

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting, Tuesday evening, August 15, 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
Darrell Wester, Commissioner
J. Robt. "Bob" Farr

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
Fred Guerrant, Director, Planning Board
Kelly Evans, Director, IT Department

OTHERS

Six (6) citizens attended.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper

ZONING HEARING

(Fred Guerrant)

1. **Willie Booker, Sr. – Road Frontage – Downing Street:**
Fred reported that that he had received an application from Mr. Booker requesting a reduction in front footage for his lot located at 267 Downing Street (T10-93) noting that Mr. Booker owned 2 lots at that location with one fronting Downing and the other directly behind. The rear lot has no frontage or method of ingress/egress. It is Mr. Booker's intent to place a double-wide mobile home on the rear lot however the old roadway accessing the rear lot no longer exists, there is no "official" easement ever recorded allowing access to the property. Now, he is asking that a variance be granted for the reduction in front footage on the left (south) side of the (front) Downing Street from 100' to 88' to allow a 23-foot "driveway" access to the rear lot. The Planning Commission recommended approval in the reduction of road frontage to 88' to allow access to the rear lot along the left side of the front lot.
2. **Hazel Holzendorf - Minimum County Road Frontage – Three Points Road:**
Fred summarized an application which he had received from Hazel Holzendorf requesting that she be allowed to create a residential parcel off of an old easement which crosses the Howell property and leads to her 322 acre parcel on the east side of Three Points Road. Ms. Holzendorf has indicated that the easement had been there for at least one hundred years and that she would like to be able to construct a new house. She stated that the easement was active and still being used by her family as the only access to the property. Once the western bypass extension is constructed she would have

frontage and access off of the new bypass. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the creation of the new resident lot. (Easement to be privately maintained.)

3. **Henry Montgomery – Sign Dimensions – Cobbham Road:**

Fred summarized an application which he received from Henry Montgomery requesting a variance in sign size from 6 sq. ft. to 32 sq. ft., and, a variance in sign height from 6' to 12'. Mr. Montgomery had stated that he would place the sign across from his current driveway entrance on his 186 acre parcel and would include the name of his business and farm. Fred also stated that Mr. Montgomery had said that he needed a larger sign so that it could be seen, and that he needed it to be taller than the 6' limit so that it could be seen over his five foot high roadside fence. He also stated that the 4'x8' sign would be hung from an upside down "L" shape steel tubular frame. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application.

Hearing Adjourned: 6:40 PM

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COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Commissioner/Reverend Fred Favors and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Meeting 8-2-06)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held on August 2, 2006, was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

Agenda (Current)

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

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Announcements: Dates for Millage Rate Public Hearings & Called Commission Meeting.**

- a. **1st Public Hearing – August 22, 2006, 9:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, FY 2006 Millage Rate**
 - b. **2nd Public Hearing – August 22, 2006, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room, FY 2006 Millage Rate**
 - c. **3rd Public Hearing – August 29, 2006, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room, FY 3006 Mileage Rate**
 - d. **CALLED Commission Meeting – August 29, 2006, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room, Immediately Following 3rd & Final Public Hearing.**
2. **Proposed Cancellation of September 4, 2006 Commission Work Session Due to County LABOR DAY HOLIDAY, September 4.**

No objection was made to this matter. A decision on whether or not to cancel the September 6 Regular Commission Meeting will be made at the August 29 Called Commission Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Appointment – Area Agency on Aging: Chairman Newton presented this matter and recommended that the matter be postponed to the next scheduled Commission Meeting (a Called Meeting) which is to be held on August 29, 2006. A motion was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously to postpone action on this matter along with Item 2 to the Called Commission Meeting to be held on August 29.**
2. **Appointment – CSRA Enterprise Community: Chairman Newton stated that this matter was included with action taken on Item 1.**
3. **Appointment – Airport Advisory Committee: Chairman Newton presented this matter and asked for recommendations. Wester recommended Bill Parkerson who is also a pilot to fill the vacancy on Post 4 of the Thomson-McDuffie County Airport Advisory Committee. After discussion, a motion to appoint Bill Parkerson to fill Post 4 for a 2-year term on the Committee**

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effective immediately and ending March 31, 2008 was made by Farr, seconded by Wester and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Planning Board Recommendations: Chairman Newton asked for action on the following items.**
 - a. **Willie Booker, Sr. – Road Frontage – Downing Street:**

A motion was made by Wilson to uphold the Planning Commission's recommendation and approve the application for a variance in reduction from 100' to 88' to allow a 12' "driveway" access to the rear of his lot located at 267 Downing Street; motion was seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

- b. **Hazel Holzendorf – Minimum County Road Frontage – Three Points Road:** A motion was made by Wester to approve the application to create a residential parcel off an old easement which crosses the Howell property and leads to her 322 acre parcel on the east side of Three Points Road; motion was seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.
- c. **Henry Montgomery – Sign Dimensions – Cobbham Road:** A motion was made by Farr to uphold the recommendation from the Planning Commission and approve the request for a variance in the sign size from 6 sq. ft. to 32 sq. ft., and a variance in sign height from 6 ft to 12 ft.; motion was seconded by Wester and passed 3 to 1 with Favors voting "no".

- 2. **Proposed Ordinance Amendment Concerning Display of Manufactured Home Decals:** Chairman Newton asked Tax Commissioner, Sandra Whitaker, to address this issue.

Sandra stated that throughout McDuffie County there are numerous manufactured homes which do not display a current decal or location permit, probably indicating that they have not paid their property taxes. Note was made that there is approximately \$66,000 due McDuffie County at this time. The enforcement of this law can be accomplished using state law but recommends McDuffie County have its own ordinance in place to put additional enforcement power behind this procedure. Sandra presented a sample ordinance amendment that could be used noting that changes could be made for McDuffie County's benefit and recommended that an ordinance amendment be drafted as soon as possible.

After discussion, Chairman Newton recommended that a County ordinance amendment be drafted which would match the State's ordinance and make it mandatory to not only buy a decal but also to display it as is required by state law. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

- 3. **Proposal To Relocate Public Defender's Office:** Chairman Newton asked Public Defender, Chip Wallace, to present this matter.

Chip stated that he was very interested in relocating his offices and staff to the building known as the "Old District Attorney's Office" located at 309

Greenway Street. He said they had already gone over and looked at the space and it is much larger and more suitable than his present location. McDuffie County already owns the 309 Greenway building and the arrangement would preclude McDuffie County from paying monthly rent for the Public Defender's office space while the 5 other counties in Toombs

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District could pay their pro rata share of the rent directly to McDuffie County. Chip stated some areas would need improvement, i.e. the flooring in the back needs to be replaced as well as the carpet throughout the building and added that the Maintenance Department for McDuffie County was already poised to begin the task of putting in new flooring where the removable floor panels exist in the back of the building. Also, the Public Defender's Office would have to utilize the services of the McDuffie IT Department in setting up the network and server in the new location.

After a brief discussion, Chairman Newton suggested that County Manager Don Norton compile the figures for potential move cost, etc. so that the Chairman can discuss with the other five (5) counties in the circuit.

4. **Road Closing – Shaw Industries Boulevard:** Chairman Newton reported that all the closing of this road had taken place in 1997 however, he wanted to briefly discuss the matter of safety. Vince Shivers, a representative from Shaw Industries, stated that Shaw Industries would work with Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works, to jointly accomplish the safety measures and concerns as well as improve their security in placing a gate near the railroad crossing. Vince also stated that a key to the gate lock would be given to all emergency services (fire, ambulance, etc.) for their emergency access.

Chairman Newton asked Chris Pelly to work with Mr. Shivers and to report back to the Board on the mutual satisfaction at the completion of installing a gate for "closure" at the railroad crossing.

5. **2007 LARP List:** Chairman Newton ask Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works to present a suggested LARP list for 2007.

Chris presented a suggested list and after discussion, the following was decided on to present to the Department of Transportation for resurfacing needs on roads in McDuffie County:

Boneville Road – 4.5 miles
Mattie Harrison Road – 1.95 miles
Hamilton Drive –) Combined: .5 mile
Daggett Road -) “
Knox Rivers Road – 1.2 miles
Mt. Pleasant Road – 6.9 miles

Stagecoach Road – 9.48 miles

After discussion, Chairman Newton asked Chris to proceed with the request for the above named road to be included in the 2007 LARP list to the Department of Transportation, noting that the submittal deadline is September 1, 2006.

6. **Bid Award – Sweetwater Park Parking Lot, Asphalt:** Chairman Newton presented the bids received for the paving of the Sweetwater Park Parking Lot. They are copied below and made a part of these minutes:

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BIDS: SWEETWATER PARK, ASHPHALT FOR PARKING LOT

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Total Quote</u>
C&H Paving, Inc. 1319 Tanyard Creek Dr. Thomson, GA 30824	104.7'x500' 2" Thick	\$61.50/Ton
APAC-Southeast, Inc. Ga. Div. Augusta Area Office #1 APAC Industrial Way – 30907 P.O. Box 1139 – 30903 Augusta, GA Fax: 706/731-8620	“	\$77.85/Ton or \$50,602.50 Total

After discussion, a motion to approve the low bid of \$61.50/Ton from C&H Paving, Inc., was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and pass unanimously.

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

Don reported that with 58.3% of the year lapsed, the County has collected 37.2% of the projected YTD Revenue. With 58.3% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund expenditures were \$6,152,260.62 or 50.8% as of July 31 2006.

8. **Monthly Financial Report – July 2006:** County Finance Director, Jimmy Whitaker, presented reports on all bank accounts showing a grand total balance of \$11,499,774.18 as of July 31, 2006; Hotel/Motel Report reflected a YTD \$128,167.45 reflecting an increase over 2005 revenue of \$11,686.96 or 10.03% for the year; Local Option Sales Tax Collections YTD are at \$1,400,007.30 or \$2,940.00 decrease (9.64%) for the year; and a SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditure Report with a total program revenue of \$8,148,804 with total expenditures of \$3,681,132 leaving an available balance of \$4,477,672.

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 Wester and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk