

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
August 2, 2005
MINUTES

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

Present: Chairman Varner, Commissioners' Mort Ewing, Ronnie Dimsdale, Ester Fleming, Jr., J.C. Henderson, and Monty Laster; Administrative Assistant John Middleton, County Attorney Tommy Craig, Attorney Kim Degonia, Attorney James Griffin and Clerk Jackie Smith

Chairman Varner extended a welcome to all present and read the thought for the day. Rev. Len Strozier, Covington First Baptist Church gave the invocation and the chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Varner, on behalf of the board, expressed appreciation to Rev. Strozier for his eloquent prayer and for the tremendous contribution he and his congregations provide to the citizens of this great county.

APPROVAL OF BOCW/S MINUTES JULY 19, 2005

Motion: To approve the BOC Work Session Minutes dated July 19, 2005 as written.
Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five
Second by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four
Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES JULY 19, 2005

Motion: To approve the BOC Minutes dated July 19, 2005 as written.
Proposed by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four
Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five
Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF BOC W/S MINUTES JULY 21, 2005

Motion: To approve the BOC Work Session Minutes dated July 21, 2005 as written.
Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One
Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five
Motion Carried

ADOPT A HORSE PRESENTATION – DENNIS HORION

Dennis Horion appeared before the board to make a presentation on the Adopt A Horse Foundation. He presented the board with a very informative packet of information. They commended Mr. Horion for his efforts and regretted they could not offer any financial assistance, however offered their moral support and encouragement.

- 176 acres
- Helping abused children

NO ACTION NECESSARY

TAX REFUND REQUEST – LANUZA AD VALOREM TAX MOTOR VEHICLE

Commissioner Dimsdale had investigated this request and found out that Mr. Lanuza's car was registered in Rockdale County. This came to the attention of the Tax Commissioner because of insurance lapse on vehicle. .

Motion: To uphold the recommendation of the Newton County Tax Commissioner and deny the tax refund request of Mr. Lanuza.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

NEWTON COUNTY LOWER RIVER ROAD LANDFILL SITE NO. 2 PHASE #2 LINER CONSTRUCTION

Administrative Assistant John Middleton presented this request to the board.

- Noted Mr. Greg Richardson has reviewed the documents as well and recommends proceeding.
- \$91,268 is engineering cost only.
- This amount does not include Mr. Richardson's consulting fee.

Motion: To approve the Newton County Lower River Road Landfill Site No. 2, Phase #2 Liner Construction with a not to exceed cost of \$91,268.00.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Motion Carried

AWARD OF TRANSPORTATION MASTER AGREEMENT

Chairman Varner addressed the board and noted the following:

- Advertised RFP for project
- Received 17 proposals
- Interviewed 7 companies

- Would like to present five (5) for pre-certification.
- Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan (PBS&J)
- J.B. Trimble
- Street Smarts
- URS
- Moreland Altobelli
- The term of the agreements would be for one year with the option of renewal each year for an additional 5 years for a total period of 6 years.
- Board would approve each year.
- Projects will come back before board for approval.
- J.B. Tribble has done an excellent job on our bridge work
- Company will acquire right-of-way for projects

Motion: To adopt the Transportation Master Agreement (TMA) solicited under Newton County RFP #05-22 and pre-certifies the following companies:

1. PBS&J
2. J.B. Trimble
3. Street Smarts
4. URS
5. Moreland Altobelli

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

DCA SIGNATURE COMMUNITY

Administrative Assistant John Middleton gave the board an overview of the DCA Signature Community. He provided a handout and stated more information would be forthcoming.

- The Center is willing to facilitate meeting
- Already met with Frank Turner, Jr., City of Covington representatives, DCA representatives and Kay Lee
- Advantages to being recognized as a Signature Community.

NO ACTION NECESSARY

COUNTY CHECKS

Motion: To approve the county checks as read.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

CITIZENS COMMENTS/COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

RESOLUTION REGARDING EMINENT DOMAIN

Aaron Brooks of the East Metro Libertarian Party appeared before the board to present a resolution on eminent domain. The board expressed appreciation to them for their efforts supporting property rights and noted they (Newton County BOC) were in the process of reviewing other counties resolutions regarding eminent domain and would address this matter at another meeting very soon.

NO ACTION NECESSARY

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 7:35 p.m

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

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

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

Further Discussion

Commissioner Dimsdale briefly identified issues/concerns regarding Development Regulations. Loop holes regarding what constitutes a subdivision. Creating a subdivision one house at a time. Requested further discussion and board concurred.

Also briefly discussed Brick Store Overview Development Node.

ADJOURN

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Smith
County Clerk