

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Tuesday evening, December 19, 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, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works
Fred Guerrant, Director, Planning Board
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Stephen Sewell, Fire Services/EMA
Larry Attaway, Sheriff's Department
Mindy Carney, Zoning/License Administrator

MEDIA REPRESENTATION

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

OTHERS

Ten (10) citizens attended.

PUBLIC INPUT

Speakers: None

Adjournment:

ZONING HEARING

Chairman Newton asked Fred Guerrant, Director, Planning Board, to address this Matter.

F. Guerrant announced that there was only 1 issue to be heard and addressed at this meeting.

1. Jarvis McNair – Zoning Text Change – Mobile Businesses

Fred reported that he had received an application from Jarvis McNair requesting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance text dealing with mobile businesses which would apply to all mobile units, not just the applicants. Mr. McNair currently operates a portable barbeque trailer and grill which is consistently located at the Auto Zone parking lot. The current Ordinance (Article III, Sec. 7.5(A)(21)), currently allows for temporary mobile businesses in the C-2 district only, and for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days in any one calendar year, noting that the 60-day period does not indicate whether it is for 60 consecutive or non-consecutive days. Mr. McNair's application is requesting to change the text of the Ordinance to allow for mobile units in all commercial zoning districts (C-1 & C-2) and all

industrial districts (I-1 & I-2). The application includes the request to be allowed to locate for an unrestricted time period (i.e. year round) for any number of days.

The Planning Commission emphasized that all mobile units will be required to have a business license after January 1 with the exception of agricultural sales, and expressed concern over the liability to the property owner. Opposition was registered to the Planning Commission on the basis that mobile units could represent a health and safety risk to the public. After a lengthy discussion, the Planning Commission recommended denial of the proposed text change.

People in attendance who wished to speak were allowed a total of 10 minutes "For" and 10 minutes "Against" regarding this issue:

FOR
ADMENDMENT CHANGE

Jarvis McNair
Teddy Jackson
Kay Anderson

AGAINST
ADMENDMENT CHANGE

Mike Neal
Bob Flanders

A Discussion followed the speakers and the Zoning Hearing adjourned at 7:20 PM.

COMMISSION MEETING

CALLED TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Meeting 12-6-06)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held on December 6, 2006, was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Joint Water-Sewer Commission Mtg. 12-14-06)

A motion to approve the ACTION ITEMS from the Joint City-County Water-Sewer Meeting held on December 14, 2006 was made by Wester, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

Agenda (Current)

Commissioner Favors asked that the most recent proposed City of Thomson annexation be added to the agenda. A motion to approve the current Agenda with the addition was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Swearing In Ceremony, Judge Gene Wells Officiating – Commissioner Favors & Commissioner Wilson to serve an additional 4-year term, January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2010**
- 2. Special Presentation: Chairman Newton presented Judge Gene Wells with a Proclamation honoring his tenure as Judge of the Probate Court of McDuffie County upon his retirement as of December 31, 2006.**
- 3. Announcement - January 1, 2007, New Year Holiday - Commission Work Session Cancelled.**
- 4. Grounds Maintenance & Pest Control Bids Will Be Considered at the January 16, 2007 Meeting**

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Appointments – Hospital Authority: Chairman Newton announced that this particular issue, postponed from the December 6 meeting, needed to be addressed at this time and asked for three names to be submitted for consideration in replacing Ms. Nettie Robertson, Post 5, on the Hospital Authority. Commissioner Favors suggested the following named individuals:**

Bruce stated that new emission standards for diesel vehicles will take effect in 2007 and will increase the cost to purchase a new Fire Pumper by approximately \$7000. With this in mind, he suggested purchasing this new engine in early January 2007 before dealers have sold off trucks in their current inventory thereby avoiding this extra cost. Bruce said that \$190,000 is currently available for the item and recommended the approval of solicitation of bids as early in January 2007 as possible in an effort to avoid likely price increases.

A motion to approve the bid for a new Fire Pumper early in January 2007 was made by Wester, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously. Funds for this purchase will come from SPLOST IV funds as scheduled.

4. Adjustment to County Mileage Reimbursement Rate: Chairman Newton asked Jimmy Whitaker to address this issue.

Jimmy stated that the federal U.S. Treasury has increased the mileage rate reimbursement from 44.5 cents per mile to 48.5 cents per mile for the year 2007 pursuant to Revenue Procedure 2006-49 issued November 1, 2006. This increase amounts to 9% over the current rate and note was made that McDuffie County's travel policy is to follow the travel policy of the U.S. Government regarding reimbursements for mileage, meals, lodging and incidental expenses. Jimmy recommended that the McDuffie County Board of Commissioners approve the increased reimbursement rate to conform with the current travel policy already in place. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Wester, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously. Note was made that the county commission car be used as much as possible in order to help defray some of the travel expenses on personal vehicles.

5. Annexation: Chairman Newton reported that the City of Thomson was in the process of accommodating the construction of the new school across from the existing High School on White Oak Road from the existing City limits east bounded by Sills Branch to the North and on the West by the rear property lines of property fronting on Morris Road; it would also include property located on Mt. Pleasant Road adjacent to existing city limits in the southwest quadrant, White's Creek, Shadowmoor Subdivision and Mt. Pleasant Road. The City stated that signed petitions requesting annexation by the current property owners is on file in their offices and it was noted that a waiver of the ten-day notice and review requirements for the proposed annexation of property by the City of Thomson had been received. After a lengthy discussion, with some dissention concerning procedure only, a

motion to approve the three (3) parcels being annexed into the city limits was made by Wester, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

These papers are on file in the Commission Office.

6. **Year End Budget Amendments:** Chairman Newton asked County Finance Director, Jimmy Whitaker, to present these amendments as follows:

- Capital Cases 2006: \$277.36
- District Attorney's Office, Pension – 3 employees: \$6,587.00 (2005 average)
- Juvenile Court: \$19,667.83
- Health Department 2006: \$24,531.00
- School Patrol 2006: \$788.55
- Fire Department 2006: \$16,425.00
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7. **Monthly Budget Report – November 2006:** Chairman Newton asked County Manager Don Norton to present this report.

Don reported that with 91.7% lapsed, the County has collected 75.5% or \$9,035,665 of the projected YTD Revenue, noting approximately \$2,000,000 remains to be collected in taxes. With 91.7% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund expenditures were \$10,424,545 or 85.8% as of November 30, 2006.

8. **Monthly Financial Report – November 2006:** County Finance Director, Jimmy Whitaker, presented reports on all bank accounts showing a grand total balance of \$10,408,461.99 as of November 30, 2006; Hotel/Motel Report reflect a YTD \$195,324.21 or an increase of 18.15% over last year; Local Option Sales Tax Collections YTD are at \$2,264,463.20 or \$203,570.00 increase (9.88%) over same time period last year; and a SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditure Report with a total program revenue of \$9,458,608 with total expenditures of \$5,022,343 leaving an available balance of \$4,436,265.00, not including interest earnings.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Topic of Discussion:	Personnel
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At the end of the Executive Session, a motion to resume the regular Commission Meeting was made by Wester, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

No action was taken resulting from the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk