

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 2, 2007**  
**MINUTES**

**Newton County Historic Courthouse**  
**1124 Clark Street**  
**Covington, Georgia**  
**Chairman Aaron Varner, Presiding**

**Present:** Chairman Aaron Varner, Commissioners Mort Ewing, Earnest Simmons, Ester Fleming, Jr., J.C. Henderson, and Monty Laster, Administrative Officer John Middleton, County Attorney Scott Cole, and County Clerk Jackie Smith

**Newspaper:** Covington News – Rachel Osborn  
Newton Citizen – Crystal Tatum  
Small group of citizens

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order, extended a welcome and read the thought for the day. Commissioner J.C. Henderson gave the invocation and Chairman Varner led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great Flag. Commissioner Ewing was welcomed back to the meeting from being absent due to a rotary cuff operation. Commissioner Ewing noted it was good to be back. He thanked his son, Ben Ewing, for driving him to the meeting and also expressed thanks for all the cards, calls and expressions of kindness during this time.

Chairman Varner extended a welcome to the board to Mr. Earnest Simmons who was duly elected in November to serve as the District Two Commissioner.

**APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED DECEMBER 19, 2006**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes dated December 19, 2006 as written.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

**Motion Carried**

**NEW HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION/STATE OF GEORGIA**

Chief Appraiser Tommy Knight appeared before the board and discussed the new Homestead Exemption the legislators passed. He noted:

- Received Memo from Director of the Dept. of Revenue on December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Voters ratified referendum on November 6, 2006.
- Seniors exempt from State portion only of tax (example attached)
- County will absorb cost – already budgeted in Tax Assessors budget.
- County will administer tax exemption
- Mandate from the state
- Two Information Meetings have been scheduled for the public. (January 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m. and January 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.)

- Board expressed appreciation for Mr. Knight and his staff for the excellent job they do for the citizens of Newton County.

**NO ACTION NECESSARY.**

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT BETWEEN N.C. and CITY OF MANSFIELD, & CITY OF NEWBORN-RE: FIRE SERVICES**

Commissioner Mort Ewing addressed the board regarding this intergovernmental contract and noted the following:

- BOC gave tentative approval in on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Hand delivered contract to both Mayors and City Council
- Both Mayors signed and sealed contract after Council approval.
- We now have a station that serves both cities and the county.
- Both cities will pay a portion of operating cost for the station.
- Both cities will pay a portion of operating cost for the station.
- Both cities will pay a portion of operating cost for the station.
- Expressed thanks to board for helping with project and willing to work on something a little different.

**Motion:** To approve the Intergovernmental Contract between Newton County Board of Commissioners, the City of Mansfield, and the City of Newborn. A copy of contract is made part of these minutes.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

**Second by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

**Motion Carried**

### **2006 TRANSPORTATION REVIEW**

Chairman Varner told the board he received disturbing news about DOT Road Projects in Newton County. A number of major projects in the county have been moved back. He told the board it would behoove us all to work with our legislators to get other funding and encouraged the board to contact requesting them to find other sources for funding.

County Engineer Kevin Walter addressed the board and went over the attached PowerPoint presentation with the commission. Accounting Manager Lorri Smith spoke to the board about the finances regarding transportation projects. Power Point Presentation is made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Fleming expressed appreciation for the excellent job Mr. Walter's does for the county, noting, the Tabor Forest project that he worked hard to get accomplished because of the safety issue to the citizens.

**NO ACTION NECESSARY.**

### **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN – J.C. HENDERSON**

**Motion:** To appoint Fourth District Commissioner J.C. Henderson to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2007.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

**Second by:** Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

**Motion Carried**

### **APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**Motion:** To re-appoint Wm Thomas Craig as County Attorney for the year 2207.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

**Motion Carried with Commissioner Simmons abstaining from the vote.**

### **APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY CLERK**

**Motion:** To reappoint Jackie Smith as County Clerk for the year 2007.

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

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

**Motion Carried**

Commissioner Henderson expressed appreciation to Ms. Smith for her assistance and the job she does for the county. Ms. Smith thanked Commissioner Henderson and the board for their support and the privilege of being reappointed as clerk.

### **APPOINTMENT ZONING APPEALS BOARD DISTRICT 2**

**Motion:** To appoint Mr. Alonzo Hill to serve on the Newton County Zoning Board of Appeals representing District Two. Mr. Hill's term will expire on December 31, 2007.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

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

**Motion Carried**

### **APPOINTMENT PLANNING COMMISSION DISTRICT 2**

**Motion:** To table the appointment until the January 16<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

**Second by:** Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

**Motion Carried**

### **APPOINTMENT N.C. SENIOR SERVICES BOARD – DISTRICT 2**

**Motion:** To appoint Mr. Jessie Walton to serve on the Newton County Senior Services Board representing District Two. Mr. Walton's term will expire on December 31, 2010.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

**Second by:** Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

**Motion Carried**

## **APPOINTMENT ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD DISTRICT 2**

**Motion:** To appoint Mr. Naseer Ahmad to serve on the Newton County Animal Control Board representing District Two. Mr. Ahmad's term will expire on December 31, 2010.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

**Second by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

**Motion Carried**

## **APPOINTMENT TO RECREATION COMMISSION AT LARGE**

Chairman Varner asked the board to reappoint Mr. Danny Stone to the Recreation Commission to serve At Large.

**Motion:** To reappoint Mr. Danny Stone to the Newton County Recreation Commission serving the At-Large position. Mr. Stone's term will expire on December 31, 2008.

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

**Second by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

**Motion Carried**

## **APPOINTMENT TO RECREATION COMMISSION DISTRICT 2**

**Motion:** To appoint Mr. Ronnie Brannen to the Newton County Recreation Commission representing District Two. Mr. Brannen's term will expire on December 31, 2010.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

**Second by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

**Motion Carried**

## **APPOINTMENT TO RECREATION COMMISSION DISTRICT 4**

**Motion:** To reappoint Mr. Flemmie Pitts to the Newton County Recreation Commission representing District Four. Mr. Pitts' term will expire on December 31, 2010.

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

**Second by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

**Motion Carried**

## **APPOINTMENT TO RECREATION COMMISSION DISTRICT**

**Motion:** To reappoint Mr. Johnny Presley to the Newton County Recreation Commission. Mr. Presley's term will expire on December 31, 2008.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

**Motion Carried**

## **APPOINTMENT TO RECREATION COMMISSION DISTRICT 5**

**Motion:** To reappoint Mr. Luther Baker to the Newton County Recreation Commission. Mr. Baker's term will expire on December 31, 2008.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

**Motion Carried**

## **ALCOHOL LICENSE:**

### First Reading

Elks Club Chevron

10946 Hwy. 278E

Covington, Georgia 30014

Owner: Sadruddin Lakhani (100% )

District One

Shell #3633

3633 Salem Road

Covington, Georgia 30316

Owner: Kanwar Tucker (34%), Harjeet Tucker (33%), Baljider Sandhu (33%)

District Two

### Final Approval

JJ's Quick Stop

298 Hwy. 162 Connector

Covington, Georgia 30016

Owner: Noor Ali Hakani (91%) and Neerat Jaiswal (9%)

District Two

**Motion:** To approve the Alcohol License request for JJ's Quick Stop located at 298 Hwy. 162 Connector, Covington, Georgia 30016.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

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

**Motion Carried**

### Alcohol License Renewal

Ninth Era Inc. dba BP Magnet

5343 Hwy. 20

Covington, Ga. 30016

Licensee: Ali Hamid

District Three

**Motion:** To approve the Alcohol License request for BP Magnet located at 5343 Hwy. 20, Covington, Georgia 30316.

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

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

**Motion Carried**

## **COUNTY CHECKS:**

**Motion:** To approve the county checks as read by Chairman Varner.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

**Motion Carried**

**STREETLIGHTS**

Willow Creek Estates  
District Three

**Motion:** To approve the streetlight request for Willow Creek Estates.

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

**Second by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

**Motion Carried**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS/COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS - None**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION - No**

**TIME: 8:00 p.m.**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

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

**Second by:** Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

**Motion Carried**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk**