

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting on Tuesday evening, February 21, 2006, 6:30 PM, Superior Court Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman
Sammie Wilson, Sr., Vice Chairman
Darrell Wester, Commissioner
J. Robert "Bob" Farr, Commissioner

ABSENT

Rev. Fred Favors, Commissioner

MEDIA

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, Finance Director
Fred Guerrant, Director, Planning Commission
Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Bob Howard, Director of Recreation
Katherine Perry, Chief Tax Assessor

OTHERS

Fifty Five (55) citizens attended.

PUBLIC INPUT

Speakers: None
Adjournment: 6:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Newton asked Fred Guerrant, Director of the Planning Commission to address this issue.

Fred reported that a Public Notice had been advertised in the February 12 and 15, 2006 issues of the McDuffie Progress. He stated that he had been contacted earlier by County Sheriff Logan Marshall and City Police Chief John Hathaway regarding a proposed Law Enforcement Firing Range to be located immediately behind the Municipal Water Treatment Plant at 5146 Lincolnton Highway.

Also, Fred said that he had conversation with the Assistant Thomson Police Chief Jerry Stamphill and it was revealed that plans are to start utilizing the range sometime during 2007. Chief of Police John Hathaway stated that the range would most likely be used for re-qualifying law enforcement officers with the state as well as qualifying newly hired officers. As of now, plans are to use it only on Saturdays for a couple of hours and it will not be open to the public. Chief Hathaway stated that only side firearms will be discharged at the range and it will be supervised at all times when in use. Note was made that the city police is the sponsor of the range and the City of Thomson will take care of its maintenance.

Fred noted that only a couple of houses were in the heavily wooded area and they were at least 1200 feet from the site.

Mr. Tom Black, resident in the area, questioned the logic of having just a firing range with no building on the premises.

Additional public input was invited to speak for or against. No one came forward.

Adjournment: 6:40 PM

CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

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INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Sammy Wilson led the invocation which was followed by the Pledge Of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Meeting 2-1-06)

A motion to approve the minutes as written of the regular Commission Meeting held on February 1, 2006 was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and approved unanimously.

Agenda (Current)

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

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. City-County Government Planning Retreat, 2/24-2506. at the Continuing Education Center, University of Georgia in Athens.
2. Cancellation of Scheduled Commission Meeting, March 1, 2006 – Conflict, March 1, 2006 Commissioners at the Capitol.

A motion to approve the cancellation of the March 1, 2006 Commission Meeting along with the cancellation of the scheduled Commission Work Session on February 27 was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

3. **Boys & Girls Club Steak & Burger Dinner – March 28, 2006, Augusta State University; Guest Speaker: Larry Munson.**

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Resolution (2) – 2006 CDBG and GEFA Grant & Loan for Sewer Services, Hayes Line, Twin Oakes and Frances Road Area: Chairman Newton stated that the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is now requiring a resolution in support of a grant application authorizing the Chairman to take whatever necessary steps to apply for a 2006 CDBG. Also, he stated that a CDBG grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 is being submitted to DCA. The Resolution is copied below and made a part of these minutes:**

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A motion to approve this resolution was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

A second Resolution will be submitted to the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority for a grant/loan Loan for the purpose of installing sanitary sewer lines in the Hayes Line, Twin Oakes and Frances Road Area. Note was made that the \$500,000 received from the 2006 CDBG would not cover all of the expenses involved with the sewer lines in the Hayes Line, Twin Oakes and Frances Road area, and this grant/loan would be available

to pay the additional expenses of \$177,000.00 to be incurred with the sewer line project plus have additional funds available for future projects. The Resolution is copied below and made a part of these minutes.

A motion to approve this resolution was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Proclamation: Proclaiming “James Isom Day” February 25, 2006: Chairman Newton presented a Proclamation to Mr. James M. Isom recognizing Saturday, February 25, 2006 as “James Isom Day” and to Mr. Isom himself for the contribution of his talents so freely given to McDuffie countians and of his dedication to music and helping others. The Proclamation is copied below and made a part of these minutes.**

Numerous friends and associates were in attendance to pay respect and capture the significance of the occasion. Afterwards, a motion to approving

the Proclamation as read was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

2. **Bid Award – Six Trucks – Five (5) Departments:** Chairman Newton asked County Manager Don Norton to present this matter.

Don presented and recommended the lowest bids with specifications as indicated below:

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Within the above listed quotes, County Manager Don Norton recommended the following vehicles to be purchased:

Fire/Rescue: One (1) Truck, F250, 4 x 4, \$25,142.00 – Culpepper Ford Dealer
Recreation: One (1) Truck, F150, 4 x 2, \$18,182.60 – Culpepper Ford Dealer
Road Dept.: Two (2) Trucks, 2006 Regular Cab, \$13,252.50 – Stokes-Hodges GM
Maintenance: One (1) Truck, 2006 Reg. Cab, \$13,252.50 - Stokes_Hodges GM
Tax Assessor: One (1) SUV, 4 x 4, \$20,013.00 – Stokes Hodges GM

After a length discussion, a motion to approve the recommended purchases was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

At this time, an additional discussion was held regarding a new and additional truck to be purchased by the Director of Public Works. This would be an unbudgeted truck and require a budget amendment. Don reported that significant savings had been realized from the Road Department two truck purchase and Chris Pelly had expressed interest in utilizing these savings, transferring his present truck to the Solid Waste Department noting the truck itself was in good condition with approximately 60,000 miles, request a budget amendment in the amount of \$12,000 from the Landfill Surcharge and purchase a new truck for his use. The Board advised Don Norton to have Don Clauson, Director of Solid Waste, at the next Commission Meeting and the matter would be discussed further at that time.

3. **Monthly Budget Report/January 2006:** Chairman Newton asked County Manager Don Norton to address this issue.

Don reported that with 8.33% of the year lapsed, the County has collected \$674,238.37 or 5.6% of the projected revenue with expenditures at \$1,092,767.77 or 8.6% as of January 31, 2006,

4. **Monthly Financial Report/January 2006:** County Finance Director Jimmy Whitaker presented reports on all bank accounts showing a grand total balance of \$12,931,800.15 as of January 31, 2006, a monthly Hotel/Motel Report reflecting a YTD \$7,577.30 (a decrease of \$2,626.04 or -25.74% under 2005, mostly due to 2 unreported motels); Local Option Sales Tax Collections at \$176,617.28 (an increase of \$4,069.81 or a 2.36% over 2005) and a SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditure Report with total revenue of \$6,347,744 with expenditures of \$1,871,860 leaving an available balance of \$4,475.884

ADJOURNMENT

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

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk