

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
November 4, 2008
MINUTES**

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

Newspaper: Covington News- Crystal Tatum
Newton Citizen- Rachel Oswald
Small Group of Citizens

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order, extended a welcome and read the thought for the day. Pastor Ronnie Brannen of Prospect Methodist Church gave the invocation and Chairman Varner led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great flag.

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED OCTOBER 21, 2008

Motion: To approve the Commission Minutes dated October 21, 2008 as printed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

KCNB: EPA EDUCATIONAL GRANT-NE96482707-06

KCNB Director Connie Waller addressed the board regarding this grant. She expressed her appreciation to the board for their support of the KCNB program.

- Helps to provide educational information and presentations.
- Grant Amount: \$14,000
- In-Kind Match: \$14,688 (Volunteer time & contributions)
- Purpose: To fund Keep Covington/Newton Beautiful puppet shows production, including script, soundtrack, puppets, workbooks, and prizes for the children.

The board expressed their appreciation to Mrs. Waller for her hard work and success.

Motion: To approve the acceptance of the EPA Educational Grant – NE96482707-06 in the amount of \$14,000.00 with the understanding that in-kind services of \$14,688 will be provided through volunteer time and contributions.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

KCNB: GDOT GATEWAY GRANT W/CITY OF COVINGTON

KCNB Director Connie Waller along with Newton County Arborist Debbie Bell presented this grant to the board for their approval.

- Department of Transportation Grant
- Grant Amount: \$50,000
- No matching funds required
- Purpose: To fund a joint project of KCNB and the City of Covington to purchase and install plant materials to improve the I-20 Interchange at Exit 90.
- City of Covington will provide a MOU to take over the maintenance of project.
- County's part will be that Arborist Debbie Bell will provide design work.
- DOT has very strict planting standards.
- Must plant on DOT ROW to receive grant

Board wished Ms. Waller and Ms. Bell good luck with DOT and also expressed appreciation for all they have already accomplished.

Motion: To approve acceptance of the GDOT \$50,000 Gateway Grant with City of Covington as presented by Director Waller and Arborist Bell

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

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried Unanimously

Director Waller also advised the board of a grant that KCNB received from DCA in the form of a trailer. There are no matching funds, no financial management required. Trailer belongs to the county.

CHANGE ORDER #1 - COMMUNITY CENTER, DISTRICT 4

Administrative Officer John Middleton addressed the board regarding this change order.

- This allows us to go back and make some design changes.
- Keep project within budget
- Eliminate the need for construction of costly stormwater infrastructure.
- Cost of Change Order: \$12,520.00

Commissioner Henderson

- Thinks cost is out of the roof
- Hopes this will get project back on tract.
- Wants to see this to fruition.
- Expressed thanks to Mr. Middleton and Cheryl Delk (Special Projects Coordinator) for all their help.

Motion: To approve Change Order #1 – Community Center, District Four in the amount of \$12,520.00 as presented by Mr. Middleton.

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

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried Unanimously

APPOINTMENT TO THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Commissioner Mort Ewing addressed the board regarding this appointment.

- N.C. owns 37% of Stanton Springs Development (SR 278 & I-20)
- Two representatives serve on Joint Development Authority Board from each county (one elected official and one appointment by board).
- Board receives no compensation.
- Members serve as a gift to their respective counties.
- County fortunate to have Mr. Denny Dobbs to serve on JDA since 1999.

Motion: To appoint Mr. Denny Dobbs to serve another four year term on the Joint Development Authority representing Newton County (Stanton Springs Development).

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

O-110408 N.C. HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Chairman Varner noted this was a Public Hearing and declared it open.

Senior Planner Scott Sirotkin, Arborist Debbie Bell presented this ordinance to the board.

- 98-99% of changes made were outlined in cover memo to board.
- Power point presentation made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Laster

- Have been meeting regarding this ordinance for the past eight to nine months.
- Ordinance has been tweaked to make us a certified local government
- Appreciate all the work Ms. Bell, Mr. Sirotkin and Attorney Griffin has done on this ordinance.

Motion: To approve O-110408 Newton County Historic Preservation Ordinance as printed and presented.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried Unanimously

ALCOHOL LICENSE

Final Reading

BP Food Mart

11128 Hwy. 36

Covington, Georgia 30014

Supesh S. Ratput (50% Owner)

Amrita Barot (50% Owner)

District Five

Motion: To approve the Alcohol License request for BP Food Mart located at 11128 Hwy. 36, Covington, Georgia 30014 in district five.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried Unanimously

COUNTY CHECKS:

Motion: To approve the county checks as read aloud by the chairman and printed in board packet.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

ADJOURN

Time: 7:28 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

Aaron Varner, Chairman