

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting on Tuesday evening, May 16, 2006, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman
Sammie Wilson, Sr., Vice Chairman
Darrell Wester, Commissioner
Rev. Fred Favors, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Fred Guerrant, Director, Planning Commission
Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works

ABSENT

J. Robt. "Bob" Farr, Commissioner

MEDIA

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

OTHERS

Ten (10) citizens attended.

PUBLIC INPUT

Speakers: None
Adjournment at 6:30 PM.

ZONING HEARING

No Issues
Adjournment at 6:31 PM.

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Sammie Wilson led the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 5-3-06)

County Manager, Don Norton, asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect the following:

NEW BUSINESS, Item 1, Planning Board Recommendations:

1) Mr. William "Bill" Corley – Zoning Change – Mesena Rd.

"..Don Norton, stated for the record it was his thought that the approval of this "conditional use" variance sets a bad precedent for the future as it undercuts and nullifies a certain section of our Zoning Ordinance already in place."

A motion to approve the minutes with the change of the Commission Meeting held on May 3, 2006 was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

Agenda (Current)

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

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Newton made the following announcements:

1. Announcement: McDuffie County Awarded GEFA Grant-\$100,000; Purpose of Installing Sewer Lines in the Hayes Line, Frances Drive & Twin Oakes Area. This will offset the total project along with a CDBG Grant of \$500,000 leaving a balance of approximately \$186,000 to borrow from GEFA.

2. Announcement: Blind Willie Blues Festival, Saturday, May 20, Gates Open 11 AM, Stagecoach Road Site (200 yds. Off Hwy. 17 – same place as in the past). This is the 13th Annual Event of these festivities.
3. Announcement: Meeting, May 22, 10:30 AM, Department of Transportation Official, Ms. Christa McKinney, Commission Office; Re: DOT's 3-Year Regional Improvement Program – Years 2007, 2008, 2009.
4. Proposed 2007 Budget Work Session, May 23, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room.
5. Public Meeting, Thursday, June 8, 6:30 PM, City Hall; Discussion of Water Improvements Funded by Ga.'s Drinking State Revolving Fund. This meeting is a result of new EPD regulations in effect as federal money now being involved requires a public meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Updates: Comprehensive Plan & Land Development Regulations: Chairman Newton asked County Manager Don Norton to address this issue.

Don recommended that the CSRA RDC be retained for the Comprehensive Plan and Solid Waste Management Plan for McDuffie County, City of Thomson and Town of Dearing not to exceed \$20,000 on a pro-rata share based on defined population of the three government entities. Note was made that the City of Thomson and Town of Dearing were in agreement with this recommendation.

Separately the updating and coordinating of the McDuffie County/City of Thomson Sub-division regulations will be considered at a later date.

A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously with county funds coming from contingency to pay the county's pro-rata share.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proclamation – Sr. Citizen of The Year 2006: Chairman Newton announced that Mrs. Mary Ruth Cummings had been chosen as the 2006 Sr. Citizen of Year 2006 and read the Proclamation that had been written in her honor. The Proclamation is copied below and made a part of these minutes.

Afterwards, pictures were made by the media for publication and a motion was made by Wilson for the adoption of the Proclamation and election of Mrs. Mary Ruth Cummings as Sr. Citizen of The Year 2006; motion was seconded by Wester and passed unanimously.

2. USDA Bond Resolution For Sewer District I: Chairman Newton asked County Attorney Sammy Fowler to present this Bond Resolution for validating the establishment of the McDuffie County USDA Sewer District No. I and all other related purposes.

Sammy reviewed the procedures of bond validation and presented related documents along with the Bond Resolution with attachments for the Chairman and County Clerk to sign. This Bond Resolution with its attachments are copied below and made a part of these minutes:

After discussion, a motion was made by Wilson to approve this Bond Resolution and other related documents authorizing the establishment of Sewer District I in McDuffie County; motion was seconded by Wester and passed unanimously

3. Resolution of Support – Washington-Wilkes County One-Georgia Application: Chairman Newton announced that he had been asked by Chairman Sam Moore of Wilkes County to submit a Resolution of Support for their submittal of a OneGeorgia Grant for purchasing 123 acres of land known as the “International Paper Site” for redevelopment as an industrial park capable of serving industrial prospects and creating job opportunities within the development to be sponsored by the Washington-Wilkes Payroll Development Authority. Note was made that this development will most likely benefit McDuffie County citizens in the way of job opportunities in the future. The Resolution is copied below and made a part of these minutes:

A motion was made by Wester to adopt the Resolution of Support for Washington-Wilkes County’s application for a OneGeorgia Grant for the purpose of purchasing 123 acres of land known as the “International Paper Site” for redevelopment as an industrial park; motion seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

4. Resolution of Support – Augusta-Richmond County Request for Expansion of Toll Free Two-Way Calling Area: Chairman Newton announced that he had received a request from Augusta-Richmond County for a Resolution supporting the expansion of the Augusta, Georgia Local Toll-Free Two-Way Calling area. He noted that this support/legislation would be submitted to the Georgia Public Service Commission for the benefit of the citizens of Augusta, Thomson, Waynesboro and Wrens areas and the counties of Richmond, McDuffie, Burke and Jefferson. McDuffie County’s Resolution is copied below and made a part of these minutes.

A motion to adopt the Resolution as presented was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

5. Bid Award – Interim Financing, Sewer District I: Chairman Newton announced that the bid opening for the interim financing of Sewer Dist I from local banks had been held on Friday, May 12, at 10:00 AM. The following proposals were received from the five (5) banks:

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to accept the low quote of 3.7955% up to the full loan amount of \$1,719,000 with a repayment term of monthly interest only, a maturity date of 12 months, along with their requirement from the county attorney stating that the loan amount will qualify for tax-free status and a letter from USDA in reference to a bond issue for final financing; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

6. Budget Amendment and Approval of Purchase for Additional Truck for Road Department: Chairman Newton asked Jimmy Whitaker to present this matter.

Jimmy stated that a budget amendment was needed in order to process the payment for purchase of a new vehicle in the Road Department. Earlier 6 vehicles were approved by the Board for purchase as the minutes reflected. Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works, bid these 6 vehicles as instructed. At the time, there was discussion, but never a decision, made as to the 7th vehicle which Mr. Pelly has since ordered and picked up. After a search of the minutes, no record was found where the Board had approved the 7th vehicle for purchase. In addition, the Solid Waste Department was to buy the 2003 Ford Pick Up, VIN # 1FTRX17WX3NA87061, in the amount of \$10,000 from the Road Department. A second budget amendment is required to pay for the 2003 Ford Pick Up as a vehicle was not budgeted for 2006 in the Landfill Surcharge fund.

After discussion, Chairman Newton recommended that the Budget Amendments be approved in the amount of \$10,000 with funds coming from contingency in order to process payment of the new 2006 Ford F250 for the Road Department and an amendment to add a vehicle to the Solid Waste budget and pay it from funds in the Landfill Surcharge fund. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

7. Monthly Budget Report – April 30, 2006: Chairman Newton asked County Manager, Don Norton, to present the budget report for April 2006.

Don reported that with 33.3% of the year lapsed, the County has collected 22.1% of the projected YTD Revenue (this percentage always appears low largely due to the significant property tax revenue not received until November and December of each year). With 33.3% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund expenditures were \$3,709,046.71 or 31.0% as of April 30, 2006.

8. Monthly Financial Report – April 30, 2006: County Finance Director Jimmy Whitaker presented reports on all bank accounts showing a grand total balance of \$12,380,100.84 as of April 30, 2006, a monthly Hotel/Motel Report reflecting a YTD \$\$56,575.62 reflecting an increase over 2005 revenue of \$4,303.82 or 8.23%; Local Option Sales Tax Collections YTD at \$210,170.62 (an increase of \$38,725.37 or 22.59% over 2005) and a SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditure Report with a total revenue of \$7,262,346.00 with total expenditures of \$2,686,137.00 leaving an available balance of \$4,576,209.

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

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk