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The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Commission Meeting Tuesday evening, May 17, 2011, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

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

**COUNTY REPRESENTATION**

Don Norton, County Manager  
Penny Salley, County Clerk  
Pam Workman, Finance Director  
Linda Thurmond, Chief Tax Appraiser  
Deborah Garrison, Tax Appraiser  
Wanda Sisson, Tax Appraiser  
Raymond White, IT Director  
Rusty Allen, Acting Public Works Director  
Susan Smith, AdministratriAssistant,  
Road Department

**MEDIA**

WTHO  
McDuffie Progress  
McDuffie Mirror  
WJBF

**OTHER**

Fifteen (15) others signed in. An estimated 50-60 were in attendance.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**ZONING ISSUES**

None

**COMMISSION MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Rev. Fred 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 change was made by Jopling, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

Add New Item 8 to New Business: Discuss Additional Parking at Government Center

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 5/4/11)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held 5/4/11 was made by McCorkle, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. June Work Session Conflicts with Memorial Day-Reschedule or Cancel?  
The work session for June has been cancelled.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Consider Lifting Hiring Freeze for One Street Maintenance Worker

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

As requested at the May 4, 2011 commission meeting, Don presented a list of hires and resignations/terminations for the Road Department from December 2009 to present, showing that there were currently six vacant positions. He made the recommendation to lift the hiring freeze to fill one of the vacant street maintenance worker positions.

A motion was made by McCorkle to lift the hiring freeze to fill one street maintenance worker position, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

**2. Further Discussion of Outstanding Special Account Invoices/Issues**

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

Don made the recommendation to approve outstanding invoices for the 2009 and 2010 City CDBG projects in the amount of \$12,006.60 and one invoice in the amount of \$810.00 for watershed monitoring to be paid from the Special Account. He has also recommended the Board approve the total remaining 2009 and 2010 CDBG match requirements in the amount of \$121,053.90 to be paid from the Special Account.

A motion was made by Jopling to approve the above expenditures. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

Commissioner Favors and McCorkle again expressed concerns as to how the account was formed.

A motion was made by Jopling to at least approve the overdue invoices. The motion again died due to the lack of a second.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Discuss GBI Interest in Old GSP Property**

The GBI has requested in the form of a resolution that the City and County convey the old GSP property to the state in order to build a new some \$1.5 million regional facility in the future. Chairman Newton explained that the resolution states that if the GBI does not use or discontinues use of the property and no other state agency want to occupy the building, ownership will revert back to the City and County.

Chairman Newton made the recommendation to approve the resolution contingent upon approval by the county attorney as well as adding an addendum stating if the GBI does not use the property or substantially begin the building project within five years there will be a renegotiation process. If no agreement can be reached at that time ownership will revert back to the City and County. Commissioner McCorkle feels that there should be an additional maintenance addendum stating that the GBI agrees to maintain the grounds and structure of the building.

After discussion a motion was made by Jopling to approve the resolution with the above addendum, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

**2. Approval of Airport Runway Overlay Bids**

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

Don stated that bids were opened on May 12, 2011 at the request of Georgia Department of Transportation. The low bidder was Reeves Construction with a bid of \$1,710,980.00. The bid was reviewed and recommended by W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc. The total project value will be \$1,800,000. This includes other required services by FAA/GDOT, including inspection and testing.

The project is funded at 95% from FAA and 2.5% from GDOT; the total local share is \$50,000, the County's portion of the local share is \$25,000, to be paid from SPLOST V.

A motion was made by Favors to approve the bid of \$1,710,980 from Reeves Construction for the airport runway overlay as well as the \$25,000 local share to be paid from SPLOST V, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

**3. Cell Tower Audit Report Update**

Chairman Newton asked Linda Thurmond, Chief Tax Appraiser, to address this matter.

Linda reported that of the 21 towers that were approved by the Board to be audited, 18 have been completed. Taking only into consideration the portion of taxes billed to date and

subtracting the amount of audit work done the taxes paid outweighs the amount paid for the audits.

\$13,637.00 Taxes Paid  
 (\$10,000.00) Audit Fee  
 \$3,637.00

No action was taken, no action was required.

**4. Need for Additional SPLOST IV-Economic Development-IT Funds to Supplement Pictometry Project**

Chairman Newton asked Linda Thurmond, Chief Tax Appraiser, to address this matter.

Linda stated that there were additional funds needed for the Pictometry project as well as GIS. Linda has requested an additional \$4,028.70 for work done by Brad Jeffares with GST Consulting to add the Pictometry to the intranet and development of a new internet site that will include the Pictometry. This cost also includes migration to the new GIS server. Linda has also requested an additional cost not to exceed \$6,000 to complete the GIS project for Pictometry viewing in a new web site release.

After discussion and a recommendation from Linda a motion was made by McCorkle to approve the additional expenditure of \$4,028.70 for work performed by Brad Jeffares for the Pictometry project as well as a cost not to exceed \$6,000 to complete the GIS project for Pictometry to be paid from SPLOST IV Economic Development, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

**5. Monthly Budget Report –April 2011**

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

Don reported that as of April 30, 2011, with 33.3% of the year lapsed, the County had collected \$2,728,380.81 or 22.0% of the projected YTD revenue for the General Fund. With 33.3% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund Expenditures were \$3,712,239.09 or 30.1%, but this amount included the one time expenditure for pension across the board.

**6. Monthly Financial Report – April 2011**

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

Pam Workman, reported on all bank accounts showing a grand total of \$13,551,379 as of April 30, 2011; Hotel/Motel revenue reflects a YTD \$51,626 or a total of 10.55% more than on the same date in 2010; Local Option Sales Tax Collections are YTD \$767,851 or a total of -12.09% decrease from the same date in 2010; SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditures report a cumulative revenue total of \$17,818,007 with a balance of \$111,395 plus \$490,162.00 interest earnings; SPLOST V revenues reflect \$7,125,460 as of April 30, 2011; expenditures are \$2,528,588. Of the \$17,655,000.00 in Bond Construction Funds for the new Government Center Project, \$15,365,862.31 had been spent as of May 11, 2011.

**7. Cash Flow Projections for Remainder of 2011**

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

Pam presented a cash flow projection for the remainder of 2011; these figures are based on last year's revenues and expenditures. Based on projections, the month of August will be the lowest point with an estimated \$984,959.00; this does not take into consideration any additional impacts created by the new government center.

**8. Discuss Additional Parking at Government Center**

Chairman Newton made the recommendation to approve the additional parking lot on the south side of Railroad Street. It will allow 50 additional parking spaces near the new government center at an approximate cost of \$122,000. He feels that some of the cost could be reduced by allowing the City and County to do some of the prep work for the parking lot. He stated that the additional parking is needed to support businesses on Railroad Street while the TE (Transportation Enhancement) project is ongoing as well as it being needed for the government center.

Jopling and McCorkle feel that the cost should be split between the City and County.

After discussion a motion was made by Jopling to approve the additional parking lot on Railroad Street for the new government center not to exceed \$100,000 to be split between the City and County. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Chairman Newton explained that the estimate of \$122,000 is based on the professional experience of an engineer.

A motion was made by Jopling to approve the additional parking lot on the south side of Railroad Street not to exceed \$100,000, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously

9. Personnel Action Appeal for Ms. Susan Smith

Susan Smith, secretary for the public works department, made an appeal to the Board for a three day suspension she received.

County Manager Don Norton stated that the suspension was a result of falsifying pay records, even though she apparently was directed to do so by her then supervisor, who is no longer employed by McDuffie County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Topic of Discussion: Personnel

REGULAR SESSION

A motion to resume the regular Commission Meeting was made by Jopling, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

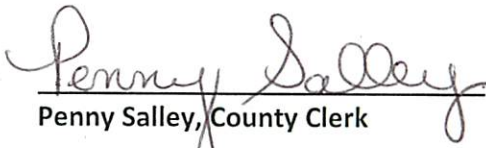
Chairman Newton informed Susan Smith that no decision would be made until the entire Board was present. (Mr. Wilson no present due to health reasons.)

ADJOURNMENT

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

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:   
Penny Salley, County Clerk

**AFFIDAVIT**  
**CLOSED MEETING - ENTIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
(copy must be filed with official minutes)

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF McDUFFIE

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman, Commissioner Frederick Favors, Commissioner  
Paul McCorkle, Commissioner Wm Bill Topling Commissioner  
being duly sworn, state under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief:

1. The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners met in a duly advertised meeting on May 17, 2011;

2. During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session;

3. The Executive Session was called to order at 7:55 AM (PM);

4. The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matters(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law;

- Consultation with the county attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation;
- Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. S 50-14-2(2) (insert the citation to the legal authority making the tax matter confidential) \_\_\_\_\_
- Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. S 50-14-3(4);
- Discussion of deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided by O.C.G.A. S 50-14-3(6);
- Other (describe the exemption to the open meetings law): \_\_\_\_\_ as provided in (insert the citation to the legal authority exempting the topic) \_\_\_\_\_

This 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

[Signature] Chairman  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Vice Chairman  
[Signature] Commissioner  
[Signature] Commissioner  
[Signature] Commissioner



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

Pence M. Salley  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires:  
March 28, 2014