

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting, Tuesday evening, July 18, 2006, 6:30 PM, 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

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
Kelly Evans, Director, IT Department
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Stephen Sewell, Asst. County Fire Chief
Bob Howard, Director, Recreation,

ABSENT

Darrell Wester, Commissioner

MEDIA

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

OTHERS

Eight (8) citizens attended.

**1st PUBLIC HEARING
FY 2007 BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Chairman Newton asked County Manager, Don Norton, to address this matter.

Don presented a balanced proposed FY 2007 budget for McDuffie County and reviewed the following:

General Fund:	\$12,128,290
(Balanced)	(1.5% Increase Over 2006)
(Contingency - \$197,109)	
(Salary Increase – Contingency Reserve)	
All Funds (Except Water & Sewer):	\$21,230,485
(Balanced)	

Discussion was held concerning some deleted items along with several adjustments being made, i.e. Judge Wells retirement in Probate Court; several personnel requests were not added; additional custodial help in the Recreation Department was included resulting from the addition of the new gymnasium; additional budget changes will be made before final adoption.

The 2nd required Public Hearing will be held at a called Commission Meeting on July 25 at which time the proposed FY 2007 budget may be adopted.

Hearing Adjourned: 6:35 PM

PUBLIC INPUT

Speakers: None
Adjourned: 6:35 PM

ZONING HEARING

Fred Guerrant presented the following issue:

1. ForeSite Tower/Kenneth Gilmer – Cell Tower – Mt. Pleasant Rd.

Fred summarized the review an application presented to the Planning Commission on July 11 requesting approval for a cell tower as a conditional use on the Gilmer’s 16.57 acre resident home site located on Mt. Pleasant Road (intersection with VFW Road). This request was the approval of a 250

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ft. tall guyed communication tower with its associated 100’ x 100’ leased area approximately 600’ behind the Gilmer residence. Note was made that all required pre-application documentation which was found to be in compliance, including a letter of commitment from Cingular Wireless for immediate placement of their antenna on the tower. Mr. David Kirk, attorney representing Kenneth and Jennifer Gilmer and ForeSite (Tower Services, Inc., added that written evidence from the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) had been received indicating approval of the tower site in the southwest section of McDuffie County. No public input had been received concerning the new tower and all immediate neighbors had been contacted. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the application.

Adjourned: 6:41 PM

COMMISSION

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

After determining that a quorum of Commissioners was present, 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.

APPROALS

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 6-20-06)

A motion to approve the minutes of the Commission Meeting held on June 20, 2006 was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

Agenda (Current)

Chairman Newton asked that the following items be added to the current agenda:

1. Pre-Review – Subdivision – Sewer District I – Cobbham Rd.
2. Resurfacing Road Work; Margaret’s Rd. and Ft. Creek Rd.
3. Appointment – National Organization on Disability

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

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Newton made the following announcements:

1. **Announcement:** The 2nd FY 2007 Budget Hearing and adoption is scheduled for the Called Commission Meeting to be held July 25, 2006, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room.
2. **Presentation:** Commissioner Sammie Wilson, CCAP Economic Development Mobile Workshop: Chairman Newton presented Commissioner Sammie Wilson a certificate from the University of Georgia and Association County Commissioners of Georgia for the completion of the CCAP Economic Development Mobile Workshop on March 9-10, 2006. This Workshop focused on “imports” to the county and Commissioner Wilson stated that HP Pelzer Industries had been recognized as one of the biggest import industries in this area with 2 separate plants in McDuffie County.
3. **Announcement:** Rev. Leonard Dupree has resigned from the Board on the CSRA Area Agency on Aging for health reasons, effective 6/30/06. A replacement will have to be named at the Commission Meeting scheduled for August 2.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Appointment – Workforce Investment Board:** Chairman Newton recommended that an appointment to replace William Johnson on the Workforce Investment Board be “postponed” to the next Commission

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Meeting scheduled to be held August 2, 2006, in order to contact a potential applicant and all Commissioners are expected to be in attendance at that time. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

2. **Appointment – CSRA Enterprise Community:** Chairman Newton reported that four of the five members requested to represent the county for a 3-year term beginning July 1, 2006-June 30, 2009 had been appointed earlier and noted that 1 additional member was needed. After discussion, a motion was made by Farr to “postpone” the 5th appointment to be made at the next

Commission Meeting on August 2 at which time all Commissioners are expected to be in attendance; seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

3. **McDuffie County Business License:** Chairman Newton recommended that this matter be “postponed” to the scheduled August 2, 2006 Commission Meeting but that authority be given to Fred Guerrant, Director, of the Planning Board, at this time to proceed with the advertising of a Public Hearing on the matter to receive public input. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Planning Board Recommendations:** Chairman Newton recommended the approval of the request from Foresite (Tower) Services, Inc., for a 250’ tall guyed communication tower to be located on the Gilmer’s 16.57 acre residential home site located at 1657 Mt. Pleasant Road (intersection with VFW Road). A motion to uphold the Planning Commission’s recommendation was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously. At this time, the motion was amended by Wilson to include 1) the condition that the ForeSite (Tower) Services, Inc., provide a “removal bond” in the contractual agreement with McDuffie County in order to remove the tower at their expense if the tower is without use for 1 year or a longer period of time; 2) provide space on the tower for the City of Thomson and/or McDuffie County allow Public Safety communications if needed; amended motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.
2. **Appointment – Bartram Trail Regional Library Board:** Chairman Newton announced that he had received a letter advising that Ms. Frances Cowart’s second term on the Thomson-McDuffie County Library board expires June 30, 2006 and has served the limited two 3-year consecutive terms. The Thomson-McDuffie County Library has recommended Mr. George Cousons as an excellent replacement. A motion to appoint Mr. George Cousons, Post 2, effective July 1, 2006 ending June 30, 2009, was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.
3. **Appointment – Airport Advisory Committee:** Chairman Newton announced that terms of 3 members of the Thomson-McDuffie County Airport advisory Committee expired March 31, 2006. Chairman Newton recommended the re-appointment of Mike Dudley, Post 6, and Herbert Craven, Post 8, with a new member for Post 4 being “postponed” to a later date. . The City of Thomson has also confirmed the re-appointments of Mike Dudley, Post 6, and Herbert Craven, Post 8, effective April 1, 2006 ending March 31, 2008. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.
4. **Appointment – “Grassroots” Advisory Committee:** Chairman Newton reported that he was advised the 3 members’ terms on the “Grassroots” Advisory Committee had expired and only one had indicated that he would like to be re-appointed. After discussion, a motion was made by Farr to re-

appoint Don Powers to Post 1, effective immediately ending June 30, 2008 and to “postpone” Post 2 and Post 3 appointments to the next scheduled Commission Meeting on August 2; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

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5. **Blasting Services Proposed for Georgia State Patrol Hangar – Airport:** Chairman Newton reported that quotes/bids had been solicited for the blasting of rock at the site of construction for the new taxi way for the Highway Patrol helicopter hangar at the Thomson-McDuffie County Regional Airport. Only one (1) bid had been received from Southern Blasting Services Inc., in the amount of \$10,200 with a minimum cut of 3 feet in a blasting space of rock 75’x75’. Earlier this year, the State had approved \$250,000 in helping to providing a larger helicopter hangar for the Georgia State Patrol at the airport freeing up their current hanger allowing additional space for new growth in McDuffie County.

Noting that time is of essence in this matter, a motion was made by Farr to suspend the advertising of these bids for blasting services on the project; Wilson seconded the motion and passed unanimously. A second motion was made by Wilson to approve up to \$10,200 with funds coming from contingency to pay for the blasting work;

6. **Discussion – Abandonment of Oates Lane:** Chairman Newton said he had received a request from a developer, Crowell & Company, to request the County to abandon Oates Lane located off Whiteoak Road in McDuffie County. Their plans are to fence the area and install a gate at the beginning of Oates Lane to prevent any one from entering and dumping trash. Chairman Newton recommended that authority be given to the Planning Board to go forward with the process in advertising twice with a Public Hearing being held after the first advertisement. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.
7. **Resolution – Re: Median Opening on E. Bypass at New Middle School:** Chairman Newton advised that he had been requested to submit an official Resolution to the State Department of Transportation for the necessary median opening for school access and enhanced traffic flow at the location of the new Middle School soon to be built on SR 223 (Whiteoak Road) directly across from the existing Thomson High School. This Resolution is copied below and made a part of these minutes:

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

8. **District Attorney 2007 Network Upgrade:** Chairman Newton asked Mrs. Kelly Evans, Director, IT Department to address this matter.

Kelly stated that she had visited with the Chairman and County Manager in Wilkes County to discuss the matter of \$24,682 being needed to update the District Attorney's office and placed on independent network. Kelly reported that she had a very good visit with the Chairman in Wilkes County and it was productive inasmuch as she did get their "go ahead" permission and noted that all other counties in the Toombs Judicial Circuit were in agreement. County Manager, Don Norton, confirmed that the amount was included in the FY 2007 budget.

Kelly stated that the Microsoft configuration is to separate Exchange and anti-virus from DNS and file server partitions noting that it would require two mid-range servers. The IT Department recommends replacement of the HP 2524 Switch with the Cisco 3560; the existing end of life server with two HP servers; install corporate licenses for antivirus and backup software; institute a tape backup procedure for off site storage; put SPAM and content filtering on the network to reduce the load on the servers; and schedule the replacement of 5 computers. A copy of the quotation for the District Attorney's office is copied below and made a part of these minutes:

It was noted that each county within Toombs Circuit would pay their pay their pro rata share based on a total amount of \$24,682.00 for this expense. No action was required or taken at the time as the amount is included in the budget.

9. **Subdivision Pre-Review – Sewer District I:** Chairman Newton reported that this matter was very unusual inasmuch as it was actually being presented in a reverse procedural manner.

Developer Arthur Grimaud has proposed having the sewer re-routed to serve an area in which he is planning to develop a subdivision adjacent to Cobham Road south of I-20, entrance into the subdivision from Ginger Hill Rd. His concept is of having sewer lines go into subdivision streets with the responsibility of subdivision developer paying for re-design directly to the engineer, Precision Planning. The amount of material required for this re-design is of high importance at this time since most of the material for the County project has already been purchased in accordance with the contractual plans submitted earlier. Chairman Newton wanted the Board of Commissioners to have knowledge of this matter and know that it was not going to cost the county any additional money. Note was made that this carries a certain amount of risk for the developer since neither the rezoning request nor the subdivision plat review have yet been heard. After a lengthy discussion, a motion to accept the proposal was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

10. **Department of Transportation - Resurfacing Work:** Chairman Newton reported that he had been in conversation with the Georgia Department of Transportation regarding additional financial assistance for the resurfacing

of Ft. Creek Road (CR 304) and Margaret's Road (CR 59). This additional assistance in the amount of 20% is necessary because of the time lapsed since from the original plans 2 years ago. Chairman Newton stated and recommended that with additional assistance from DOT, the entire project could not cost McDuffie County more than \$250,000 which is already

allocated within the SPLOST IV funds and that work could begin as early as Thursday, July 20. After additional discussion, a motion to approve this recommendation with cost not to exceed \$250,000, funds from SPLOST IV, was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

11. **Appointment – National Organization on Disability:** Chairman Newton reported that the term of Mrs. Sue Richards had expired on the National Organization of Disability Committee and she had indicated that she would like to be reappointed. A motion to reappoint Mrs. Sue Richards to the National Organization on Disability effective immediately ending December 31, 2008 was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

12. **Monthly Budget Report – June 30, 2006:** Chairman Newton asked County Manager, Don Norton, to present this report.

Don reported that with 50% of the year lapsed, the County has collected 32.8% of the projected YTD Revenue (this percentage always seems low due to the fact that the Tax Commissioner's revenue comes in toward the end of the year). With the 50% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund expenditures were \$5,412,210.95 or 45% as of June 30, 2006.

13. **Monthly Financial Report – June 30, 2006:** County Finance Director, Jimmy Whitaker, presented reports on all bank accounts showing a grand total balance of \$11,920,380.40 as of June 30, 2006, noting that WDI Operating Account, SPLOST 3 and SPLOST 4 accounts were "restricted" and had specific uses; Hotel/Motel Report reflected a YTD \$114,775.45 reflecting an increase over 2005 revenue of \$86,308.11 or 32.98% for the year; Local Option Sales Tax Collections YTD are at \$1,207,947.58 (an increase of \$126,041.24 or 10.45% over 2005); and a SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditure Report with a total revenue of \$7,872,986 with total expenditures of \$3,497.864 leaving an available valance of \$4,375.122

14. **Gardner Drive:** Chairman Newton recognized Mrs. Jerry Whitaker who was accompanied by others regarding Gardner Drive. Mrs. Whitaker presented a petition to express support and request that Gardner Drive be added to the list of future road paving projects. It was understood and agreed upon that a portion of the property along side the road of Gardner Drive would be required by the project for needed additional right of way in order to make this project possible. Chairman Newton accepted the petition and stated that this along with other requests would be held on file in the Commission Office for future use. Afterwards, research revealed that at this time there are 8 parcels on Gardner Drive.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board 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