

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
April 21, 2009
MINUTES**

Present: Chairman Kathy Morgan, Commissioners Mort Ewing, Earnest Simmons, Nancy Schulz, J.C. Henderson, and Tim Fleming. Attorney Tommy Craig, Administrative Officer John Middleton & Clerk Jackie Smith

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

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order and apologized for the delay in opening the meeting. She extended a welcome, and read the thought for the day. Reverend Ronny Brannen, Prospect UMC gave the invocation and Chairman Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Smart Growth Presentation – Guiding Growth & Development in Georgia was presented by Jonathan Paschal. Mr. Paschal presented the board members with a copy of Smart Growth’s present Handbook. The chairman expressed appreciation to Mr. Paschal for his presentation and the gift of the book on behalf of herself and the board.

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED APRIL 7, 2009

Motion: To approve the BOC Minutes dated April 7, 2009 as printed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Tim Fleming, District Five

Motion Carried

ARC PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY CHOICES GRANT

Steve Causby, Senior Program Specialist for the Local Government Service at ARC appeared before the board to offer his congratulations on Newton County selected as recipient of grant. This grant is to provide resources for communities to grow as they choose.

The board expressed appreciation for Mr. Causby’s kind words and appreciation for the grant funding.

No action taken.

DEKALB TECH LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

Newton County Sheriff Ezell Brown appeared before the board to support the sale of three vehicles to the DeKalb Tech Law Enforcement Academy. He noted the following:

- Very, very used vehicles with high mileage
- No longer serviceable for the Sheriff's Office
- Feels DTLEA will benefit from these cars
- Appreciates and supports academy
- There will be no liability to Sheriff's Office or BOC
- Appreciates BOC and solicits board's support of sale.
- Introduced Beverly Thompson who is the director of the DTLEA
- Graduating: 11 people
- Next Class begins on May 4th

Motion: To approve the sale of three used vehicles from the Newton County Sheriff's Office to DeKalb Tech Law Enforcement Academy for one dollar per vehicle for a total cost to DeKalb Tech Law Enforcement Academy of \$3.00, noting that Bill of Sale is made part of these minutes.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Nancy Schulz, District Three

Motion Carried

CHANGE ORDER – STREETSMARTS

Special Projects Coordinator Cheryl Delk appeared before the board seeking approval of this change order. She went over the information made available to the board in their agenda packets and answered any questions the board had.

- Information made part of minutes
- Funding Source: SPLOST & \$30,000 has been committed from the City of Covington per Chairman Morgan.

Motion: To approve the Change Order for StreetSmarts as it relates to Turkey Creek/Yellow River Trail in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 funded through SPLOST and dedicated for these purposes.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Nancy Schulz, District Three

Motion Carried

COUSINS COMMUNITY CENTER, INC. "BAND BUILDING" LEASE AGREEMENT

Administrative Officer John Middleton presented this Lease Agreement for consideration.

- On budget
- 2750 square feet
- Use is primarily for Juvenile Program
- \$5.24 per sq ft annually

- Total annual cost: \$14,400.00
- After this is finished it will complete the renovations to the building.
- Commissioners expressed their happiness at bringing back part of N.C. History to life.

Motion: To approve the Lease Agreement between Cousins Community Center, Inc. and Newton County as explained by Mr. Middleton and outlined on pages 33-39 in Agenda Packets with a copy of Agreement being made part of these minutes.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

WATER RESOURCE UPDATE

Water Resource Director Karl Kelley appeared before giving an update and PowerPoint presentation.

- Glad to note that Lake Varner is full.
- City Pond is full.
- Power Point Presentation is made part of these minutes.
- The board instructed Mr. Kelley to petition the state for a Level IV for Newton County regarding water restrictions.

Motion: To approve the proposal as outlined by Director Kelley and to petition the State to lower restrictions to a Level IVc regarding water restrictions.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

GRANT APPLICATION – RECREATION COMMISSION

Director Tommy Hailey appeared before the board to give a report on a Grant Application Meeting he attended in Macon.

- He noted there was “no” encouragement, but rather “discouragement” regarding submitting applications for a recreation grants.
- Recreation Projects will not be a high priority to receive this grant.

The board thanked Director Hailey for his efforts and report.

ZONING:

Director Marian Eisenberg sounded the following Resolution and Zonings:

- Director Eisenberg presented the proposed official zoning map of Newton County dated April 21, 2009 to the Board of Commissioners and displayed it before them for their review.
- The Official Zoning Map will be housed in the Planning & Development Department.

R0421709 TO ADOPT THE OFFICIAL N.C. ZONING MAP

Motion: To approve Resolution R042109 adopting the 2009 Official Newton County Zoning Map.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

FLU08-011 & REZ08-010

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Approval to withdraw petitions FLU08-011 & REZ08-010 (March 24, 2009)

District Two

Motion: To uphold the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the request to withdraw the petition.

Proposed by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

FLU08-012 & REZ08-011

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Approval to withdraw petitions FLU08-012 & REZ08-011 (March 24, 2009)

District Two

Motion: To uphold the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the request to withdraw the petition.

Proposed by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

COUNTY CHECKS

Motion: To approve the county checks as printed and read aloud by Chairman Morgan.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 8:40 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of land acquisition.

Proposed by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Second by: Commissioner Tim Fleming, District Five

Motion Carried

REGULAR SESSION

Time: 9:18 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Regular Session.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

ADJOURN

Time: 9:19 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Tim Fleming, District Five

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk