

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 6, 2007  
MINUTES**

**Newton County Historic Courthouse  
1124 Clark Street  
Covington, Georgia  
Chairman Aaron Varner, Presiding**

**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, and County Clerk Jackie Smith

**Newspaper:** Covington News  
Newton Citizen  
A few citizens

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order, extended a welcome and read the thought for the day. Commissioner J.C. Henderson gave the invocation and Chairman Varner led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great Flag.

Chairman welcomed City of Newborn Mayor and Council Members on hand for the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED October 16, 2007**

Motion: To approve the minutes dated October 16th as printed with corrected dates duly noted.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

**APPROVAL OF W/S MINUTES DATED NOVEMBER 1, 2007**

Motion: To approve the work session minutes dated November 1<sup>st</sup> as printed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

**AMEND AGENDA TO DISCUSS WATER LINE EXTENSION**

Motion: To amend the agenda to discuss a water line extension in the first district.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Motion Carried with Commissioner Simmons voting against the motion.

## **JUDICIAL ANNEX FUTURE EXPANSION of PARKING LOT**

Court Judge Sammy Ozburn, Superior Court Judge Horace Johnson and architect Ben Staus appeared before the board to discuss the proposed parking lot expansion located behind the Judicial Center.

- First and foremost a safety issue
- Judicial Center is a building that other counties model after; however it is potentially dangerous regarding parking for the judges.
- This will allow for 12 spaces, which will include a space for the District Attorney and the Clerk of Courts as well as a visiting judge.
- It will also prove helpful in transferring juvenile detainees from the Sheriff Department.

Motion: To approve the concept of secure parking lot and move forward as presented by Lyman Davidson Dooley, Inc. for a not to exceed cost of \$148,658.00.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

## **FINANCE DEPARTMENT RECIPIENT OF AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Finance Director Marcia Allen and members of her staff were on hand to receive recognition and congratulations from the board on, once again, being the recipient of the Financial Award of Excellence. Administrative Officer John Middleton noted the following:

- Only jurisdiction in Newton County earning this distinction.
- 26 out of 159 counties received this award
- This award recognizes governments that prepare better financial reports.
- Can be viewed as a positive factor by credit rating agencies.

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH COORDINATING COUNCIL GRANT AWARD ACCEPTANCE**

Administrative Officer John Middleton presented this grant acceptance request to the board noting this is a housekeeping measure.

- Grant approved earlier in year
- Grant amount: \$7,343.00
- Matching Funds: \$2,937.00 (budgeted)

Motion: To accept the Children & Youth Coordinating Council Grant in the amount of \$7,343.00 as presented by Mr. Middleton and outlined in agenda packet on pages 79-84.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

## **LASETER STREET COMMUNITY CENTER - MOWING & GRINDING DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Henderson addressed the board with this request and noted the following:

- Board purchased property over 2 years ago (8 acres)
- City of Covington donated ½ acre.
- Lots of brush and small trees to be cleared out.
- Requested Ms. Delk to see if any trees could be saved...none worth saving.
- Would like cut at least three acres.
- Trees that are cut up will be put back on the property as mulch
- Project has \$5,000 budgeted for utilities...
- Would like to take \$3,000 from utilities to have this done.
- Mr. Middleton noted that funds have been budgeted and money can come from that.
- Have met with City Arborist and she gave her approval.
- Presented job quote and made part of these minutes.

Motion: To approve using \$3,000 from funds earmarked for utilities for the Laseter Street Community Center Project as presented.

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

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

## **UPDATE OF WATER PLAN REDUCTION**

Water Resource Director Karl Kelley appeared before the board with an update on the water reduction plan. Mr. Kelley provided the board with a press release dated October 31, 2007, which is made part of these minutes.

## **PROPOSAL #08-01 UNIFORMS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Purchasing Director Tina Malone appeared before the board to present this request and noted the following:

- Proposal request is for one year w/option for 2 more years
- Renewable each year
- Items purchased will be on as needed basis
- Committee recommends to split award as follows:
- T&T Uniforms: Station-wear, footwear, safety vests
- Uniform Sales of America: T-Shirts, pants, caps, uniform jacket
- Command Uniforms: Dress-wear, nametags, insignia, badges
- Estimated Yearly Cost for FY2008 is \$37,350.00
- Funding: General Fund

Motion: To approve Proposal #08-01 Uniforms for Fire Department for a cost of \$37,350.00 and award to the recommended companies as follows:

T&T Uniforms: Station-wear, footwear, and safety vests

Uniform Sales of America: T-Shirts, pants, caps, uniform jacket

Command Uniforms: Dress-wear, nametags, insignia, badges

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

### **BID #08-06 VEHICLES FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

Purchasing Director Tina Malone appeared before the board to present this request and noted the following:

- Vehicles approved in budget
- Only one vender for Malibu (Engineering Department)
- Legacy Ford is low bidder, but more cost efficient for county to stay within county due to maintenance and warranty.
- All vehicles are replacing older vehicles that will go to auction except as follows:
  - Fire Department: (1) goes to pool for Administration
  - (2) Goes to pool for Fire Department to be used as School Trans. & back-up vehicle.

Engineering: The Malibu is an additional vehicle to department, no replacement.  
Chairman suggested that Buster drive vehicle first (Public Works).

Motion: To approve Bid #08-06 vehicles for various departments and award bid to Covington Ford for \$106,729.00 with the exception of a 2007 Chevrolet Malibu for a total of \$13,495.00 awarded to Bill Heard Chevrolet with Malibu purchase pending decision of department.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried

### **ACCEPTANCE OF \$30,000 GRANT FROM FIREMAN'S FUND INSURANCE**

Fire Chief Mike Satterfield appeared before the board to request acceptance of these funds. He noted the following:

- No matching funds required
- Apply for certain items, approved for certain items and purchase.

Commissioner Fleming expressed appreciation to Chief Satterfield for applying for this grant.

Motion: To accept a grant from Fireman's Fund Insurance in the amount of \$30,000.

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

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

## **WATER LINE EXTENSION PROPOSAL**

Commissioner Mort Ewing addressed the board regarding this proposal and noted the following:

- Appreciate board amending the agenda to discuss this proposal.
- Numbers of people have been working on this proposal since September.
- Concerns about running out of water.
- Have met with Newborn Mayor, J.W. Cummings and with Mansfield Mayor, William Cocchi.
- June 13, 2006 this board adopted a new service delivery map (HB489).
- As it relates to water, Mill Pond Road and Lloyd Road are in the Mansfield Service Area
- We received a proposal from the City of Newborn for an 8-inch line and a proposal from City of Mansfield for a 10-inch line.
- City of Newborn requested county participating in the amount of 50% of cost.
- This board has a policy for participation at 25%.
- Proposal before you is for a 10 inch water line  
Total Cost: \$102,451.00  
City of Mansfield will pay: \$77,838.25 (75% of cost)  
Request is for Newton County to pay 25% of cost for a total of \$25,612.75
- This is consistent with previous waterline extensions.
- We budgeted \$150,000 for waterline extensions in our FY2008 Water Fund Budget.
- City of Mansfield will be responsible for all maintenance cost.
- Copy of proposal is made part of these minutes.

Motion: To approve the 10-inch waterline request from the City of Mansfield for a total cost of \$102,451.00 with Newton County's portion being \$25,612.75 (25% of cost) and Mansfield paying 75% of cost in the amount of \$77,838.25.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

## **ALCOHOL LICENSE:**

Final Approval

Maverick Food

12708 Hwy. 278

Covington, Georgia 30014

Melissa Diane Sneed (50% Owner)

Roshan Ale Dosane (50% Owner)

District One

Motion: To approve the Alcohol License request for Maverick Food located at 12708 Hwy. 278, Covington, Georgia.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

## **COUNTY CHECKS**

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

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and land acquisition.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

## **REGULAR SESSION**

Time: 8:20 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: 8:20 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk