

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Commission Meeting Tuesday evening, February 15, 2011, 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

Don Norton, County Manager
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Steven Sewell, Asst. County Fire Chief
Bruce Tanner, Fire Chief
Eric Reisinger, Public Works Director
Fred Guerrant, Planning and Zoning Director
Frank Watson, McDuffie Extension
Caroline Richardson, County Extension
Bob Howard, Recreation Director

MEDIA

WTHO
McDuffie Mirror
McDuffie Progress

OTHER

Five (5) Others Attended

PUBLIC INPUT

None

ZONING ISSUES

Robert Allen Wilson/Virginia B. Wilson – Zoning Change – R-2 to C-2 – 1062 Salem Rd.

Guerrant summarized for the Board an application which he received from Virginia B. Wilson requesting a zoning change from R-2(Med. Density Residential) to C-2 (Highway Commercial) for a 2.4 acre parcel platted from a 26.56 acre parcel (42-98A) located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Salem Rd. and the East Bypass. Guerrant familiarized the Board with the surrounding property uses, structure uses, zoning classifications and indicated that approximately one (1) acre of the property was currently being used as the DOT bypass field office. The Wilsons are requesting the zoning change to accommodate their new garbage pickup business recently purchased from David McGahee. It is their intent to build an office building and a shed for the trucks at the proposed location. Robert Allen Wilson stated that it is their intention to make the site as attractive and compatible as possible with neighboring properties including the addition of opaque fencing and shrubbery. At this time Lucretia Ferguson raised objections ranging from loss of property value, possible problems with animals and that it would not set the correct precedence for the new bypass.

The Planning Commission recommended denial of the zoning change.

Adjournment: 6:38 PM

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Sammie Wilson 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 Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

Add New Item 1 to New Business: Zoning Recommendations

Add New Item 4 to New Business: Request to Lift Hiring Freeze for Sheriff's Department

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 2/2/11)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held 2/2/11 was made by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. City-County Retreat March 4, 2011, Columbia County Library/Performing Arts Center
2. Transportation Investment Act Proposed Projects
3. Boys and Girls Club Steak and Burger Dinner March 2011

OLD BUSINESS

1. Further Consideration of Hospital Authority Appointment

The Hospital Authority has recommended three names as possible replacements to fill the unexpired term of Paul J. Alderman: Mr. Jerry Harrison, Mr. Preston Newton and Mr. John Moss. Chairman Newton made the recommendation to accept these names without any new nominations.

A motion was made by Jopling to accept the recommended names of Jerry Harrison, Preston Newton and John Moss one of which will fill the unexpired term of Paul J. Alderman, second by Wilson and passed unanimously.

2. Further Consideration and Update of Extension Service Staffing

Chairman Newton asked Frank Watson, County Extension Service Agent, to address this matter.

Due to state budget cuts Frank Watson accepted an early retirement a year ago, but has continued to work part-time to ensure the county would not be without an extension agent. His position was advertised with additional 4-H responsibilities due to the absence of a 4-H agent, no one applied. The Board approved at the January 18, 2011 commission meeting to allow Frank to hire a part-time 4-H Program Assistant. There is now interest in the agent position due to the change of responsibilities, if the interested agent comes to McDuffie County, the position will return to full time status with no additional cost to the county. The salary for the County Agent Position will come from funds currently budgeted for the position. Frank has also agreed, if necessary, to continue to work for an additional period of time to train the incoming agent.

With a recommendation from Chairman Newton, a motion was made by McCorkle to lift the hiring freeze to allow the Extension Office to make the proposed personnel changes, upon Frank's retirement, in order to keep an Extension Agent in McDuffie County and to allow Frank to continue to work an additional month to train the incoming agent, to be paid for from currently budgeted funds, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

John Parks with the University of Georgia stated that the person that has expressed interest in the position is Rick Smith the current Wilkes County Extension Agent.

3. Discuss Current Special Account Expenditures

Chairman Newton stated that there are currently two invoices that need to be paid from the Special Account. The following invoices have been brought to the Board for approval:

Civil Design Solutions, LLC for Professional Engineering Services/City 2009 CDBG	\$1,978.86
Civil Design Solutions, LLC for Professional Engineering Services/City 2009 CDBG	\$11,159.10

A motion was made by Jopling to approve the above expenditures in the amount of \$13,137.96 to Civil Design Solutions, LLC, to be paid out of the Special Account, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS**1. Planning Board Recommendations: 1062 Salem Rd.**

Chairman Newton asked the Board for their response regarding the application received from Robert Allen Wilson/Virginia B. Wilson requesting a zoning change from R-2 to C-2 at 1062 Salem Rd.

A motion was made by McCorkle to uphold the recommendation of the Planning Board to deny the zoning change application, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

2. Discuss Pitt Street Park Plan

Chairman Newton asked Bob Howard, Recreation Director, to address this matter.

Bob presented a concept for the Pitt Street Park and has asked for Board approval to move forward. After the completion of the Dearing skate park, there is approximately \$192,000 remaining for the Pitt Street skate park. The estimated cost to complete the skate park is \$100,000 leaving \$92,000 for paving. The portion of paving at the ball park could potentially have to be paid from SPLOST Road funds.

3. Lank Bank Authority Status Update

Don Norton reported that the Land Bank Authority held their first meeting on February 4, 2011. Dot Knox was duly elected as Chair of the four-person Authority and a few parcels of public and private property were discussed as possible first assets to be considered by the group.

The City of Thomson was selected as the Fiscal Agent for the group and the County Clerk, Penny Salley will prepare minutes of future meetings. The group plans to meet monthly until determined otherwise. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10 at 2:00 pm.

While it is expected that this group will become largely self-sufficient fairly quickly, the Authority does ask for \$10,000 "seed money" - \$5,000 from the County and \$5,000 from the City. There is a possibility that the money could at some point be returned to the County, depending on how well the Land Bank Authority operates.

It is the recommendation of the Land Bank Authority that each Governing Body appropriate \$5,000 in order to have sufficient start-up money. This \$5,000 would come from the county budget contingency.

A motion was made by Wilson to approve the \$5,000 expenditure to come from contingency for the Land Bank Authority as "seed" money, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

4. Request to Lift Hiring Freeze for Sheriff's Department

Don reported that at the Public Safety Committee meeting Sheriff Marshall requested that the Board lift the hiring freeze for three positions, the following is a list of current vacancies at the Sheriff's Department:

Full-time Vacancies

one administrative clerk
two deputies'
four detention officers

Part-time Vacancies

one clerk
one part-time nurse

Sheriff Marshall has requested that the hiring freeze be lifted at this time for two deputies and one detention officer. All positions are budgeted positions.

After discussion a motion was made by McCorkle to lift the hiring freeze to fill two deputy positions and one detention officer position in the Sheriff's Department, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

5. Monthly Budget Report – January 2011

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

Don reported that as of January 31 2011, with 8.33% of the year lapsed, the County had collected \$626,924.00 or 5.1% of the projected YTD revenue for the General Fund. With 8.33% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund Expenditures were \$1,190,593.34 or 10%, but this amount included the one time expenditure for pension across the board.

6. Monthly Financial Report – January 2011

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

Pam Workman, reported on all bank accounts showing a grand total of \$15,752,176 as of January 31, 2011; Hotel/Motel revenue reflects a YTD \$11,157 or a total of 9.35% more than on the same date in 2010; Local Option Sales Tax Collections are YTD \$200,247 or a total of 5.95% increase from the same date in 2010; SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditures report a cumulative revenue total of \$17,818,007 with a balance of \$72,265 plus \$490,057.00 interest earnings; SPLOST V revenues reflect \$6,864,772 as of January 31, 2011; expenditures are \$2,079,915. Of the \$17,655,000.00 in Bond Construction Funds for the new Government Center Project, \$13,444,144.87 had been spent as of January 31, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

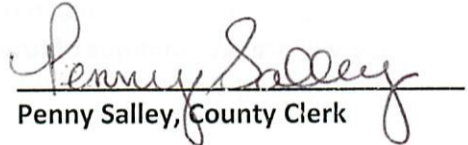
There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Jopling, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:


Penny Salley, County Clerk