

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
June 5, 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 Tommy Craig, Attorney's Jenny Carter, James Griffin, Andrea Gray 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 Mort Ewing gave the invocation and Chairman Varner led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great Flag.

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED MAY 15, 2007

Motion: To approve the minutes dated May 15, 2007 as written.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried Unanimously

TRASH TO TREASURES ART CONTEST PRESENTATION

Lori Riley from Keep Covington Newton Beautiful Department made the presentations for the contest. The Board of Commissioners was delighted to shake the recipients hands and present them with several gifts.

No official action was necessary.

**NEWTON COUNTY/FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF COVINGTON
GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT
DEVELOPMENT, OPERATING AND USE AGREEMENT**

Andrea Gray from the County Attorney's office presented this agreement to the board that passed it unanimously.

Motion: To approve the Newton County/First Baptist Church of Covington Ground Lease Agreement, Development, Operating Use Agreement as outlined on pages 53 through 57 in board packet and presented by county attorney's office

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

PROPOSAL FOR SERVICES – MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP, INC.

Administrative Officer John Middleton presented this to the board for their consideration. He noted this would be helpful in performance evaluation systems and subscription of services, i.e. class descriptions – development of new class descriptions based on data collected during the recent classification and compensation study. Employee Performance Evaluation System – development of an evaluation system based on job-specific tasks, activities and responsibilities s indicated b completed Job Analysis Questionnaires. Subscription Services – ongoing maintenance and administration of the proposed classification and compensation plan. Mr. Middleton told the board this is the same company who provided our recent classification study that did such a great job.

Motion: To approve the proposal for services by Management Advisory Group, Inc. not to exceed \$27, 985.00 as presented by Mr. Middleton and outlined in board packet on pages 58 through 63.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

R060507 – TO ABANDON A PORTION OF SNAPPING SHOALS ROAD

Attorney James Griffin from the County Attorney's Office addressed the board regarding this abandonment.

Commissioner Ewing reminded the board that he had spoken with them several months ago after talking with the Thomas family and the health problems one brother is experiencing. He spoke in full support of the abandonment of a portion of this road as requested.

Motion: To approve Resolution 060507 To Abandon a Portion of Snapping Shoals Road as presented by the county attorney's office.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

Note: The original resolution is contained in file number R060507, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS EVENT

Chairman Varner addressed the board and noted this is a yearly event that the county and City of Covington split the cost. The cost is \$3540.00 each and Pyrotechnics of Atlanta will present the Firework display. The board discussed how much the people enjoyed this event and looks forward to it each year.

Motion: To approve the cost of the July 4th Fire Works Display for a not to exceed cost of \$3,540.00. The City of Covington will mail their share separately (\$3540.00) to Pyrotechnics of Atlanta.

Proposed by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

ALCOHOL LICENSE:

First Reading

Rocky Plains Grocery Store
2310 Hwy. 212
Covington, Georgia 30016
Owner: Farid Bhamani (100%)
District One

COUNTY CHECKS:

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

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried Unanimously

STREETLIGHTS:

Jack Creek Subdivision
District One
Holly Hills Subdivision
Chapel Height Subdivision
District Two

Motion: To approve the streetlight request for Jack Creek Subdivision located in the first district and Holly Hills Subdivision and Chapel Height Subdivision located in the second district.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried Unanimously

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 7:45 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and pending litigation.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried Unanimously

REGULAR SESSION

Time: 9:10 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Regular Session.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTIONS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: To approve Resolution R060507a regarding property in the Industrial Park

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

ADJOURN

Time: 9:11 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

Aaron Varner, Chairman