

Newton County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
7:00 P.M.  
February 1, 2022  
1124 Clark Street-Historic Courthouse  
Covington, GA 30014

Chairman Marcello Banes, Commissioners: Edwards, Mason, Sanders, Henderson, Cowan,  
Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter, Deputy Clerk Susan Nolley

1. Call to Order- Chairman Marcello Banes
2. Invocation-Commissioner Henderson
3. Pledge of Allegiance-led by Commissioner Cowan
4. Agenda Adoption-Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve adoption of the agenda, Commissioner Mason seconded. Vote 5-0 Approved
5. **Citizen Comments**  
Susan Jackson  
Donald Shriver
6. **Chairman's Report**  
Chairman Banes acknowledged Senior Services Director, Freda Reed and staff for an outstanding program. Senior Services celebrated the kickoff for their 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary on January 26, 2022.
7. **Old Business** – None
8. **Approval of Minutes**  
Executive Session-January 4, 2022  
Regular Meeting-January 18, 2022  
Executive Session-January 18, 2022  
  
Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve, Commissioner Mason seconded. Vote 5-0 Approved
9. **Consent Agenda**- No items to consider
- Regular Agenda**
10. Newton County Animal Services Veterinary Services Agreement with Planned PETHood of Georgia, Inc.  
  
Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve, Commissioner Mason seconded. Vote 5-0 Approved

11. **Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Calendar-** Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve, Commissioner Edwards seconded. Vote 5-0 Approved
12. **WSCC (Washington Street Community Center)** approval of additional SPLOST funds for their renovation project to include: kitchen renovation, fixtures and furniture, outdoor classroom and replace electrical.  
Cost: \$400,000.00 Funding Source: SPLOST Excess Collections

Representatives from the Board of Directors of the Washington Street Community Center were present.

Dr. Melvin Baker-thanked the board for their support and also read a letter of support and consideration on behalf of Mrs. Louise Adams in her absence.

Bea Jackson-the renovations and additional space is much needed for potential growth, internet service and to provide quality programming. The expansion would allow sufficient preparation and opportunity to provide workforce training and work readiness training. The vision is great, and it's a sense of urgency, concluded asking the board for their consideration.

Jeff Prine of Ascension Program Management-the analysis uncovered the electrical system was dangerous and not up to code and additional roof leaks were discovered. The renovation is much needed and electrical repairs are for the safety of the staff and children.

Commissioner Henderson motioned to approve, Commissioner Sanders seconded. Vote 5-0 Approved

13. **Task Order #C11** for Ascension Program Management services contract specifically for Probate Courtroom audio renovations.  
Cost-\$38,750.00 Funding source - Capital Improvements

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve, Commissioner Henderson seconded.  
Vote 5-0 Approved

14. **Task Order #C12** for Ascension Program Management Proposal for SPLOST 23 Referendum Management Services for Probate Court.  
Cost-\$40,400.00 Funding Source-Capital Improvements

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve, Commissioner Edwards seconded. Vote 5-0 Approved

15. **Resolution R020122-** Authorized Agreement with Salvation Army for management and distribution of ARPA Homeowner/Rental Assistance Funds.

**Discussion**

Patrick Jaugstetter-the resolution would authorize an agreement with the Salvation Army to administer and distribute the ARPA Homeowner/Rental Assistance and Utilities Assistance/ funds in the amount of \$700,000.00. The funds are to be distributed quarterly over a one-year term until they are exhausted. The funds will be administered accordingly with the Department of Treasury's Housing Assistance funds guidelines.

The Salvation Army is required to provide a quarterly update to the board and the board is required to report to the Department of Treasury.

The cost for the Salvation Army to administer the funds has not yet been determined and must be brought before the board for approval.

Commissioner Sanders motioned to approve Resolution R020122- An Authorized Agreement with the Salvation Army for management and distribution of ARPA Homeowner/Rental Assistance and Utilities Assistance funds in the amount of \$700,000.00 subject to administrative fees, Commissioner Mason seconded.  
Vote 5-0 Approved

16. **Resolution R020122a**- A Resolution of the Newton County Board of Commissioners to accept a Proposal for Paladin Wireless, LLC regarding a program to use ARPA funds to expand Broadband wireless services in Newton County.

**Discussion**

Patrick Jaugstetter-the proposal is to utilize \$500,000.00 of the district designated ARPA funds to allow infrastructure to expand the local broadband network with Paladin Wireless. Authorization for funds to be distributed will be managed by work task orders.

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve Resolution R020122a, approving Paladin Wireless to use ARPA funds to build mixed use fixed wireless internet network in Newton County, Commissioner Sanders seconded. Vote 5-0 Approved

**ALCOHOL LICENSE**

17. **Final Reading**  
Wal-Mart Store #4558 4200 Salem Road Covington, GA 30016  
Applicant: Shanta Latrell White District 2

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve, Commissioner Edwards seconded.  
Vote 5-0 Approved

18. **First Reading**  
Gas Express, LLC 5485 Highway 81 Covington, GA 30016  
Applicant: Shams Nanji District 1

19. **Citizen Comments**  
Susan Jackson  
Barbara Morgan  
Denise Williams

20. **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Edwards  
Commissioner Sanders  
Commissioner Henderson

21. Executive Session (To discuss personnel matter-no action to be taken)  
Commissioner Edwards motioned to enter into Executive session, Commissioner Mason seconded. Vote 5-0  
7:59 P.M.

22. Adjourn  
Commissioner Edwards motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Mason seconded.  
8:15 P.M.

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**Marcello Banes, Chairman**

Submitted by:

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Deputy Clerk Susan G. Nolley