

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 7, 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 Tommy Craig, Attorney Jenny Carter & County Clerk Jackie Smith

**Newspaper:** Covington News – Rachel Oswald  
Newton Citizen - Crystal Tatum  
Citizens

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

Chairman Varner recognized members of Leadership Newton County and encouraged them to visit again.

**APPROVAL OF BOC W/S MINUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 16, 2008**

Motion: To approve the BOC Work Session Minutes dated September 16, 2008 as printed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One  
Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five  
Unanimously Carried

**APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 16, 2008**

Motion: To approve the BOC Minutes dated September 16, 2008 as printed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One  
Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two  
Unanimously Carried

**APPROVAL OF BOC W/S MINUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

Motion: To approve the BOC Work Session Minutes dated September 30, 2008 as printed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One  
Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two  
Unanimously Carried

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE QUARTERLY UPDATE**

President John Boothby of the Chamber of Commerce appeared before the board and gave their quarterly report. The board-expressed appreciation for the report and the good job that chamber continues to do for Newton County.

**APPOINTMENT: PUBLIC FACILITIES, INC. BOARD for DISTRICT THREE**

Commissioner Fleming advised that board that his previous appointee, Mr. Lou Passarella has moved and will not be able to serve. He asked that his appointment be tabled until the next meeting.

Motion: To table appointment to the Public Facilities, Inc. board to the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting as requested by Commissioner Fleming.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Unanimously Carried

**REQUEST FOR SALARY ADJUSTMENT/DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

District Attorney Ken Wynne appeared before the board and presented this request.

- State requiring state-paid staff to be furloughed one day per month for the remainder of the current fiscal year effective September 1, 2008.
- Cripples my department.
- Solution will have "no" negative impact upon the county's budget.
- Requesting county to raise the supplement for each of these employees equal to one day's pay for the next ten months.
- District Attorney's office will repay funding through other funding sources.

Commissioners expressed appreciation to Mr. Wynne for the job he and his staff perform for Newton County and approved his request as follows:

Motion: To approve the Salary Adjustment Request for the District Attorney's Office as outlined on pages 44-45 in agenda packet and as presented by District Attorney Ken Wynne. This approval is retroactive to September 1, 2008.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Unanimously Carried

**MOA: NEWTON COUNTY & ROCKDALE COUNTY FOR DESIGN PLAN DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION FOR THE BAILEY CREEK ROAD PROJECT**

Newton County Engineer Kevin Walter presented this request to the board for action.

- Housekeeping measure
- Reviewed by county attorney
- Joint project w/Rockdale County for Bailey Creek Road
- MOA addresses the development of the conceptual design to final design, right-of-way acquisition, environmental permitting and construction for the project.

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Newton County and Rockdale County for Design Plan Development & Construction for the Bailey Creek Road Project as presented and outlined in the MOA that is attached and made part of these minutes.

Proposed by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

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

Unanimously Carried

## **APPROVAL OF THE NEWTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (CTP)**

Principal Planners from URS appeared before the board for the adoption of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

- Several Public Meetings
- Power point presentation was presented and made part of these minutes.
- Went over background of project
- Appeared before board in June 2008
- CTP Purpose
- CTP Goals
- CTP Milestones
- CTP Methodology Consideration
- CTP Recommendation
- Map of Project
- CTP Critical Projects
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Chairman Varner told the board that tonight the board is asked to approve the “Concept” only. After the election his plan is to meet with the new board and bring them up to speed on our transportation projects/issues.

Motion: To approve the Newton County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) with the understanding that before any part of plan is implemented it “must” come back before board for approval.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Unanimously Carried

## **R100708 – AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE A DECLARATION OF CONSERVATION COVENANTS & RESTRICTIONS**

Attorney Jenny Carter appeared before the board and presented request.

- Part of 404 Permit Request
- Mitigation of property has to have Conservation Covenants & Restrictions
- Mitigation Plan has been approved
- We must submit this document to Corp and they will oversee our project.

Motion: To approve Resolution 100708 Authorizing the chairman to execute a Declaration of Conservation Covenants and Restrictions as presented by Attorney Jenny Carter.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Unanimously Carried

### **R100708A ABANDONMENT OF OTIS NIXON FARM RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Attorney Jenny Carter appeared before the board to present resolution for approval.

- Allows authorization for attorney's office to notify adjacent property owners.
- Landowners would make access available to cemetery

Commissioner Ewing

- Noted that as part of the abandonment process, he would like to see the county erect a sign at intersection with name of cemetery and how to access cemetery.

Commissioner Laster

- Cemetery name is Echols Quarters
- Historic site: Sherman camped on grounds on March to the Sea.

Motion: To approve R100708A to pursue the abandonment of Otis Nixon Farm Right-of-way with the final resolution stating there will be a sign erected at the intersection by the BOC with name of cemetery and information on how to access the cemetery.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Unanimously Carried

### **ZONINGS:**

None

### **ALCOHOL LICENSE:**

First Reading

JJ's Quick Stop

298 Hwy. 162

Covington, Georgia 30016

Owner: Marina Sharlify (100%)

District Five

### **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

Unanimously Carried

### **ADJOURN**

Time: 7:50 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Unanimously Carried

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk**

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**Aaron Varner, Chairman**