

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Tuesday night, January 19, 2010, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman
Sammie L. Wilson Sr., Vice Chairman
Rev. Fred Favors, Commissioner
Wm. "Bill" M. Jopling, Commissioner
Paul McCorkle, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:

Don Norton, County Manager
Ruthie Thomas, Human Resource Coordinator
Darlow Maxwell, Finance Director
Eric Reisinger, Director of Public Works
Valerie Burley, Probate Judge
Phyllis Wheeler, Elections Superintendent
Linda Thurmond, Chief Appraiser
Don Clauson, Solid Waste Director
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
Bob Howard, Recreation Director
Stephen Sewell, Assistant Fire Chief

MEDIA PRESENTATION:

McDuffie Mirror
WTHO Radio Station

OTHERS:

Nine (9) citizens attended

COMMISSION MEETING

CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Newton acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Favors, Commissioner and Pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, offered the invocation and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL

Agenda (Current)

Chairman Newton asked if there were any corrections or additions to the current agenda. With no corrections or additions, a motion to approve the current agenda was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Regular Mtg. (1-6-2010))

A motion to approve the minutes of the 1-6-2010 Regular Commission Meeting was made by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. One-day Annual Planning Retreat in Augusta at Savannah Rapids Pavilion on Friday, March 5, 2010
- 2.
3. ACCG Worker's Compensation Fund Dividend received as credit for 2010 premiums in the amount of \$21,759.00

OLD BUSINESS

1. CSRA Unified Development Authority Appointment: Chairman Newton opened the floor for nominations to replace Joseph Greene. Mr. Herman Cowins and Mr. John Perryman were nominated to replace Mr. Joseph Greene. A motion to close nominations was made by Wilson, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously. A roll call vote was requested by Chairman Newton with the following results:

Roll Call:	<u>Cowins</u>	<u>Perryman</u>
Favors	✓	
McCorkle		✓
Wilson	✓	
Jopling		✓
Newton		✓

With a three to two vote, Mr. Perryman will fill the vacant position with the CSRA Unified Development Authority replacing Mr. Joseph Greene through December 2010.

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2. Further Discussion of Additional Elections Position/Election Budget Status: Chairman Newton asked Mr. Norton to address this item.

Mr. Norton stated that Phyllis Wheeler needs contracting services which will cost \$22,160, or as an alternative to the contracting services is requested to hire one additional person. Phyllis stated that she is requesting an additional person because she is the only person in McDuffie County that can certify certain functions and tasks. Hiring an additional person will serve as back up support in the Election Office, and would make three (3 full time positions).

After discussion, a motion to postponed to the February 3, 2010 Commission meeting awaiting additional information of comparing McDuffie County to counties of like size concerning their use of the state service contract was made by Wilson, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Probate Court-Elected Official’s Justification of Hiring Employee during “Hiring Freeze”: Chairman Newton asked Judge Burley to address this matter.

Judge Burley stated that she recently terminated an employee and wishes to fill the vacant position that is included in the budget.

Don Norton stated that Judge Burley was in agreement to share the hired person in the Commission Office as needed and possibly in the Clerk of Court Office, but this is definitely to be the Judge’s position.

After discussion, a motion to allow Judge Burley to fill the vacant position that will be shared as needed was made by McCorkle, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

2. Assessor’s Office-Justification of Hiring Employee During “Hiring Freeze”: Chairman Newton asked Linda Thurmond to address the item.

Linda stated that the position is not a new position. The position became available due to Katherine Perry's resignation, Linda's promotion to Chief Appraiser and several other individuals moving upward. The current vacancy is for "Clerk".

After discussion, a motion to postpone to the matter to the February 3, 2010 Commission meeting awaiting additional information from other counties of like size concerning number of employees within their Tax Assessor's Office was made by McCorkle, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Lawn/Grounds Maintenance Bid: Chairman Newton asked Don Norton County Manager, to present this item. A copy of the seven (7) bids received is copied below.

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After discussion, a motion to accept Leaves & Landscaping bid of \$1,995/month for three years was made by McCorkle, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

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4. Monthly Budget Report: Chairman Newton asked Don Norton to present this item.

Chairman Newton asked County Manager Don Norton to present this report.

Don reported that as of December 31, 2009 with 100% of the year lapsed, the County had collected \$8,307,8576.09 or 63.9% of the projected YTD revenue for the General Fund. Note was again made that tax notices had been mailed but no revenue is reported as of this date.

Expenditures were at \$11,793,342.18 or 90.7%.

5. Monthly Financial Report: Darlow Maxwell, County Finance Director, continued with the Financial Report stating that all bank accounts ending balance showed \$24,485,309; Hotel/Motel revenue reflects a YTD total of \$176,331 or a 21% decrease from one year ago. Local Option Sales Tax Collection reflects a YTD total of \$2,354,294 or a -7.6% decrease from this date in 2008; SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditures report a cumulative revenue total of \$17,818,007 with expenditures At \$17,361,085. SPLOST V reflects a total of \$2,867,080 cumulative revenue. SPLOST V revenues are being realized at approximately 80-85 of that anticipated. \$417,425 has been spent, all of which has been for the Government Center

Project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel: A motion to go into executive session was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

A motion to recommend following the executive session was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman
Coordinator

ATTEST:

Ruthie Thomas, HR
(in temporary absence of County Clerk)