

AGENDAS
McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
March 20, 2007, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse

PUBLIC INPUT

1. **Speakers:**
Adjournment

ZONING HEARING

- NO ISSUES**
Adjournment

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
Vice Chairman Wilson

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVALS

- Minutes (Regular Mtg. 3-7-07)**
- Agenda (Current)**

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Appointment – “Sr. Citizens of the Year” Committee (Vice Chairman Wilson)**
2. **Tourism (Don Powers)**

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Alcoholic Beverage License Application: Blind Willie Blues Festival, May 20, 2007, Stagecoach Road (300 Yds. East, Off Washington Rd.) (Vice Chairman Wilson)**
2. **Alcoholic Beverage License Application (Package): Chevron Food Mart, 2093 Washington Rd., Mr. Chandra Shekar Sangam, Owner (Vice Chairman Wilson)**
3. **Bid Award – Water Dist. II, Interim Financing (Don Norton)**
4. **Designation of Applications' Agent - Disaster Relief Act (Don Norton)**
5. **Discuss Needed Leverage for Boys & Girls Club CDBG Grant (Don Norton)**
6. **Proposal - Joint Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (Don Norton)**
7. **Draft Letter - Access Road, White Oak Rd. Middle School (Don Norton)**
8. **Monthly Budget Report (Don Norton)**
9. **Monthly Financial Reports (Jimmy Whitaker)**

ADJOURNMENT

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Tuesday evening, March 20, 2007, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Sammie Wilson, Sr., Vice Chairman
Rev. Fred Favors, Commissioner
Darrell Wester, Commissioner
J. Robt. "Bob" Farr, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Stephen Sewell, Fire Services/EMA
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief

ABSENT

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

OTHERS

Two (2) citizens attended.

MEDIA REPRESENTATION

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

PUBLIC INPUT

Speakers:

Adjournment: 6:30 PM

ZONING HEARING

No Issues.

Adjournment: 6:30 PM

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend/Commissioner Fred Favors led the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Meeting 3-7-07)

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

Agenda (Current)

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

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Appointment – "Sr. Citizen of the Year" Committee:** Vice Chairman Wilson announced that Mr. Robert Curry is not able to serve on the Sr. Citizen of the Year Committee any longer and Mr. Robert Scott had been recommended by Merlinda D'Antignac to replace him. After discussion, a motion was made by Wester for Mr. Robert Scott to replace Mr. Curry on the Sr. Citizen of the Year Committee; motion was seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.
2. **Tourism:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked Don Powers, former Executive Director of Forward McDuffie, to address this issue.

Don presented an application from Ms. Elizabeth Vance who was applying for the Tourism Intern position. The Forward McDuffie Steering Committee and Don Powers were recommending the hiring of Ms. Vance. After

reviewing her application and background of Ms. Vance, the Board of Commissioners concurred with the hiring of this applicant.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Alcoholic Beverage License Application:** Blind Willie Blues Festival, May 12, 2007, Stagecoach Rd. (300 Yds. East, Off Washington Rd.): Vice Chairman Wilson announced that this beer consumption request for a one-day special event request had been made and processed many times in the past and that once again, the Blind Willie Blues Festival is scheduled for May 12 at the same location. After confirming that all requirements had been made with the County Clerk, Vice Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of this request. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Wester, seconded by Farr and passed 2 to 1 with Favors abstaining for religious reasons.
2. **Alcoholic Beverage License Application:** Vice Chairman Wilson announced that an application and request had been received for the sale of package beer and wine at the Chevron Food Mart located at 2093 Washington Road. After confirming with the County Clerk that all requirements had been met, a motion to approve this application was made by Farr, seconded by Wester and passed unanimously 2 to 1 with Favors abstaining for religious reasons.
3. **Bid Award – Water Dist. II, Interim Financing:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked County Manager Don Norton to present this matter.

Don stated that five (5) bids from the five local banks had been received proposing their respective interest rate for \$4,109,000.00, 6-12 month term basis, for the purpose of interim financing for the Water District II project as required by USDA. A copy of the bid summary follows and is made a part of these minutes.

After discussion, a motion to approve the low rate of 3.8566% interest for a term of 12 months from Regions Bank was made by Wester, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

4. **Designation of Applicant's Agent – Disaster Relief Act:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked County Manager Don Norton to address this matter.

