

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
1124 Clark Street
Covington, Georgia
June 13, 2023
6:00 p.m.
SPECIAL CALLED MEEETING
MINUTES

Present: Chairman Marcello Banes, Commissioner's Stan Edwards, Demond Mason, Alana Sanders, Ronnie Cowan, (Commissioner Henderson entered the work session @ 6:30 pm), County Manager Harold Cooper, County Clerk Jackie Smith, and Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter (via Zoom).

Staff: Finance Director Brittany White

Others Present: Newton Citizen, and a small group of citizens

Chairman Banes call the meeting to order, extended a welcome, and thanked everyone for their time today. Commissioner Sanders gave the invocation and Commissioner Mason led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Chairman Banes called the meeting to order and recognized County Manager Harold Cooper who brought greetings and provided an overview of the budget. He then yielded the balance of time to Finance Director Brittany White to present the PowerPoint presentation of the FY24 budget to the board.

Brittany White, Finance Director noted the following:

- Annual budget can be found on Newton County's web site under the Transparency Tool.
- Read Mission Statement
- Highlighted the following from the PowerPoint Presentation.
- Budget Goals & Assumptions
- General Fund Revenue Totals
- General Fund Revenue Highlights
- General Fund Expenditure Totals
- General Fund Expenditure Highlights
- General Fund Revenue by Category
- General Fund Expenditures by Category
- General Fund Expenditures by Function
- General Fund by Department
- FY24 Personnel Requests
- All Funds Summary
- 10-Year Millage Rate History
- Announced that a Public Hearing will be held on June 20th @ 6:30 pm and a Special Called Meeting on June 27th @ 6:00pm to adopt the budget.
- PowerPoint Presentation is attached.
- FY2024 Budget Book Proposed is attached.

Commissioner Sanders asked for an explanation of what ABM did for the county. Brittany White stated basically they replaced the lighting in the buildings (Jail, Administrative Building, Judicial Center, Historic Courthouse, Recreation) and it was supposed to provide a savings to the county. This included an annual audit and an annual maintenance agreement which has not been cancelled. She said the county has not realized the amount of savings they were guaranteed. Also, the county was not receiving the updates from ABM as agreed to. She stated that it is hard to monitor internally ... the county does not have software for this.

The county hired ATA and they have been able to do that for us.

Commissioner Sanders requested an audit and Ms. White stated she would send her one. Newton County makes two payments during the calendar year to ABM of \$550,000 each. Payments are made in March and September each year. Funding Source is SPLOST under Debt Service.

The board discussed the county's retirement program.

Mr. Cooper reiterated that all surrounding counties have a Defined Benefit program and out of the 159 counties in Georgia 108 counties offer a DB program.

In the proposed DB program there will be a 2% mandated employee contribution.

Ms. White noted this will help offset the cost.

Commissioner Sanders questioned increasing Impact Fees and Chairman Banes replied that we are in the process of reviewing impact fees currently. Mr. Cooper said in the near future he will be bringing this to the board.

On a motion by Commissioner Henderson and a second by Commissioner Sanders, the special called meeting adjourned @ 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

Marcello Banes, Chairman