

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Tuesday evening, October 19, 2010, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman  
Sammie L. Wilson, Sr., Vice Chairman  
Paul McCorkle, Commissioner  
Wm. "Bill" M. Jopling, Commissioner

**COUNTY REPRESENTATION**

Sammy Fowler, County Attorney  
Penny Salley, County Clerk  
Pam Workman, Assistant Finance Director  
Kim Mathis, Human Development Coordinator  
Bruce Tanner, Fire Chief  
Steven Sewell, Asst. County Fire Chief  
Fred Guerrant, Director, Planning Board  
Linda Thurmond, Chief Tax Assessor  
Bob Howard, Director, Recreation Department  
Eric Reisinger, Public Works Director  
Raymond White, Director, IT Department

**MEDIA**

WTHO Radio Station  
McDuffie Progress Newspaper  
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper

**OTHERS**

Eight (8) citizens attended.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**ZONING ISSUES**

1. Kellie Gilmore/Charles G. "Wormy" Newton – Variance Request at 3813 Deer Trail Rd.

Chairman Newton was not in attendance for the zoning hearing.

Guerrant summarized for the Board an application which he received from Kellie Gilmore requesting that a variance be granted from the list of Permitted Uses allowed in the R-2 zoning district for her residential parcel located at 3813 Deer Trail Rd. in the Belle Meade Subdivision. Guerrant explained that chickens, or any domesticated farm animals are permitted in the R-1 (Agriculture and Low Density Residential), however, Belle Meade Subdivision was located in the R-2 (Medium Density Residential) district which is designated for residential uses only and that farm animals were not a permitted use. At this time Kellie addressed the Board with detailed information related to the chickens and their habitat. She explained that they have had the eleven (11) chickens at their residence for over a year and that the neighbors had no objection to them being there. There has never been an issue with noise, sanitation, or the chickens straying onto the golf course. Fred stated that he had received twelve (12) phone calls and twenty-four emails, all except one, in opposition to the variance. Fred also stated that those in opposition to the variance believed that having domesticated farm animals would lead to the depreciation of property values, but most importantly, that it would set a precedence leading to other farm animals in the subdivision.

The Planning Commission recommended denial of the variance.

Adjournment: 6:50 PM

**COMMISSION MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Wilson acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Fred Guerrant offered the invocation and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL**

Agenda (Current)

A motion to approve the current Agenda with the following change was made by Jopling, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

Add New Item 1 to New Business: Planning Commission Recommendations

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 10-6-10)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held 10-6-10 was made by McCorkle, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Trick or Treat Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> rather than Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. Fall Trash Amnesty Day, October 30, 2010, 7:00 am -12:00 pm

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Status Update Concerning Government Center Construction

Chairman Newton asked Jud Bryant, Program Manager, to address this matter.

**Financial Report:**

As of the September 2010 pay application from R.W. Allen, the Government Center is approximately 75 % complete. There is approximately \$506,540.37 in Owner held retainage and \$115,530.14 in Owner approved change orders. There has been \$10,130,807.43 of the construction completed and \$4,286,133.08 to be completed.

**Site Lighting:**

Georgia Power has completed the revised plan of the Site Lighting and has provided a proposal for the Work. Georgia Power proposes to furnish and install 100% of all 56 light poles, lights and covers of all lighting at a direct cost of \$200,000. The system will be maintained by Georgia Power. The monthly operating cost for the system is \$870.24. This operating cost has not been discounted for less than dusk to dawn power consumption of those poles and lights placed within the Government Center Site. This item is on hold awaiting the Board's action.

**Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment:**

Upon approved Board action Wakefield Beasley, Architects has been placed under contract to develop all furniture fixture and equipment for the new facility. They are currently meeting on-site with department heads to review their individual needs. They presented to Mr. Norton and Mr. Powers the outline of all systems and non systems furniture earlier in the month. Bryant Architect provided a complete inventory of all existing furniture for re-use. After all interviews are completed a comprehensive package of systems and furniture will be present to the Board. Wakefield Beasley will have all of their efforts completed by October 27, 2010. We intend to make a comprehensive presentation to the Board at their first work session in November. This presentation will include all new and reused furniture, the bid process methodology and the schedule for bid.

**Financial Status of Report on Government Service Center and CM at Risk Contingency:**

The Owner's Reserve (Owner's Held Contingency) stands at approximately \$870,734.00. The Construction Manager's Contingency stands at \$ 753,902.00

**Audio Visual Equipment for Courtrooms and Commission Meeting Room:**

In an effort to increase local participation, the Program Manager has had discussions with Mr. Frank Locklear, DB Audio to design, specify and provide other services in connection with A/V systems within the Center. Mr. Locklear provided a written proposal offering Design/Bid/Install and Design/Install alternative.

At the recommendation of the Board Jud will secure proposals for design/build and design/bid for audio visual equipment.

2. Discuss Cost Sharing for Operations and Maintenance at Government Center

Chairman Newton asked Jud Bryant, Program Manager, to address this matter.

Commissioner McCorkle has made the recommendation, that along with him, Commissioner Favors and County Manager Norton be given permission to work with Jud on coming up with the cost sharing agreement at the Government Center. Chairman Newton has recommended that he include two (2) officials from the City as well as the City Manager.

No motion was required.

**3. Consideration of Contract for Adult Day Care Services at Senior Center**

Commissioner McCorkle has concerns with the one (1) year automatic renewal, it was explained that with a 30 day notice prior to the termination date that the contract will not be renewed.

After discussion and a recommendation by Chairman Newton a motion was made by Jopling to approve the Adult Day Care Services contract with the Gilead Group for 2011, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

**4. Discuss Prior Purchase of Bulldozer for Road Department**

Chairman Newton asked Commissioner Paul McCorkle to address this matter.

Commissioner McCorkle wished to clarify the purchase of a bulldozer for the Road Department.

There was a bid opening on August 23, 2010 at which Commissioner McCorkle's business, Interstate Equipment, participated with a low bid of \$37,500. After speaking with the County Attorney the purchase was not made due to the conflict of interest. On September 11, 2010 Commissioner McCorkle placed the bulldozer in a public auction, where it was sold for \$37,000 to Four D, Inc. Eric Reisinger contacted Four D, Inc. after the auction and was told that they were interested in selling the bulldozer. At the advice of the County Attorney, a second bid opening was held, for similar equipment, on October 1, 2010 at which Four D, Inc. participated with a low bid of \$39,000. At the October 6, 2010 Commission meeting a motion was made and passed unanimously to accept the low bid of \$39,000 from Four D Inc. to purchase the bulldozer. Commissioner McCorkle was not in attendance at this meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Planning Board Recommendations: 3813 Deer Trail Rd.**

Vice Chairman Wilson asked the Board for their response regarding the application received from Kelli Gilmore for a variance to allow eleven (11) chickens at 3813 Deer Trail Rd.

Commissioners McCorkle and Jopling feel that this is an issue that needs to be handled by Belle Meade Subdivision and not the County.

After discussion, a motion was made by McCorkle to allow a 30 day temporary variance in order to allow for further research as well as to suspend any fines that had been previously imposed, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

This matter is to come back before the board at the 11/3/10 Commission Meeting.

**1. Proposed Rent Structure for Human Development Center**

Chairman Newton asked Kim Ivey-Mathis, Human Development Coordinator, to address this matter.

Kim has proposed that Human Development Center be allowed to rent the activity room at the Center. The rental fee would be \$50.00 per event for the room with a \$15.00 per hour security fee which would be paid to the personnel present during the time of the rental. All rental fees would go directly to the County and the hourly security fee would be paid to personnel through payroll.

A motion was made by McCorkle to allow for the rental of the activity room at the Human Development Center at a cost of \$50.00 per event with a \$15.00 per hour security fee, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

**2. Update Concerning Downtown WIFI Connection**

Chairman Newton asked Raymond White, IT Director, to address this matter.

The current design of the downtown wireless does not allow for line of site from each access point and the antennas are not positioned correctly. Cisco has reviewed the configuration and made recommendations to Presidio Network Solutions on how to redesign and optimize performance of the wireless mesh. Raymond presented a service agreement and statement of work to the Board from Presidio Network Solutions in the amount of \$3500.00 for the redesign and repair of the downtown wireless mesh. Raymond has also made the recommendation to configure the wireless LAN controllers at the Chamber of Commerce using their internet connection.

After a recommendation from Raymond, a motion was made by Jopling and seconded by Wilson to allow Presidio Network Solutions to redesign and repair the downtown wireless mesh at a cost of \$3500.00 to be paid out of IT SPLOST as well as configure the wireless LAN controllers at the Chamber of Commerce for the downtown wireless service. At this time Commissioner McCorkle requested a roll call vote.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
McCorkle		√
Wilson	√	
Jopling	√	
Newton	√	

The motion passed with a three to one vote with Commissioner McCorkle voting no.

**3. Budget Amendment Request for Volunteer Firefighter Compensation**

Chairman Newton asked Bruce Tanner, Fire Chief, to address this matter.

Currently volunteer firefighters are paid \$12.00 per call and drill. In order for this to continue a budget amendment in the amount of \$29,000 is needed. Don made the recommendation at the October 6, 2010 Commission meeting that of the options Chief Tanner has given, he feels the best option may be to reduce volunteer pay by 15% or \$2.00 per call and drill, particularly considering that the 2011 budget only reflects a total of \$63,000 for this purpose, requiring a budget amendment of \$17,750. Chief Tanner stated that he did not feel this would have an insurmountable impact on the volunteers.

Chairman Newton feels that because the Volunteer Firefighters were already told what they would receive for the 2010 fiscal year that the best option is to pay at the current rate, with a budget amendment of \$29,000 and to reduce the rate by 15% or \$2.00 per call for the 2011 fiscal year.

After a recommendation from Chairman Newton, a motion was made by McCorkle to allow for a \$29,000 budget amendment in Volunteer Firefighter compensation and to reduce the volunteer pay rates by 15% for the 2011 fiscal year, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

**4. Alcoholic Beverage Application – 1810 Italian Bar & Grill, 254 N. Seymour Dr.**

Chairman Newton asked Fred Guerrant to confirm and verify that all requirements had been met. Fred provided certification of the completion of said application on file and added that it had been approved by the Sheriff and added that the McDuffie County Business License application had been completed earlier and a record was on file. Fred has recommended that the application be approved subject to receipt of the August and September state sales tax paperwork that is currently outstanding.

A motion was made by McCorkle to approve the application subject to receipt of the August and September state sales tax paperwork that is currently outstanding, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

**5. Resolution to Adopt FY 2011 Annual Budget**

A motion was made by Jopling to adopt the FY 2011 annual budget at \$28,945,065, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

**6. Monthly Budget Report – September 2010**

Chairman Newton asked Pam Workman, Assistant Finance Director, to address this matter.

Pam Workman reported that as of September 30, 2010, with 75% of the year lapsed, the County had collected \$3,038,353.21 or 75.3% of the projected YTD revenue for the General Fund. With 75% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund Expenditures were \$3,092,294.93 or 74.8%.

**7. Monthly Financial Report – September 2010**

Chairman Newton asked Pam Workman, Assistant Finance Director, to address this matter.

Pam Workman, reported on all bank accounts showing a grand total of \$15,809,684 as of September 30, 2010; Hotel/Motel revenue reflects a YTD \$134,410.00 or a total of -3.49% less than on the same date in 2009; Local Option Sales Tax Collections are YTD \$1,958,767.00 or a total of 9.37% increase from the same date in 2009; SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditures report a cumulative revenue total of \$17,818,007 with a balance of \$136,084 plus \$489,811.00 interest earnings; SPLOST V revenues reflect \$5,739,552.00 as of September 30,2010; expenditures are \$2,232,350.00. Of the \$17,655,000.00 in Bond Construction Funds for the new Government Center Project, \$10,202,406.33 had been spent as of September 30, 2010.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to enter into an Executive Session was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

Topic of Discussion:	Pending or Potential Litigation
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A motion to resume the regular Commission Meeting was made by Jopling, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

No action 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 Jopling and passed unanimously.

**McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Penny Salley, County Clerk