

AGENDAS

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING August 1, 2007, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse

2nd PUBLIC HEARING FY 2008 Proposed Budget

Discussion/Public Comments
Adjournment

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
Chairman Newton

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Reverend Tim Ferrell, Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Thomson, GA 30824

APPROVALS
Minutes (Regular Mtg. 7-19-07)
Agenda (Current)

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
None

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS

1. ER's & ACO's (Error Releases & Assessor's Change Order Report) Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes – June & July 2007 (Sandra Whitaker)
2. Resolution – FY 2008 Proposed Budget Adoption (Chairman Newton)
3. Resolution – Correction/Clarification of USDA Water District Rates (Chairman Newton)
4. Appointment – Tax Assessor (Chairman Newton)

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Topic of Discussion: Personnel

ADJOURNMENT

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting, Wednesday morning, August 1, 2007, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Rev. Frederick D. Favors, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works
Steven Sewell, Fire Services/EMA
Wanda Sisson, Tax Assessor's Office
Yvette Burns, Tax Assessor's Office
Bob Howard, Director, Recreation, Leisure Services & Transportation

MEDIA REPRESENTATION

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

OTHERS

One (1) citizen was in attendance.

FY 2008 BUDGET PROPOSAL – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Newton asked County Manager, Don Norton, to make this presentation.

Don reported the following:

GENERAL FUND

Balanced At: \$12,719,495.00 (approx. 5 _ % Increase over 2007)
Budget Contingency = \$250,000
Salary Contingency = \$250,000

All Funds Balanced = \$24,766,661.00
(Except Water & Sewer to be done later in year)

Don reported that this was the 2nd Hearing scheduled for the FY 2008 Budget and adoption may occur at the Commission Meeting immediately following.

Hearing adjourned: 10:15 AM

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chairman Newton announced that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order and welcome everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Tim Ferrell, Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Thomson, GA 30824 led the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Meeting 7-17-07)

The Minutes of the last Commission Meeting held on July 17, 2007 was typed as "7-19-07" on the current agenda; note was made that "7-19-07" on the current agenda was a "typed in error" and the actual minutes were correct. At this time, a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission Meeting held on July 17, 2007, was made by Farr, seconded by Wester and passed unanimously.

Agenda (Current)

Chairman Newton asked for the addition of "Topic of Discussion: Future Acquisition of real estate" be added in the EXECUTIVE SESSION. A motion to approve the current agenda was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **ER's & ACO's (Error Releases & Assessor's Change Order Report) Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes – June & July 2007: Chairman Newton asked Tax Commissioner, Sandra Whitaker, to address this matter.**

Sandra presented reports for June and July 2007 reflecting results from each as indicated below:

JUNE 2007

Increase \$2,443.83 – Property Taxes

This will increase the amount of revenue due the County for M&O of McDuffie County. The increase itself is due to a Covenant Breach penalty.

Decrease \$174.44 – Mobile Home Taxes

This decrease is due to several homestead exemptions removed in error, therefore they were re-instated by the Board of Assessors.

JULY 2007

Decrease \$697.70 – Property Taxes

This will decrease the amount of revenue due the County for the M&O of McDuffie County. The decrease itself is due to granting of Year's Support.

Decrease \$271.77 – Mobile Home Taxes

This decrease is due to Tax Assessor's field checks that showed several mobile homes destroyed and several moved from the county before 2007.

After discussion, a motion to approve the reports for both months, June and July 2007, was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

2. **Resolution To Adopt FY 2008 Proposed Annual Budget: Chairman Newton asked County Manager, Don Norton, to address this matter.**

Don reported that the two (2) required Public Hearings had been held earlier regarding the FY 2008 Budget and presented the following Resolution for its adoption:

At this time, Commissioner Wester asked what procedure or involvement would be necessary should the Sheriff's Department ask for an amendment. He was advised by the County Manager that no change to the Resolution should be necessary since the revenue of

\$12,719,495.00 would most likely remain the same. If not, then a revised resolution could be approved as necessary. After discussion, a motion to adopt the FY 2008 Budget was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

3. **Resolution – Correction/Clarification of USDA Water District Rates:** Chairman Newton stated that he had been trying to comply with USDA's requirements in getting all of the paperwork needed for the clarification of rates for the Water Expansion System project which is soon to get underway. As a result, the following Resolution has been devised to reflect the water rates in effect at this time as well as the one effective November 1, 2007. These rates, of course, will not be changed until the Water Expansion System is installed and operational. The Resolution is copied below and made a part of these minutes:

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

4. **Appointment – Tax Assessor:** Chairman Newton reported that he had been advised that Bob Ballard's current assessor term will expire September 21, 2007. It has been recommended by the Chief Assessor that in order to remain in compliance with OCGA 48-5-295(a) (staggered assessor terms), it will be necessary that the next term be a 6-year term through 9/21/2013. Bob has indicated that he is willing to serve another term and note was made that he holds an Appraiser II certification which is highly unusual in Georgia for a part-time assessor.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to re-appoint Bob Ballard for a 6-year year term effective September 21, 2007 ending September 21, 2013; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Topics of Discussion: 1) Personnel.
2) Future acquisition of real estate.

A motion to leave the Executive Session and resume the regular Commission Meeting was Made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

No action was required and none was taken.

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