

**THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

June 6, 2000

**Newton County Executive Office Building
Chairman Davis C. Morgan, Presiding**

Present: Chairman Davis Morgan, Commissioners Tommy Ballard, Ronnie Dimsdale, Danny Stone, J.C. Henderson, Hubert White; Zoning Director John Byce; Attorney Tommy Craig, Attorney Scott Cole; Clerk Jackie Smith

Also present: Cindy Tumlin-Covington News
Small group of citizens

Call To Order: Chairman Morgan extended welcome and read thought for the day.

Invocation: Chairman Davis Morgan

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Morgan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DATED MAY 16, 2000

Motion: To approve minutes as submitted with correction on page one. Should read District Three.

Proposed by: Commissioner Danny Stone, District Three

Second: Commissioner Hubert White, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

HERITAGE TRAILS – THE MARCH TO THE SEA – RESOLUTION R-06-07-00

Chairman Morgan introduced Mr. Gene Christian who gave presentation regarding project and request. There was a nice representation at the meeting from the Main Street Program, Newton County Historical Society and Oxford Historical Society. The request was made for \$2500 per marker and \$500.00 per year for future marketing and maintenance of the trails and interpretative markers on an ongoing basis. We have two markers to be considered. Information regarding project is made part of these minutes.

Motion: To approve Resolution R-06-07-00 and enter into agreement requested agreement.

Proposed by: Commissioner Tommy Ballard, District One

Second: Commissioner Danny Stone, District Three

Motion Carried Unanimously

Note: The original resolution is contained in file number R060700, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.

TREADWELL, TAMPLIN & COMPANY – AUDITOR EXTENSION AGREEMENT

Chairman Morgan and board expressed their appreciation for a job well done by auditors. Commissioner Dimsdale commented he, too, felt their quality of work was very good; however he expressed concern regarding the untimely manner in which the audit is received. He requested that the chairman convey to

auditors this concern and request a more timely response. Chairman stated that there had been a problem with getting information needed from the RDC and this was part of the reason audit was late. Commissioner White recommended that the county do all in their power to get any and all information to the auditors that they might need to prepare audit. Board agreed. Chairman stated he would recommend approval of extension.

Motion: To approve Treadwell, Tamplin & Company contract for one-year extension. Also, to make available on a timely manner information auditors need to prepare audit.
Proposed by: Commissioner Danny Stone, District Three
Second: Commissioner Tommy Ballard, District One
Motion Carried Unanimously

RECREATION COMMISISON REQUEST – HAROLD COBB FIELD

Commissioner Henderson stated that Harold Cobb had contributed much to Newton County in his service as commissioner. Rev. Cobb has served longer than any other commissioner. Commissioner White expressed his appreciation and chairman added honor was well deserved.

Motion: To approve request to name Football Stadium at Turner Lake Recreation Complex in honor of Harold Cobb.
Proposed by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four
Second: Commissioner Hubert White, District Five
Motion Carried Unanimously

AMEND AGENDA

Motion: To amend agenda to discuss City Pond Park and Brick Store Project
Proposed by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four
Second: Commissioner Hubert White, District Five
Motion Carried Unanimously

SBA TOWER – TABLED FROM MAY 2, 2000 MEETING

Director John Byce stated this was a conditional use request. The Planning Commission heard request in April and recommended denial.

Petitioner Representative: Bill Matthews, Attorney

Mr. Matthews submitted a large packet of information regarding request. He invited Suzette Monk, who sells real estate in the area, to speak regarding area in question. Ms. Monk stated she felt the tower should be built because there was tremendous need for coverage in area and gave an example of needing to call 911. Regarding other sites, Mr. Matthews stated the petitioner had looked other sites, but were not as suitable.

Commissioner Dimsdale expressed concern that the board had been presented with such a large packet of information at the beginning of board meeting allowing no time to read. He favored tabling the request again. This would allow time to read and digest information. Attorney apologized for the delay in presenting information and stated petitioner is willing to table again. Chairman stated opposition was not allowed to speak at first meeting because petition was tabled and granted opposition ten minutes to speak at this meeting.

Opposition:

Anna Silva
Property adjoins proposed tower property

Concerns:

- Petitioners have not talked with neighbors.
- Questionable that property is in compliance with current zoning regulations.
- Property values
- Health

Motion: To table SBA Tower, Incorporated request until July 11, 2000 meeting.

Proposed by: Commissioner Danny Stone, District Three

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried Unanimously

SNAPPING SHOALS EMC TOWER REQUEST

Commissioner Danny Stone stated Snapping Shoals EMC is his full time employer and excused himself from the meeting room and abstained from any discussion and vote regarding request.

Director John Byce stated that Snapping Shoals EMC had requested to put a 430-foot tower on 17.9 acres of property on GA Hwy. 20. The Planning Commission recommended approval. He stated there was no opposition to the tower at the meeting.

Commissioner Dimsdale asked to address the board regarding a quote in the Newton Citizen regarding the tower request. He stated he (Commissioner Dimsdale) gave a quote to Karen Addie of the Newton Citizen; however the paper stated Danny Stone. This was an error and the paper stated they would correct it.

Petitioner: Robert Walker, representing SSEM

Mr. Walker spoke regarding why the tower was needed.

