

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting on Wednesday morning, June 7, 2006, 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

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Don Norton, County Manager  
Annette Finley, County Clerk  
Fred Guerrant, Director, Planning Commission  
Chris Pelly, Director, Public Works  
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief  
Stephen Sewell, Fire Services/EMA  
Kay Ennis, Deputy Tax Commissioner  
Kelly Evans, Director, IT Department

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Darrell Wester  
J. Robt. "Bob" Farr

MEDIA

WTHO Radio Station  
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper  
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

OTHERS

Four (4) citizens attended.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Reverend/Commissioner Fred Favors, Pastor, Springfield Baptist Church, Thomson, GA, led the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 5-16-06)

A motion was made by Wilson to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held on May 16, 2006; motion was seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

Minutes ((Joint Water/Sewer Commission Mtg. 5-16-06)

A motion was made by Wilson to approve the minutes of the Joint Water/Sewer Commission Meeting held on May 16, 2006; motion was seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

Agenda (Current)

The current agenda was amended to include Item 2. Utility (Water) Rates (Bob Flanders, City Administrator) in the INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS Section. A motion to approve the amended current agenda was made by Favors, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Announcement - A Joint City/County Public Meeting will be held Thursday evening, June 8, 2006, 6:30 PM, City Hall RE: Water Plant Improvements. Federal money is included with this project.
2. Announcement - Utility (Water) Rates: City Administrator, Bob Flanders, announced a change regarding the water tap-on rates which are copied below:

This new rate calculation procedure is made a part of these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation – Masonic Coin (150 Yrs. Old) to McDuffie County: Chairman Newton asked Mr. Sammy Lucky, Treasurer of the A.J. Miller Masonic Lodge No. 204 F. & A.M., Thomson, to address this matter.

Mr. Lucky presented McDuffie County with a framed 2-sided coin (nickel & bonze) Masonic Emblem Coin reflecting the past 150 years since the establishment of the Masonic organization. The coin/emblem is hanging in the Commission Office.

2. E/R's & ACO's (Errors Releases & Assessor's Change Order Report) Property & Mobile Home Taxes – May 2006: Chairman Newton asked Deputy Tax Commissioner, Kay Ennis, to present this report.

Kay reported that collections for the month of May 2006 reflected a negative \$360.05 for real property taxes resulting from recent value assessment changes. The negative of \$961.60 is reported in mobile home taxes as a result of some homes moving from the county (even though new homes are moving into the county) and field checks performed by the Assessor's Office.

After discussion, a motion to accept the report was made by Favors, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

3. Appointment: McDuffie/Warren County Forestry Board: Chairman Newton reported that he had received a letter from the Georgia Forestry Commission stating that the appointment term of board member, Bill Hopkins, expires June 30, 2006, and asked for a re-appointment or to submit two (2) names from which they may select one to fill the vacancy. Chairman Newton stated that he had talked with Mr. Hopkins and that he was in complete agreement to be re-appointed. A motion was made by Wilson to re-appoint Bill Hopkins to represent McDuffie County on the McDuffie/Warren Forestry Board, District 6, for another 5-year term effective July 1, 2006 ending June 30, 2011; motion was seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.
4. Proposed Annexation by City of Thomson/MLK, Jr. Area: Chairman Newton announced that this proposal was for information only at this time and that the City of Thomson would hold the "first" reading of this proposal at their Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday night, June 8, 2006. Commission Wilson questioned the boundary lines of the proposed annexation and City Administrator, Bob Flanders, responded that the list of home owners in the area was not "conclusive" but that the would be glad to go over the list with him.
5. Resolution/Joint City-County – Support For Ga. State Patrol (GSP) Aircraft Hanger: Chairman Newton announced that the following copied Resolution was asked for adoption in order to support the construction of a new hangar facility for the Ga. State Patrol Aviation at the Thomson-McDuffie Regional Airport. He noted that a Letter of Support had been written earlier, March 20, 2006, outlining the water, sewer and other preparations for the building site for construction. This Joint Resolution would be included with other official documents authorizing the Mayor of the City of Thomson and Chairman of McDuffie County to execute final deeds, appropriate leases and any other related contract documents.

After discussion, a motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Wilson, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

6. McDuffie County Fire Services - Fire Cadet Proposal: Chairman Newton presented a proposal for the McDuffie County Fire Service Firefighter Cadet Program which had been discussed earlier during the Commission Work Session on June 5, 2006.

The proposal is to provide a safe environment in which young people can learn about career opportunities in the fire service through hands-on-training and classroom sessions.

After discussion, a motion to approve this new program was made by Favors, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously. A copy of the guidelines is on file in the Commission Office.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Wilson, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Annette Finley, County Clerk