

AGENDA

**McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
May 2, 2007, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse**

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chairman Newton

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rev. Tom Kerr, Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Thomson, GA

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Commission Mtg. 4-17-07)

Minutes (Joint City-County Mtg. 4-19-07)

Minutes (Called Commission Mtg. 4-25-07)

Agenda (Current)

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. CIA Maxwell Elementary Students - 15 (Chairman Newton & Gail Newsome)**
- 2. Presentations to Don Norton & Tracy Neal (Chairman Newton)**
- 3. National Day of Prayer, Presbyterian Church, Thursday, 5/3/07, 7:00 AM (Breakfast Included)**
- 4. Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance: To Be Advertised, Public Hearing & Adoption at Regular Commission Meeting, 5/15/07**
- 5. Subdivision Regulations: To Be Advertised; Public Hearing 5/15/07, Adoption As Soon As Possible**

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Appointment – DFACS (Chairman Newton)**

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. ACO (Assessor's Change Order Report), Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes - April 2007 (Sandra Whitaker)**
- 2. Resolution Amendment: Water Rates (Chairman Newton)**
- 3. Chili Pepper's: "Cinco de Mayo" Celebration, Sat., 5/5/07 (Chairman Newton)**
- 4. Courthouse Entrances: Main St. & McDuffie Ave. (Commissioners Farr & Wester)**
- 5. DFACS: 2007-2008 Rental Agreement w/Carpet Installation (Jimmy Whitaker)**
- 6. Bid Award: Fire Services, 2007 Fire Pumper (Bruce Tanner)**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Topic of Discussion: Personnel

ADJOURNMENT

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Wednesday morning, May 2, 2007, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Stephen Sewell, Fire Services/EMA
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
Tracy Neal, Director, E-911

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

OTHERS

Twenty-three (23) citizens and students from Maxwell Elementary School attended.

CALLED TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALEGIANCE

In the absence of Reverend Tom Kerr, Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Thomson, GA, Commissioner Wilson led the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Commission Mtg. 4-17-07)

A motion was made by Farr to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held on April 17, 2007; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Joint City-County Mtg. 4-19-07)

A motion was made by Wilson to approve the "Action Item" minutes of the Joint City Council - County Commission Meeting held on April 19, 2007, at City Hall; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Called Commission Mtg. 4-25-07)

A motion was made by Wilson to approve the minutes of the called Commission Meeting held on April 25, 2007; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

Agenda (Current)

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

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **CIA Maxwell Elementary Students (15):** Chairman Newton announced that the CIA students had recently worked diligently with the Animal Shelter in
2. **Presentations to Don Norton & Tracy Neal:** Chairman Newton stated that Virginia Bradshaw had asked that "Certificates of Appreciation" be presented to Don Norton & Tracy Neal for their participation during the exercise of the Pandemic Influenza Drill held on Saturday, March 26, 2007, at Thomson High School. He noted that he had also received a certificate. This drill was sponsored by the Division of Public Health, Georgia Department of Human Resources.

3. **National Day of Prayer, Presbyterian Church, Thursday, 5/3/07, 7:00 AM, (Breakfast Included)**
4. **Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance: To Be Advertised, Public Hearing To Be Held With Proposed Adoption at the Regular Commission Meeting, 5/15/07.**
5. **Subdivision Regulations: To Be Advertised, Public Hearing To Be Held 5/15/07, With Adoption Some Time Following.**

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Appointment – DFACS: Chairman Newton reported that the appointment for the DFACS Board had been postponed from the regular Commission Meeting on April 17 and asked if there were any nominations to be presented to the Board at this time.**

AT this time, a motion was made by Farr to reappoint Mr. Georgia Otis Hughes to another 5-year term effective July 1, 2007 ending June 30, 2012; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **ACO (Assessor's Change Order Report) Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes – April 2007: Chairman Newton asked Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker to present this report.**

Sandra reported that there was a decrease of \$228.09 to the Property Tax Digest for the month of April due corrections in duplicate billings for leased equipment and appeals filed on values. There was a decrease of \$947.27 in the Mobile Home Digest due to appeals filed on values, homestead exemptions allowed on mobile homes for 2007; and removal of mobile homes no longer located in McDuffie County. .

After discussion, a motion to approve the report as presented was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

2. **Resolution Amendment – Water Rates: Chairman Newton announced that water & sewer rates had been approved by the Thomson-McDuffie County Water & Sewer Commission, the City of Thomson and McDuffie County at earlier meetings in 2005 with rates effective January 2006. Since that time, McCorkle Nurseries has indicated the need for four (4) 4" commercial meters and are to be included in the rates. These rates, including the addition of the four (4) 4" commercial meters, are copied below and made a part of these minutes.**

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to adopt the additional 4” commercial water meter rates as stated; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

3. **Chili Pepper’s – “Cinco de Mayo” Celebration, Saturday, 5/5/07:** Chairman Newton announced that he had received a request from Chili Pepper’s Restaurant for permission to hold a “Cinco de Mayo” celebration on Saturday, May 6, including the sale of alcohol, outside of the restaurant. He confirmed with the Clerk that all requirements for this open area celebration is being met and noted that Gail Newsome, Code Enforcement at the Planning Board, had been consulted and that she and the Clerk would be following up on the request.

After discussion, a motion to approve this request was made by Wester for a one-day special event with alcohol sales, to be held in an open area behind the establishment and no additional alcohol sales after 11:00 PM; motion was seconded by Farr and passed 3 to 1 with Favors abstaining for religious reasons.

4. **Courthouse Entrances: Main St. & McDuffie Avenue:** Chairman Newton asked Commissioners Farr and Wester to address this matter.

Commissioner Farr announced that both entrances into the Courthouse (McDuffie Avenue entrance and Main Street entrance adjacent to Probate Court) were in bad need of repair and/or replacement. He suggested that the project be “bid” out and Commissioner Wester concurred in the matter. It was agreed upon by all that the door frame needed repairing with certain areas being replaced or altered and suggested that the repair reflect the character and décor of the building.

After discussion, the County Manager agreed to follow up on this matter and report back to the Board of Commissioners at a later date.

5. **DFACS - 2007-2008 Rental Agreement w/Carpet Installation:** Chairman Newton asked Finance Director Jimmy Whitaker to present this issue.

Jimmy reviewed the matter with the Commissioners and asked for action on the matter. After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to renew the agreement with the inclusion of new carpet for the fiscal year 2007-2008. This Agreement will be “in lieu of maintenance” rent and the carpeting amount will be recouped in approximately 5 years; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

6. **Bid Award – Fire Services, 2007 Fire Pumper:** Chairman Newton asked County Fire Chief Bruce Tanner to present this matter.

Bruce reported that five (5) bids had been received which were opened Monday, April 30, 2007. After verification and certification by himself and Steven Sewell and determining that the low bid from Atlanta Freightliner (the low bidder) should be disqualified as it did not meet the specifications, they both recommended that the second low bid from FireLine Inc. in the amount of \$243,992.00 be accepted for the purchase of a new pumper to be paid from SPLOST IV, Public Safety, as capital improvements. All bids with their respective quotes are copied below and made a part of these minutes.

Note was made that the present pumper on hand be held in “reserve” as a spare as it would only sell for \$20,000 to \$30,000 on “Govdeals”. To have a pumper in “reserve” could also preserve and possibly increase “ISO” points in the community.

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

At this time, Chairman Newton asked that an Executive Session be held to discuss personnel. A motion to enter into an Executive Session was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Topic of Discussion: Personnel

After the end of the Executive Session, a motion to resume the regular Commission Meeting was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

No action was taken or required as a result of the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, a motion to adjourn 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