

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
May 2, 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 Jenny Carter, Attorney Scott Cole, Attorney James Griffin, Planning and Development Director Marian Eisenberg and Acting County Clerk Kellie Lundy.

Newspapers: Crystal Tatum, Newton Citizen
Small group of citizens

Chairman Aaron Varner called the meeting together, extended a welcome and read the thought for the day. Commissioner Mort Ewing gave the invocation, and the Chairman asked Boy Scout Troup # 93 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to our great flag.

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED APRIL 18, 2006

- Commissioner Fleming had some questions about the minutes:
 - Verify motion approving the Newton County Employee Personnel Policy for current employees including section 3.301.
 - Commissioner Ewing responded to the employee policy approval question by referring to the motion listed on page 15 of the minutes dated April 18, 2006.
 - Addition to his comment on the at-will policy on page 15.
 - The addition was noted and made.
 - “Without his support he knows it will not pass and he strongly supports the at-will policy.”
 - Correct typo error on page 13 (“comprises” to “compromises”)
 - The change was made.

Motion: To approve the minutes as last printed with two changes per discussion.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion carried unanimously

PROPOSAL – DEVELOP A DESIGN STANDARD FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE OAK HILL COMMUNITY

Motion: To table proposal on Developing a Design Standard for Commercial Development in the Oak Hill Community indefinitely.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion carried unanimously

AGREEMENT – NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF DRIVER SERVICES

- This information was presented to the Board by Chairman Varner.
- Agreement between the County and the State to provide the Georgia Department of Driver Services 6,996 square feet of office space for the fee of \$1.00.

Motion: To approve the memorandum of agreement between Newton County Board of Commissioners and the Georgia Department of Driver Services listed as item #6226 for the amount not to exceed \$1.00.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion carried unanimously

TASK ORDER #4 – ROADS CONSULTANT URS ALTERNATE 142 ROUTE STUDY

- This information was presented to the Board by County Engineer Kevin Walter.
- A grant in the amount of \$50,000 was presented to the County and the City of Covington.
- Study will be paid for by above mentioned grant.
- No cost to the County
- Commissioner Dimsdale had some questions about items listed under *Compensation*.
 - Mr. Walter explained the breakdown and what is included in the figures.
- Commissioner Ewing had some concerns about why this project was being done again. A similar study came back and said it was not feasible due to the cost. He also pointed out that most of the road is or will be within the city limits.
 - Mr. Walter explained the differences between the previous study done and the proposed study – circumstances and road relocations.
 - Mr. Walter discussed what would be studied and stated that the City was awarded the grant with the County. The County already has a contract with the Consultant.
- County Attorney Tommy Craig asked about the statement in the proposal from URS that no State or Federal funds would be used for this project, noting the County could not afford to pay for such a project without that funding.
 - Mr. Walter responded by saying that this study is just to do a limited planning. This amount of work is not equal to those required to receive Federal or State funding. This study is to get us started and moving in the right direction.

- Commissioner Fleming asked about the City of Covington's participation.
 - Mr. Walter explained the City's involvement.
 - They were awarded the Grant in conjunction with the County.
 - They are participating in the process. However, due to the fact the county already has a contract with the Consultant it is easier for the County to proceed with the task order.
 - It has not been discussed about how the County and City will share in the costs of the project if the study finds it feasible.
- Commissioner Laster asked for some clarification on the location of the roads Mr. Walter had discussed in his presentation.

Motion: To approve Task Order # 4 – Roads Consultant URS Alternate 142 Route Study for the amount not to exceed \$41,793.29 with the funds coming from the Signature Community Award (DCA).

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

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

Motion carried unanimously

AMENDMENTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

- Chairman Varner announced that this was a public hearing on this matter and if anyone wanted to speak on the subject, they would be given the opportunity.
- Planning and Development Director Marian Eisenberg presented the information to the Board.
- Mr. Geoff Griffith of Hubert White Enterprises, Inc. spoke to the Board. He thanked the Board and Ms. Eisenberg for their work on the regulations and said that he looked forward to working with them in the future.

Motion: To approve the Development Regulations as presented by Ms. Eisenberg and that pages one and two of the memo dated April 26, 2006 from Marian Eisenberg, referencing Amendments to the Development Regulations be made part of the May 2, 2006 minutes.

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

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion carried unanimously

- Commissioner Dimsdale made a comment about page three of the above mentioned memo from Ms. Eisenberg and asked the Planning Staff to take a look at putting a time limit on subsequent phases of a project and report back to the Board within a reasonable time limit.

STREETLIGHTS

Forest Glen Subdivision

District Two

Motion: To approve the streetlights for Forest Glen Subdivision located in district two.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion carried unanimously

ALCOHOL LICENSE

FIRST READING

NONE

FINAL READING

Chevron Food Mart

11230 Hwy 36

Covington, Georgia 30014

Leo A. Alam (100% Owner)

Motion: To approve the alcohol license for Chevron Food Mart.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion carried unanimously

- Commissioner Dimsdale made the comment that the background check came back clear. He wanted the people to know that the Board routinely does background checks on alcohol licenses.

COUNTY CHECKS

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

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion carried unanimously

CITIZEN COMMENTS/COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Don Gresham addressed the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TIME: 7:45 PM

Motion: To approve to enter into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition.

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

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion carried unanimously

REGULAR SESSION

Motion: To approve to enter into Regular Session.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr. District Three

Motion carried unanimously

The Board discussed with Mr. Craig the annexation petition for Social Circle as reported in the Newspapers. The Chairman reported that he had not received a copy of the petition as of yet. Mr. Craig informed the Board that upon receipt of the notice the Board has seven (7) days to state its intent to object. The Board directed Mr. Craig to draft a letter stating Newton County's intent to object to annexation and rezoning. Mr. Craig agreed to do so for the Chairman's signature. Under Georgia law the Board has ten (10) days to document its objections after stating its intent to object.

ADJOURN

TIME: 8:23 PM

Motion: To adjourn.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr. District Three

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Kellie L. Lundy
Acting County Clerk