

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Commission Meeting Tuesday evening, December 20, 2011, 6:30 PM, Meeting Room, Thomson-McDuffie County Government Center

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Don Norton, County Manager
Penny Salley, County Clerk
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Bruce Tanner, Fire Chief
Rusty Allen, Public Works Director
Kimberley Ivey, Human Development Director
Linda Thurmond, Chief Tax Appraiser
Don Clauson, Solid Waste Director

MEDIA

WTHO
McDuffie Mirror
McDuffie Progress

OTHER

Six (6) others were in attendance

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance Amendment for Proposed Conservation Use (CUVA) Changes
The hearing will be held at the January 4th regular board meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ray Silverstein – Announced that he would be running for a Commission seat in 2012.
Mr. Silverstein also expressed concerns regarding school taxes and cast iron water pipes.

ZONING HEARING

None

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Favors offered the invocation and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL

Agenda (Current)

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

Remove Item 1 Old Business – Consideration of Ordinance Amendment to Set 10 Acre Minimum for Conservation Use (CUVA) Exemption

Add New Item 1 to New Business – Discuss Human Development Center

Add New Item 2 to New Business – Discuss Telephone System at Old Extension Service Office

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 12/7/11)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held 12/7/11 was made by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. County Christmas Party, December 23, White Columns Inn, 7:00 PM
2. Cancel January 2nd Work Session due to County Holiday
3. 2012 Capitol Connection Conference, January 30-31, 2012, Atlanta Marriott Marquis

UPCOMING APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

1. CSRA EOA

A motion was made by Wilson to postpone this matter to the January 4, 2012 regular board meeting, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

2. Hospital Authority

Chairman Newton stated that Renee Wright had resigned from the Hospital Authority; he has asked the commissioners to have nominations ready for the January 4, 2012 regular board meeting.

No action was taken at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Ordinance Amendment to Set 10 Acre Minimum for Conservation Use (CUVA) Exemption

This matter was postponed to the January 4, 2012 regular board meeting.

2. Further Consideration of Proposed "Old" Tag/Tax Office Lease

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

Don stated that he has received the proposed lease agreement between World Finance Corporation and McDuffie County; it is a five (5) year lease, made retroactive to December 1, 2011, with a five (5) year renewal provision. The agreed upon rent will be \$1500.00 per month to begin being paid February 1, 2012. World Finance will not occupy the building until February 2012 due to minor renovations needing to be done. They have agreed to do all of the necessary renovations at their cost. In addition to the \$1500.00 per month there is a five (5) percent escalator provision every three years in the lease agreement.

After discussion and a recommendation from Don a motion was made by Jopling to approve the lease agreement between World Finance Corporation and McDuffie County, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Special Account Items

Chairman Newton stated that the City has turned in several invoices for reimbursement for the 2009, 2010, and 2011 CDBG project match, totaling \$69,305.95. He made the recommendation to approve the invoices to be paid from the Special Account.

McCorkle has concerns that there will not be funds available to pay the debt for the Dearing sewer line and equalize rates if these invoices continue to be paid from the special account

There was discussion at the end of the meeting concerning possibly using available water and sewer funds in SPLOST IV to pay the outstanding invoices; currently the available balance in water and sewer SPLOST IV is \$83,436.74

No action was taken.

4. Further Consideration of Proposed Human Resources Policy

Chairman Newton asked Commissioner Jopling to address this matter.

Jopling stated that there had been several changes made to the policy at the last Organizational Committee meeting and has concerns that the commissioners have not had time to review all of the changes.

Chairman Newton has concerns that because the proposed policy seems to reduce the county manager's authority in certain areas such as the handling of grievances, that it may be in slight violation of the ordinance that created a county manager form of government for McDuffie County. In the proposed policy all grievances, hiring, and firing can be appealed to the Board of Commissioners, which is somewhat contradictory to the ordinance.

The policy is to be reviewed by the County Attorney before being brought back to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Jopling to postpone the adoption of the Human Resources Policy until it has been reviewed by legal counsel, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

5. Discuss Family Medical Premium Rate

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

Don stated that at the last meeting Ashley Ellis explained that everything would stay the same for the 2012 insurance with the exception of a \$10,000 increase in fixed costs. This increase is due primarily to the family premium. Don has asked the Board for direction on whether to pass this cost along to the 35 employees that have family coverage or take it from budget contingency. The increase to the employees with family coverage would be approximately \$10.46 per pay period.

After discussion and a recommendation from Chairman Newton, a motion was made by McCorkle to increase the cost of the family medical coverage to the employee by approximately \$10.46 per pay period in order to cover the \$10,000 increase in fixed costs, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss Human Development Center

Chairman Newton asked Commissioner Wilson to address this matter.

Commissioner Wilson asked Chairman Newton for an explanation as to why the move of the Human Development Center to the Boys & Girls club was not presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Chairman Newton stated that there had been meetings with Linda Green and Kimberly Ivey and he was unaware that there were issues. He also stated that there had been several commission meetings in which the move was discussed.

Chairman Newton is to call a meeting with the Boys & Girls Club and the Human Development Center as soon as possible to work everything out.

2. Discuss Telephone Systems at Old Extension Service Office

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

Don stated that there was a County phone system currently at the old Extension Service office. Henry Fluker with Fluker communications had suggested the actual current value of the system was about \$600-\$700. Bob Wilson, owner of the building in which the system exists, has offered to purchase the phone system for \$650.

After discussion a motion was made by McCorkle to declare the phone system surplus, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Jopling to accept the \$650 offer to purchase the phone system from Bob Wilson, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

3. Monthly Budget Report

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

Don reported that as of November 30, 2011, with 91.7% of the year lapsed, the County had collected \$ 10,538,841.39 or 84.9% of the projected YTD revenue for the General Fund. With 91.7% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund Expenditures were \$10,519,979.44 or 85.6%.

4. Monthly Financial Report

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

Pam reported on all bank accounts showing a grand total of \$11,294,738 as of November 30, 2011; Hotel/Motel revenue reflects a YTD \$151,221 or a total of 6.38% less than on the same date in 2010; Local Option Sales Tax Collections are YTD \$2,149,097 or a total of 7.73% decrease from the

same date in 2010; SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditures report a cumulative revenue total of \$17,818,007 with a balance of \$542,214 including the remaining interest earnings; SPLOST V revenues reflect \$9,772,562 as of November 30, 2011; expenditures are \$5,950,268. Of the \$17,655,000.00 in Bond Construction Funds for the new Government Center Project, \$17,522,117.03 had been spent.

ADJOURNMENT

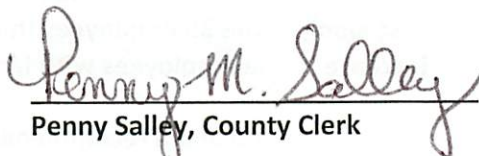
There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:



Penny Salley, County Clerk