

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2008
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, Attorney James Griffin, and County Clerk Jackie Smith

Newspaper: Rachel Oswald, Covington News
Crystal Tatum, Newton Citizen
Over-flow crowd of citizens

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order, extended a welcome, and read the Thought for the Day. Pastor Ronny Brannen, Prospect Methodist Church, gave the invocation and Chairman Varner led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great Flag.

Chairman Varner noted this was a joint meeting with the City of Covington regarding the Civic Center/Hotel project and welcomed Mayor Carter and the City Council to the table.

CIVIC CENTER/HOTEL PRESENTATION UPDATE

Chairman Varner recognized President of Chamber of Commerce John Boothby who addressed the board regarding this project.

Mr. Boothby recognized the efforts of the Joint Task Force and expressed appreciation for all their hard work.

Mr. Boothby introduced Mr. Phil Riley of PR Hospitality and Mr. Greg Portman of PFVS Architects who addressed the board regarding the project (displayed a sketch of project) and gave a power point presentation.

Mr. Brian Huskey of Merchant Capital was on hand to speak to the board regarding financing of the project. He provided two hands out that are attached and made part of these minutes.

Chairman Varner opened the floor for public comments

- Parking
- Burdening taxpayers
- Traffic control.

Attorney Tommy Craig explained that a Joint Resolution was required authorizing the negotiation of a development agreement with PR Hospitality and read the resolution out loud.

- County and the City are not asked to approve or issue bonds...authorizing the negotiation of a Development Agreement.
- Could designate future SPLOST to help out with funding.
- Series of Press Releases will be issued to keep public abreast of what is going on.

Motion: To approve Resolution R080508b Newton County Board of Commissions and the City of Covington Requesting this Issuance of Bonds by the Newton County Industrial Development Authority for the Construction of a Civic Center and Conference Center; Authorizing the Negotiation of a Development Agreement with PR Hospitality; Authorizing the Initiation of the Process to Increase the Excise Tax on Public Accommodations; and for Other Purposes.

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 R080508b, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.

The Honorable Mayor Kim Carter called for the vote from the Covington City Council.

Motion: To approve Resolution R080508b Newton County Board of Commissions and the City of Covington Requesting this Issuance of Bonds by the Newton County Industrial Development Authority for the Construction of a Civic Center and Conference Center; Authorizing the Negotiation of a Development Agreement with PR Hospitality; Authorizing the Initiation of the Process to Increase the Excise Tax on Public Accommodations; and for Other Purposes.

Proposed by: Councilwoman Janet Goodman

Second by: Councilman Mike Whatley

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED JULY 15, 2008

Motion: To approve the Minutes dated July 15, 2008 as printed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEWTON COUNTY & THE TOWN OF NEWBORN REGARDING PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Commissioner Mort Ewing addressed the other board members and noted that the county had received a letter indicating the Newborn Council and the Newborn Attorney had read and approved the agreement. A copy of correspondence is made part of these minutes.

Motion: To approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Newton County & the Town of Newborn as it relates to Planning & Development Services, and with the understanding that the City Attorney and Town Council have read, understands, and approved the agreement.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster District Five

Motion Carried

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING JUVENILE SERVICES PROGRAM

Administrative Office John Middleton addressed the board regarding this request for approval.

- Housekeeping measure

Motion: To approve the application request for funding for Juvenile Services as printed on pages 18-21 in board packet.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

BID#09-03, CONCRETE DRIVE @ FIRE STATION NUMBER ONE (#1)

Purchasing Director Tina Malone appeared before the board to present this request.

- Received four bids
- Low bidder meets all requirements
- Bid Amount: \$31,653.01
- Funding: General Fund, Fire Department

Motion: To award Bid #09-03, Concrete Drive @ Fire Station #1 to the low bidder, Complete Concrete Construction Company from Conyers, Georgia for a not to exceed amount of \$31,653.01.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

EQUIPMENT FOR BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Purchasing Director Tina Malone appeared before the board to present this request.

- Premier Election Solutions-Allen, Texas
- New equipment
- Budgeted in FY09 budget
- Cost: \$61,750.00
- Funding: General Fund, Board of Elections

Motion: To approve the purchase of voting equipment as presented from Premier Election Solutions in Allen, Texas for a cost not to exceed \$61,750.00 plus freight charges.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried

BID #09-02, PAINT REMOVAL AT HISTORIC JAIL BUILDING

Purchasing Director Tina Malone appeared before the board to present this request.

- Received four bids
- Low bidder meets all requirements
- Time Line: 30 days from start to finish
- Cost: \$49,800.00
- Funding: SPLOST, Historic Jail

Motion: To award Bid #09-02 Paint Removal at Historic Jail to Abatech Diversified of Snellville, Georgia for a not to exceed cost of \$49,800.00

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

CHAIRMAN VARNER OPENED PUBLIC HEARING

R-080508 E-911 SURCHARFE ON VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VoIP) CONNECTIONS

E-9121 Director Mike Smith appeared before the board seeking approval of this request.

- VoIP calls are increasing as county grows
- \$1.50 is maximum charge allowed by law
- Charge is based on billing address of phone
- Resolution is to approve charging for VoIP Connection

Motion: To approve Resolution R080508 E-911 Surcharge on Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Connection as presented by Director Smith and printed on page 29 in board packet.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried

Note: The original resolution is contained in file number R080508, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.

R-080508a WORKER'S COMPENSATION/ELECTED OFFICIALS

Administrative Officer John Middleton appeared before the board to present this housekeeping item. Elected officials are covered already, and have been, but our new coverage requires a resolution approved by the board.

Motion: To approve R-080508a Worker's Compensation/Elected Officials as printed on page 30 in board book and explained by Mr. Middleton.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

Note: The original resolution is contained in file number R080508a, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT OF BEAR CREEK RESERVOIR

Chairman Varner addressed the board regarding approval of timber management contract. (Copy attached and made part of minutes)

- Same information Beryl Budd outlined to board several months ago...nothing changed.
- Chairman Varner expressed a desire to get Beryl Budd to also look at Newton Factory Bridge property.
- Mr. Budd told the board there has been no management of property (about 400 acres) since 80's.
- Would like for Mack Barber to look at this property as well
- Needs thinning and has some good timber on it.
- Chairman received a consensus from the board to move forward with this request as well.

Motion: To approve the Timber Management Contract regarding Bear Creek Reservoir with Barber Forest Consultants, Inc. in Macon, Georgia as outlined by Chairman Varner and printed on pages 1-32 in board packet.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

FEMA/HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT ACCEPTANCE - \$45,680.00

Newton County Fire Chief Mike Satterfield appeared before the board and noted the following:

- FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety Grant
- Grant to purchase Mobile Fire Safety House & Teaching Aids
- Grant award: \$45,680.00 Federal share
- Local Match Requirement: 20% or \$11,420.00
- Total Cost: \$57,100.00

Motion: To accept the FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety Grant in the amount of \$45,680.00 with matching requirement of 20% or \$11,420.00.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

GEORGIA FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION GRANT - \$2,780.00

Motion: To accept the Georgia Firefighters Foundation Grant in the amount of \$2,780.00 with no matching funds required.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

O-080508 NEWTON COUNTY SPRINKLER ORDINANCE

Newton County Fire Chief Mike Satterfield appeared before the board and noted the following:

- Tightens up current ordinance
- Major Changes: Square Footage for commercial buildings (2000 sq ft to 5000 sq ft) before a sprinkler system is required.
- Multi-Family Residential Occupancies from 2000 square foot to 360 square foot before sprinkler system is required.
- Additions: Group Homes that have an occupancy load of 3 or more and in-home daycare with occupancy load of 5 or more.
- New ordinance is made part of these minutes

Motion: To approve O-080508 (updated) Newton County Sprinkler Ordinance as explained by Chief Satterfield and outlined in board packet.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEWTON COUNTY & THE CITY OF COVINGTON REGARDING FIRE & EMERGENCY TRAINING FACILITY

Newton County Fire Chief Mike Satterfield appeared before the board and noted the following:

- Worked on this a long time.
- City of Covington Mayor and Council approved agreement.
- This is necessary before we expend funds for joint venture.
- Win-win situation for City and County
- Copy of agreement is made part of these minutes

Motion: To approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Newton County and the City of Covington regarding the Fire & Emergency Training Facility as outlined on pages 43-47 in board packet and as presented by Chief Satterfield.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEWTON COUNTY & THE CITY OF PORTERDALE REGARDING ANNEXATION

Attorney James Griffin appeared before the board to present this agreement.

- Elks Club would like to serve alcohol at facility.
- Requested to be annexed into the City of Porterdale.
- Property cannot be sold without permission from leader in Chicago.
- City of Porterdale passed annexation on August 4th contingent upon BOC passing agreement.
- Stated that Porterdale has acted in good faith and Mr. Griffin feels good about agreement.

Motion: To approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Newton County & the City of Porterdale as it relates to annexation of Elks Club Property on Crowell Road.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

ALCOHOL LICENSE

Final Reading

Quick Spot

10260 Hwy. 36

Covington, Georgia 30014

Murad Mehdi (100% owner)

District Five

Motion: To approve the Alcohol License for Quick Spot located at 10260 Highway 36, Covington, Georgia and located in District Five.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried

COUNTY CHECKS

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

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

ADJOURN

Time: 8.50 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