Don reported that a Resolution affirming a Designation of Applicant's Agent – Disaster Relief Act resulting from the recent tornado damage in McDuffie County had been requested by GEMA and FEMA. A copy of this Resolution follows and is made a part of these minutes:

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to approve the designation of Donald W. Norton, County Manager, as the official agent to authorize the execution for and in behalf of McDuffie County for the purpose of obtaining certain Federal financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act or otherwise available from the President's Disaster Relief Fund; motion was seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

5. **Discuss Needed Leverage for Boys & Girls Club CDBG Grant:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked Don Norton to address this matter.

Don reported that the Board had already approved applying for a 2007 CDBG grant for the Boys & Girls Teen Center and Expansion project, in the amount of \$500,000. Plans now consists of \$25,000 from the Boys & Girls Club itself to be applied toward furnishing the new facility, \$ 20,000 by McDuffie County/City of Thomson for site and in-kind services, \$20,000 donation from a local private foundation and finally a \$20,000 cash match by McDuffie County. These \$20,000 funds would come from "contingency" in addition to the approximately \$20,000 worth of in-kind services which would competitively leverage a total of \$500,000 in grant funds.

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

6. **Proposal – Joint Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked Don Norton to report on this issue.

Don reported that at this time the creation and appointment of a Planning Advisory Committee to provide technical support is necessary and in order for the 10-Year Joint Comprehensive Plan which is now in the initial stages and scheduled for completion October 31, 2009. A wide cross-section of the entire county has been considered for providing coordination, oversight and technical services in the development of this Plan. Note was made that the total contract amount of \$20,000 has been agreed upon with the CSRA RDC with the costs being prorated generally by population by the Town of Dearing, City of Thomson and McDuffie County. The following representatives are recommended to participate in this Comprehensive Plan process:

**2007-2009 Comprehensive Planning Process
Proposed Members of the Planning Advisory Committee**

1. Town of Dearing Rep – Mayor Sean Kelly or Designee
2. Thomson City Administrator - Don Powers
3. McDuffie County Manager – Don Norton
4. Planning Commission Member – Georgia Hobbs
5. Planning Director – Fred Guerrant
6. Thomson Planning Commission – David Wells
7. Economic Development Director - _____
8. Law Enforcement Rep – Sheriff Logan Marshall or Designee
9. Other Public Safety Reps – Thomson/Dearing Police/Fire Chief
10. Hospital Rep – Doug Keir or Designee
11. Education Rep – Mark Peterson or Designee
12. Recreation Rep – Bob Howard
13. Public Works Rep – Chris Pelly
14. Utilities Rep – Peter Ruddick
15. Land/Subdivision Development Rep – Donald Greene
16. Any other elected official who wishes to participate on the Advisory Committee.

After discussion, a motion to approve this roster of representatives and/or elected officials was made by Wester, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

7. **Draft Letter – Access Road, White Oak Middle School:** Chairman Wilson asked Don Norton to address this issue.

Don presented a “draft” letter to the Department of Transportation, Attention: Commissioner Harold Linnenkohl in which Chairman Newton was advising the Department of Transportation, State of Georgia, that McDuffie County stands behind its proposal to see that an appropriate access road is constructed between the East Thomson Bypass and the new White Oak Middle School.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to approve this “draft” letter committing to see the fruition of the construction of the referenced school access road; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

8. **Monthly Budget Report – February 2007:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked County Manager Don Norton to present this report.

Don reported that as of February 28, 2007, with 16.7% of the year lapsed, the County has collected 15.6% or \$1,888,584.30 of the projected YTD General Fund Revenue. With 16.7% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund expenditures were \$1,687,850.37 or 14.0%.

9. **Monthly Financial Report – February 2007:** County Finance Director, Jimmy Whitaker, presented reports on all bank accounts showing a grand total of \$11,373,444.74 (as corrected) as of February 28, 2007; Hotel/Motel Report reflects a YTD \$29,660.38 or an unadjusted increase of 57.38% over last year at this time of year; Local Option Sales Tax Collections YTD are at \$392,447.20 or increase of 4.12% over same period last year; and SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditure Report with a total program revenue of \$10,224.638, expenditures of \$6,380.158 leaving an available balance of \$3,844,480

ADJOURNMENT

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

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sammie L. Wilson Sr., Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk