

## **AGENDA**

**McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**February 6, 2008, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse**

### **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

**Chairman Newton**

### **INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Reverend Andrew Grant, Pastor, Green Branch Baptist Church, Thomson**

### **APPROVALS**

**Agenda (Current)**

**Minutes (Regular Mtg. 1- 15-08)**

### **INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1. Announcement – ACCG Legislative Conf., Feb. 11-12, 2008, Atlanta Marriott**
- 2. Announcement – 2008 Multi-Entity Planning Retreat, Feb. 22-23, 2008, UGA, Athens**
- 3. Announcement – Long Awaited Pre-Construction Conf., for the Water System Expansion, Feb. 7, City Hall Conference Room**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Remaining Appointment to Development Authority (Chairman Newton)**
- 2. Follow Up Discussion - Appointment to Clarks Hill Partnership (Chairman Newton)**
- 3. Follow Up Discussion - 2008 CDBG Proposal (Chairman Newton)**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. ER's & ACO's (Error Releases & Assessor's Change Order Report) Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes – December 2007 & January 2008 (Sandra Whitaker)**
- 2. One-Day Special Events Alcohol License Request – MRMC Foundation (Chairman Newton)**
- 3. National Fire Plan/Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Acceptance and the Temporary Transfer of Funds (Bruce Tanner).**
- 4. Request for Contingency Funds for Engine 6 Pump Rebuild (Bruce Tanner)**
- 5. Clarks Hill Partnership Dues for 2008 (Don Norton)**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Wednesday morning, February 6, 2008, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman  
Sammie Wilson Sr., Vice Chairman  
Darrell Wester, Commissioner  
J. Robt. "Bob" Farr, Commissioner  
Rev. Frederick Favors, Commissioner

**COUNTY REPRESENTATION**

Don Norton, County Manager  
Annette Finley, County Clerk  
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director  
Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works  
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner  
Merlinda D'Antignac, Leisure Services  
Bob Howard, Dir., Recreation, Leisure Svc. & Transp.  
Wanda Sisson, Tax Assessor's Office  
Don Clauson, Director, Solid Waste  
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief  
Steven Sewell, Fire Services/EMS

**OTHERS**

Four (4) other citizens attended.

**MEDIA REPRESENTATION**

WTHO Radio Station  
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper  
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

Chairman Newton confirmed that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Reverend Andrew Grant, Pastor, Cody Grove Baptist Church, Warren County, led the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVALS**

Agenda (Current)

A motion to approve the current agenda was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Regular Commission Mtg., 1/15/08)

A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Announcement – ACCG Legislative Conf., Feb. 11-12, 2008, Atlanta Marriott
2. Announcement – 2008 Multi-Entity Planning Retreat, Feb. 22-23, 2008, UGA, Athens
3. Announcement – Long Awaited Pre-Construction Conf., Water System Expansion, Feb. 7, 2008, 10:00 AM, City Hall Conference Room
4. Announcement – Georgia State Patrol is relocating to Columbia County. Sgt. Jason Johnson, Post Commander, stated that McDuffie County services would remain unchanged in all aspects.
5. Announcement – USS Georgia Flag Presentation & Signing Ship's Log Book is scheduled for Friday, February 8, 11:00 AM, McDuffie County Courthouse, Numerous Dignitaries Will Be In Attendance.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Remaining Appointment to Development Authority:

Chairman Newton announced that at the last Commission Meeting the remaining appointment to the Thomson-McDuffie Development Authority had been postponed to this meeting. At this time, he asked for names to be considered for Post 2.

At this time, a motion was made by Wilson to appoint Bob Knox, Jr., to this position. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

Commissioner Favors stated that he needs to talk with someone else before voting and made a second motion to postpone this matter to the next regular scheduled Commission Meeting to be held on February 19, 2008; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

2. Follow Up Discussion Concerning Appointments to Clarks Hill Partnership:

Chairman Newton reported that at the January 15 Commission Meeting, Commissioner Darrell Wester was appointed to the Partnership; however, he has since determined that he cannot devote the required time for this responsibility and asked to be replaced. At this time, Chairman Newton placed the matter before the Board for action.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Wester to appoint Mayor Kenneth Usry, City of Thomson, and representing McDuffie County to the Committee along with confirming the appointment of Don Norton, County Manager as a member of the Committee and adding Commissioner Sammie Wilson as an Alternate; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

3. Follow Up Discussion Concerning 2008 CDBG Proposal: Chairman Newton reported that additional information was being made available concerning the 2008 CDBG proposal which was postponed from the January 15, 2008 meeting.

Chairman Newton introduced Ms. Claire Russell, representative for The Gilead Group, Inc., a non-profit parent company providing services to the aged and disabled in the CSRA. Their caregivers furnish and provide families and individuals needing assistance with meals and other personal care guidance as well as a little fun. They along with Chairman Newton are proposing to combine with McDuffie County's Sr. Citizens Center in applying for a 2008 CDBG. Ms. Nancy Johnson, Community Mental Health Board, Warrenton, raised some transportation issues involving the disabled and their care. After a very lengthy discussion among the commissioners, Ms. Russell, Bob Howard, and Ms. D'Antignac, the matter was postponed to the next scheduled Commission Meeting to be held on February 19, 2008. Chairman Newton cautioned the "postponement" stating that the April 1 deadline for application was approaching.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. **ER's & ACO's (Error Releases & Assessor's Change Order Report) Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes – December 2007 & January 2008:** Chairman Newton asked Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker to present these reports.

Sandra gave the following changes for each respective month:

December 2007: Decrease \$13,250.02 Property Taxes Digest

This will decrease the amount of revenue due the County for the M&O of McDuffie County and is due to several appeals filed on 2007 values; public utility values adjusted per State Department of Revenue releasing of 2007 values; granting of Conservation Covenants, corrected Homestead Exemption removal in error; and, tax bills under \$5.01 for 2006 tax year were written off accounts receivable.

Mobile Home Digest increased \$586.56 in revenue due the County for M&O. The Mobile Home tax increase is due to the location of several mobile homes located in county not displaying a location permit.

January 2008: Increase \$3,588.224 – Property Taxes Digest

This will increase the amount of revenue due the County for the M&O of McDuffie County. The Property Tax increase is due to several appeals filed on 2007 values were settled with some increasing and some decreasing; personal property audits completed for several businesses that increased values for 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004.

**Mobile Home Digest increased the amount of revenue by \$318.81 due the county for M&O. The Mobile Home tax increase is due to the location of several mobile homes located in the county not displaying a location permit.**

**After discussion a motion to approve and adopt the reports as presented for both December 2007 and January 2008 was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.**

- 2. One-Day Special Events Alcohol License Request – MRMC Foundation: Chairman Newton presented a request from the McDuffie Regional Medical Center Foundation requesting a “One Day Special Events” beer license for consumption at the Annual Ray Guy Golf Classic at Belle Meade County Club on April 4, 2008. After confirming that all requirements for the purchase of this license with the County Clerk, Chairman Newton recommended that this request be approved. A motion was made by Wester to approve this beer license for consumption; motion was seconded by Farr and passed 3 to 2 with Favors and Wilson abstaining.**

- 3. National Fire Plan/Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Acceptance and the Temporary Transfer of Funds: Chairman Newton asked County Fire Chief Bruce Tanner to address this matter.**

**Bruce stated that the National Fire Plan/Volunteer Fire Assistant Grant in the amount of \$6,750 had been awarded and he was asking that the Commission approve the temporary transfer of \$6,750 from contingency to the Fire Department’s small equipment budget to be returned to contingency upon payment of the grant proceeds. This \$6,750 will be used for the purpose of purchasing protective clothing for structural fire fighting purposes. Note was made of a matching \$6,750 from the County, making a total of \$13,500.**

**After discussion, a motion was made by Farr to approve this request with a transfer of \$6,750 from contingency; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.**

- 4. Request for Contingency Funds for Engine 6 Pump Rebuild: Chairman Newton Asked County Fire Chief Bruce Tanner to address this matter.**

**Bruce reported that the only viable course of action to get the pump back in service is to have it rebuilt. At this time, he is requesting \$5000 from Contingency to pay the expenses of having it rebuilt and put the engine back in service at the Carolyn Lake Fire Station where it is desperately needed. At this time, he asked for approval of the transfer of \$5000 from contingency the fire department repair and maintenance budget to pay for the need and unexpected expenses to be incurred.**

**After discussion, a motion to approve this request was made by Wester, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.**

- 5. Clarks Hill Partnership Dues for 2008: Chairman Newton asked County Manager Don Norton to address this issue.**

**Don stated that in accordance with the agreement made with the Clarks Hill Partnership Committee, it was agreed upon that \$3,000 dues annually would be paid by each County within the Clarks Hill Partnership area.**

**A motion to approve this \$3000 with funds coming from the Tourism Budget was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr 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 Farr and passed unanimously.**

**McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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**Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Annette Finley, County Clerk**