

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
August 1, 2006
MINUTES

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

Present: Chairman Aaron Varner, Commissioners Mort Ewing, Ronnie Dimsdale, Ester Fleming, Jr., J.C. Henderson, and Monty Laster, Administrative Officer John Middleton, County Attorney Tommy Craig, Attorney Scott Cole, Attorney James Griffin and County Clerk Jackie Smith

Newspaper: The Newton Citizen
Small group of 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 in the Pledge of Allegiance to our great Flag.

Approval of BOC Minutes dated July 18, 2006

Motion: To approve the minutes as written.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried

Proclamation Honoring William “Bill” Elliott

Chairman Varner, on behalf of himself and the board, presented a proclamation honoring Bill Elliott for his work as Environmental Prosecutor for Newton County. Mr. Elliott expressed appreciation to the board and to the county employees who worked so hard to help him achieve successful results in the area of prosecution

No action necessary.

Appointments to Senior Service Board

Motion: To appoint Ann Brewer, 139 Cedar Lane, Covington, GA, to serve on the Senior Service Board representing District One.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Appointments to Senior Service Board

Motion: To appoint Tommy Hailey, 140 Orchard Drive, Covington, GA, to serve on the Senior Service Board representing District Three.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Appointment to Library Board

Chairman Varner presented Betty Bledsoe's name for board's consideration of appointment to the Library Board.

Motion: To appoint Betty Bledsoe, 150 Willow Woods, Social Circle, GA, to serve on the Newton County Library Board.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

Architectural Services for Historic Jail Renovations

Special Projects Coordinator Cheryl Delk presented the submitted services to the board for their consideration.

Before presenting bid on historic jail Ms. Delk gave the following information regarding Parking for Executive Office Building during building program.

- Reviewed parking area with Tax Commissioner, Chief Appraiser, IT Director and Lloyd Kerr, City of Covington
- Fence line going up next week
- Citizens/Customers will use lower lot
- Church will allow use of parking lot during week
- Ground breaking to be announced before next meeting

Historic Jail Renovations

- Reviewed two bids: Lane Greene-\$36,000; Jack Pyburn: 49,870.00
- Feels that Lane Greene will do an excellent job.

Motion: To approve the contract with Lane Greene, Architect, for a not to exceed amount of \$36,000.00 for architectural services regarding the historic jail renovations.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Crowell Road & Brown Bridge Road Intersection Contract/Shoulder Widening

County Engineer Kevin Walter noted the following:

- Add two (2) feet to the shoulder on both sides of the road
- 4.1 miles
- Safety issue
- Requested PBS&J to review to make sure prices are fair.
- Successfully negotiated pricing with Pittman.

Motion: To approve the contract with Pittman Construction for a not to exceed cost of \$303,220.00 for Project Number Newton 06-15.

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

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

Motion Carried

Road Easement – Floyd Street

Steve Caps with Sun Belt Builders appeared before the board making this request. He noted the following:

- Provided drawing for driveway request (plat)
- Board aware of easement request
- Will rebuild easement road
- Road will act as another egress and ingress for health building.
- Bank will provide engineering
- Design will take care of a barrier making people turn right instead of left

Commissioner Ewing

- Understands that City of C'ton & GDOT is proposing to reroute Floyd Street and intersect with Industrial Blvd. Floyd Street would become a dead-end. (Correct)

Commissioner Dimsdale

- Concerned about parking area.
- Will there be a barrier to prevent people from turning into the library?
- Will backside continue to remain open? (Yes)
- Will bank maintain potholes, maintenance, litter, mowing grass, etc.? (Yes)
- Would owner of project keep maintained? (Yes)

Commissioner Fleming

- Clarification that bank will maintain up keep of actual drive and this would include any repairs. (Yes)

Motion: To approve the requested road easement as presented with the condition that all maintenance of the road is on the burden of the property owner.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Mansfield Water Line

Commissioner Mort Ewing presented this request to the board for their consideration. He noted the following:

- Working w/Mayor Cocchi since February 2006 regarding several issues.
- City of Mansfield has requested that we share 50% of the cost to solve these problems.
- Project: Hwy. 11-Pony Express to Marks Road (South)
- Attempting to get another water source to Mansfield & Jasper County
- Jasper County is presently a Newton County customer purchasing 300,000 gallons of water per day
- Understands that Jasper County just let a contract for 12miles of water lines and they will be coming back to N.C. for more water.
- Water Pressure is another problem (Mansfield when Jasper County pulls water out of the line and the City of Newborn also has water pressure problems.
- Received 2 proposals (copies made part of minutes)
- Cost has increase since receiving proposals in May, however Mansfield has agreed to bear the extra cost.
- 10-inch water line will provide adequate water for Jasper County.
- 3 water lines at present time: Hwy. 212, Young Road, and Hwy. 11

Motion: To approve the Mansfield Water Line request for a not to exceed cost of \$78,000.00 to Newton County.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

R080106 CDBG Grant Acceptance for FY2007

Administrative Officer John Middleton presented the CDBG Grant, noting the following:

- Housekeeping item
- Services the Newton County Senior Service Program

Motion: To approve Resolution 090106 accepting the FY2007 CDBG Grant.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

E911-Global Signal Tower Leases

E911 Director Mike Smith appeared before the board regarding these leases. Attorney Scott Cole was on hand to answer any questions regarding the lease as he reviewed the contracts. They noted the following:

- Very proud that Newton County E911 was selected for a magazine cover. They have received many calls regarding their program because of this.
- Scott reviewed contract
- Came down \$200.00 per tower

- 60 month contract
- Radio System for public safety

Commissioner Ewing

- Note that most towers are conditioned with making space available to county at no cost.
- Mr. Smith said they looked into that and there were no records available that states inclusion.
- Looked at Hwy 11 & Hwy. 143? Yes, but height was a problem.

Motion: To approve Tower Site Agreement #4081926 located at 4558 Hwy. 213 in Mansfield and Tower Site Lease #4081927 located at 364 Old Social Circle Road.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried

Intersection Sales Permit

Sheriff Joe Nichols appeared before the board with concerns regarding intersection sales.

He noted the following:

- Safety is the number one concern
- Traffic congestion
- Slows traffic
- Inconvenience to motorist
- Illigimate collectors
- No existing law that gives us direction

Chairman Varner

- Put a 60-day Moratorium in place until legal has an opportunity to review.

Commissioner Ewing

- Expressed appreciation to the Sheriff for bringing this to board's attention.
- Agrees with moratorium
- Would like to see a committee to review this and bring a report back to the board.

Commissioner Fleming

- Concerned that it would affect Give Burns The Boot drive.
- Can't restrict one and not all.
- Needs to be studied legally and opinion brought back to board for consideration.
- Does not support a moratorium

Attorney Craig

- Suggest a 30-day moratorium and then extend it to 30 if needed.

Commissioner Henderson

- Voiced his concern regarding churches and schools who sell doughnuts at the intersections.
- Feels like the ones who should not be there, should be removed.

Chairman Varner

- Noted no one is against non-profit, but everyone is concerned about the seriousness of the nature. There is more traffic in Newton County than ever before and agrees with Sheriff regarding slowing of traffic and congestion.

- Feels like legal should look at this and come back with a report

Motion: To approve 30- Day Moratorium on the issuance of permits regarding intersection sales in Newton County. Also, sheriff and legal will meet together regarding issue and come back to board on September 5th with a firm recommendation.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried with Commissioner Fleming voting in opposition to the motion.

R080106a Certificates of Participation for Administration Building

Jamie Wilson, Merchant Capital was on hand to present this request to the board.

He noted the following:

- Could be in market price next week
- Resolution authorizes execution of documents
- Close on or about August 23rd
- Interest Rate: 4.3/8%

Commissioner Fleming

- Questioned the difference in the numbers not adding up.

Jamie Wilson

- Cost of issuance is \$334,000
- Reserve Fund is required on Certificate
- This is a draft form and will not be finalized till Friday.
- BOC will get final version

Motion: To approve Resolution R080106a Certificates of Participation as it relates to the Newton County Administration Building

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

Streetlights

Providence Subdivision

Almon Road

District 3

Motion: To approve streetlights as requested.

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

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

Motion Carried

Alcohol License

First Reading

Maverick at the Hub

12708 Hwy. 278

Social Circle, GA 30025

Steve Smallwood (100% Owner)

County Checks

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

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Executive Session

Time: 8:10 p.m.

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

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

Regular Session

Time: 9:25 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Regular Session.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Adjourn

Time: 9:25 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie B. Smith

County Clerk