- Roketa GoCart Model #SLGK-150B Vin #A1ZGCEBCK55029038
- Value: \$400.00 (approximately)

Motion by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Henderson to declare as Surplus Property and to be sold on GovDeals the following:

- Roketa GoCart Model #SLGK-150B Vin #A1ZGCEBCK55029038

Motion carried unanimously

R060711 – FEE SCHEDULE FOR PROCESSING OF ADULT ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Attorney Jenny Carter appeared before the board to present the Adult Entertainment License Application Fee Schedule.

- Board approved Adult Entertainment Ordinance on June 6th
- Request to approve Application Fee Schedule
- Resolution & Fee Schedule is made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Schulz, and seconded by Commissioner Ewing to approve Resolution R060711 – Fee Schedule for Processing of Adult Entertainment License Applications.

Motion carried unanimously

R060711A – TO PURSUE ABANDONMENT PROCEEDINGS FOR GEORGIA HIGHWAY 20 @ GEORGIA HIGHWAY 212

Attorney Jenny Carter appeared before the board to present a resolution to begin abandonment proceedings.

- Northeast corner of the intersection of GA 20 & GA 212
- Right-of-way portion is no longer needed (see drawing)
- Law dictates property be returned to landowner
- Resolution made part of these minutes

Motion by Commissioner Sims, and seconded by Commissioner Ewing to approve Resolution R060711a – To pursue abandonment proceedings for Georgia Highway 20 @ Georgia Hwy. 212.

Motion carried unanimously

R060711B – ADOPTION OF CIE PLAN UPDATE

Administrative Officer/CFO John Middleton presented this resolution to the board for approval.

- CIE Plan & STWP
- Required resolution
- Required to send original resolution to NEGRC within seven days of approval.
- Resolution made part of these minutes

Motion by Commissioner Schulz, and seconded by Commissioner Ewing to approve Resolution R060711b – Adoption of Newton County’s Capital Improvement Element Plan Update (CIE).

Motion carried unanimously

LMIG ROAD PROJECTS APPROVAL (GDOT)

Chairman Morgan requested the LMIG Road Projects request be tabled for 30 days for further review.

Motion made by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Schulz to uphold the request of the chairman to table the LMIG Road Projects request for 30 days.

Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY CHECKS:

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve the county checks read aloud by Chairman Morgan and listed in board packet.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TIME: 8:15 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Schulz, seconded by Commissioner Sims to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and land acquisition

Motion carried unanimously

REGULAR SESSION

TIME: 9:27 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Schulz to enter into Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously

LAND ACQUISITION/NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD

Chairman Morgan presented to the board offers from Norfolk Southern regarding land acquisition. After discussing the offers, the board approved the following motion:

Motion by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Fleming in response to letters dated May 17, 2011 from Norfolk Southern offering to sell approximately 12 miles of rail line from the City of Covington limits to the Jasper County line for \$1.25 million and to sell 0.51 acres of rail line between Elm Street and Pace Street for \$450,000, and in response to a verbal offer from Norfolk Southern to sell 45.5 acres from Porterdale to the City of Covington for \$1.25 million, the Board of Commissioners directs the Chairman to decline these offers and expend no further county funds on this matter.

Commissioner Sims noted for the record:

- Price exorbitantly high
- Would like to have county attorney negotiate lower price
- Could be used for future infrastructure needs

Commissioner Schulz noted for the record:

- Price outrageously expensive (but first offer)
- Wanted to allow county attorney to give a counter offer
- Valuable corridor for future infrastructure needs
- Could be used in conjunction with water lines for future Bear Creek Reservoir

Commissioner Henderson noted for the record:

- County is in tough economic times.
- Purchasing rail line is not financially feasible at this time.
- Would support the cities purchase of the property.

Motion carried with Commissioners Schulz and Sims voting in opposition to the motion.

At the request of Commissioner Schulz, and duly noted by the county attorney's office, the county attorney will provide the board of commissioners a legal services update each quarter.

With no further business, a motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Fleming the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

Kathryn G. Morgan, Chairman