

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
January 4, 2005
MINUTES
7:00 p.m.**

**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 Assistant John Middleton, Attorney Scott Cole, Attorney Amit Bose, and County Clerk Jackie Smith

Also Present: Crystal Tatum, The Newton Citizen
Small group of citizens

Chairman Varner called the meeting together, extended a welcome and read the thought for the day. Bishop Murphy from United Praise Christian Center encouraged the board to continue on with the good job they are doing and offered a beautiful invocation.

APPROVAL OF W/S MINUTES DATED DECEMBER 21, 2004

Motion: To approve the minutes as written.

Proposed By: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second By: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED DECEMBER 21, 2004

Motion: To approve the minutes as written.

Proposed By: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Commissioner Ewing noted the board decided in 2004 to appoint a vice chairman beginning with the first district and rotating through district five.

Motion: To appoint district two commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale as vice chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners for 2005.

Proposed By: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second By: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

The board expressed appreciation for the job Mr. Craig does for Newton County.

Motion: To re-appoint Tommy Craig as County Attorney for year 2005.

Proposed By: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

Attorney Scott Cole, on behalf of Mr. Craig and staff, thanked the board for the privilege of working for Newton County and the confidence placed in them.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY CLERK

The board expressed appreciation for the job Ms. Smith does for Newton County.

Motion: To re-appoint Jackie Smith as County Clerk for year 2005.

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

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

Ms. Smith thanked the board for the privilege of being a part of their team.

RESOLUTION R010405 – TO ABANDON A PORTION OF THE FALLS BOULEVARD

Attorney Phil Craig appeared before the board to present a request to abandon a portion of The Falls Boulevard.

He noted the following:

- Stub of land located between lots 14 & 15
- 3/10 of an acre
- Cannot be used to inner connect other streets
- Backs up to other homes
- Introduced Mrs. Land who has maintained area for several years and would like to purchase the property.
- The state requires that the board issue a formal order to abandon the portion of the road.
- No opposition
- Homeowners Association for Butler Bridge has offered endorsement for the property going to Mr. & Mrs. Land.
- Minimum bid requirement
- Bids will be taken after approval of abandonment
- It was noted that the owners of the property to the back of the requested abandonment property have not been notified.
- Board decided to table the request until other property owners have been notified.

Motion: To table Resolution R010405 – To Abandon A Portion of The Falls Boulevard for further study, to notify surrounding property owners, and bring request back to commission for final action.

Proposed By: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second By: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

ALCOVY RIVER RAW WATER MAIN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Chairman Varner told the board Mr. Mathis (President of Infratec) was present to answer any questions they might have.

- Housekeeping item
- Cost is covered in issuance of water bonds
- Money within budget
- Timetable: 6 month construction time – Mid Summer (June/July)

Motion: To approve the Alcovy River Raw Water Main Construction Management Services Agreement with Infratec Consultants, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00.

Proposed

By: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

STREETLIGHTS:

THE CREST OF RIVER TRACE

THE MEADOWS OF RIVER TRACE

DISTRICT ONE

Motion: To approve streetlights for The Crest of River Trace and The Meadows of River Trace as requested.

Proposed By: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second By: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

FINAL APPROVAL

SALEM SHELL FOOD MART

3633B Salem Road

Covington, Georgia 30016

OWNER: Ali Akbar (100% owner)

District Two

Motion: To approve the alcohol license for Salem Shell Food Mart located at 3633B Salem Road as requested.

Proposed By: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

FIRST READING

DIXIE FOOD MART

1058 Hwy. 142 East

Covington, Georgia 30014

District One

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 Unanimously

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 7:25 p.m.

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

Proposed By: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second By: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

REGULAR SESSION

Time: 7:55 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Regular Session.

Proposed By: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second By: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Recycling Centers

- What would be a more efficient way to monitor who uses the county recycling centers, i.e. county residents/people from outside Newton County?
- Tag check not working
- Devices to deter people who do not live in the county from using recycling centers.
- Possible video system (similar to what Morgan County uses).
- System that videos tags and if it is an out-of county tag a citation is issued.
- Chairman will get prices on a system (mobile system that can be moved from site to site).
- Allow property owners to use centers (if shown proof of property ownership)?

Moratorium

- Discussed the possibility of a moratorium on zonings (not a building moratorium).

Update on legal matters

- Requested quarterly update from county attorney's office regarding pending litigation, i.e. zoning cases.
- Impact Fees – meet with municipalities on Monday, January 10th for their suggestions and input into projects.

ADJOURN

Time: 8:45 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn.

Proposed By: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second By: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Smith, County Clerk