- communication tool during storms
- routing of trucks – used to tract trucks
- better way to communicate
- growing system, territory and customers
- covers very extensive territory
- need wireless communications
- tower space more and more of a premium
- SS can rent spots on tower
- property in question is in dead center of their territory

Commissioner Henderson asked what the Planning Commission recommended? Mr. Byce stated they recommended approval and also recommended a balloon test, but this could not be done in such a short length of time. A balloon test is very costly. Commissioner Dimsdale commented that a balloon test was just to see where the top of the tower would be and you could anticipate what you could see from the road. Commissioner White commented that you would be able to see the tower almost anywhere within a seven to eight mile radius. Commissioner Dimsdale asked how close it was to the property line? About 600 feet. Commissioner White asked if this height was uncommon? He stated the reason they were going to this height was because they were going to do a microwave hop. He said possibly they could bring it down 30 to 40 feet and would know more after they do a computer model. Mr. Walker stated he had talked with neighbor and he had no problem with the tower. Commissioner White asked how they notified the neighbors? Mr. Byce said a letter goes out to the adjoining property owners and a sign on property regarding request. Commissioner Dimsdale stated that he would like to see it addressed if Snapping Shoals ceased to have need of the tower they would be responsible to remove it. Mr. Walker stated that Snapping Shoals relies heavily on communication and can not see it ever going away; however if the tower ever became a problem for Snapping Shoals they would bring it down. And if they (SS) ever ceased to use it, they (Snapping Shoals) would alert the board and make arrangements to bring it down. Commissioner Dimsdale requested removal be part of the motion and asked for assistance in wording motion from County Attorney, who guided motion.

Motion: To approve construction of tower so long as Snapping Shoals EMC agrees that in the event it ceases to be used for radio or telecommunication functions for a period of 180 days, then it could be removed in the preceding 180 days. Removal would be the responsibility of Snapping Shoals EMC.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Second: Commissioner Tommy Ballard, District One

Against: Commissioners' Henderson and White

Chairman broke tie and voted in the affirmative

Motion carried three to 2

Note: Commissioner White asked that it be noted he voted to deny the request due to the Planning Commission's recommendation for the balloon test and it was not done. It was not because he did not think the tower was necessary.

LANCE UNLIMITED, L.L.C.

Petitioner requested zoning to be tabled for 30 days.

Motion: To table till meeting on July 11, 2000.

Proposed by: Commissioner Tommy Ballard, District One

Second: Commissioner Hubert White, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

SCOTT & ELANITA CORLEY

ELKS CLUB ROAD

A (AGRICULTURAL) TO RE-2 (RESIDENTIAL ESTATE)

Director John Byce stated this was two acres of land that Mrs. Corley received from her grandparents to build a home on. Planning Commission recommended approval. No opposition.

Motion: To approve request to rezone property to RE-2 (Residential Estate).

Proposed by: Commissioner Tommy Ballard, District One

Second: Commissioner Danny Stone, District Three

Motion Carried Unanimously

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE: None

STREET LIGHT PETITIONS:

Cypress Pointe, Pleasant Hills, Pebblebrooke Phase II, Surrey Chase II

Motion: To approve as submitted.

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

Second: Commissioner Tommy Ballard, District One

Abstained: Commissioner Hubert White, District Five

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF COUNTY CHECKS:

Motion: To approve checks as submitted.

Proposed by: Commissioner Tommy Ballard, District One

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried Unanimously

AMEND AGENDA ITEM – CITY POND PARK

Commissioner Henderson commented he was concerned over the septic area and a holding pond that goes into Williams Street Facility. He had received complaints about the smell from time to time. He said the cost is about \$170,000 and this had been cut out of the budget. He also stated this problem had regularly been brought to the board's attention (recreation board) about the over-flowing problem at City Pond Park. He requested a test to be done on the water there. He would also like to add an environmental look at the soil. Chairman Morgan explained that the property is owned by the City of Covington and the park was built in a area that has a lot of springs, poor drainage, and has a very extensive septic system. It has a pump that is electrically operated and this past summer it failed. When it was brought to my attention, and this was the first time, I immediately commissioned work to pump the tanks out and remedy the failed pump, which has been done. He stated that we just recently received third place in the Best Tasting Water in the State of Georgia. These tests are done all the time and we can do more tests. He stated he was waiting on the results of the test on the water that Commissioner Henderson requested on Saturday. Chairman will have a test done on the soil as well.

BRICK STORE PROJECT

Chairman passed out a memorandum from Randy Vinson stating a request for additional consulting fees of approximately \$17,000. This money is for the estimated project cost of the historic preservation-planning program and the corridor overlay protection strategy. The Brick Store Steering Committee working in this area feels strongly that these projects should be funded. Commissioner Ballard stated that he was a part of the steering committee and had really enjoyed working with them. The committee had met with Jones & Goulding and came up with an over lay district around the Brick Store Area. The whole community was in full support of this. I would like to table this to the next meeting and ask JJG to send out submittals to all the commissioners to look at. Mrs. Bledsoe will contact JJG to send out submittals. Commissioner Dimsdale asked whom to address questions to as they developed? Commissioner Ballard said to ask him and he would go through Mrs. Bledsoe/Steering Committee.

Motion: To table request to next meet.
Proposed by: Commissioner Tommy Ballard, District One
Second: Commissioner Danny Stone, District Three
Motion Carried Unanimously

CITIZENS COMMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:30 PM

Motion: To enter into Executive Session in reference to land acquisition.
Proposed by: Commissioner Hubert White, District Five
Second: Commissioner Danny Stone, District Three
Motion Carried Unanimously

ADJOURN: 8:35 PM

Motion: To adjourn
Proposed by: Commissioner Danny Stone, District Three
Second: Commissioner Tommy Ballard, District One
Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, Clerk

Davis C. Morgan, Chairman

