

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

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman  
Sammie Wilson, Sr., Vice Chairman  
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  
Stephen Sewell, Asst. Fire Chief  
Linda Thurmond, Chief Tax Appraiser  
Mike Carrington, Forward McDuffie

**MEDIA**

WTHO  
McDuffie Mirror  
McDuffie Progress

**OTHER**

Eleven (11) others were in attendance

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**911 Fees on Prepaid Wireless**

County Manager Don Norton stated that a law had been passed this year which allows counties to impose a 0.75 per transaction 911 service fee on prepaid wireless service, this fee will be collected at the point of sale. This will be distributed by GA Department of Revenues based upon relative population by all counties which so adopt such similar resolutions. He presented a resolution that would allow McDuffie County to collect this 911 service fee. He further explained that if the resolution was not adopted the fee would still be collected, but would go to other areas of the state instead of McDuffie County. The resolution will be brought back before the Board at the October 5, 2011 Commission Meeting for adoption.

At this time Mr. Ray Silverstein requested clarification of prepaid wireless service.

There being no further comment the public hearing adjourned at 6:35.

**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 Wilson offered the invocation and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL**

**Agenda (Current)**

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

**Minutes (Regular Mtg. 9/7/11)**

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held 9/7/11 was made by McCorkle, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. ACCG District Meeting October 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM, Augusta Marriott
2. Chairman Newton asked the media to advise the public there has been some interest in the renting or possible purchasing of vacant or soon to be vacant County buildings. He would like to give anyone in the community, interested in the buildings, an opportunity to approach the County before a decision is made. Proposals will be accepted until September 30, 2011.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Recommendation to Equalize Sewer Rates Countywide**

Chairman Newton stated that with the current customer count, the monthly fees collected from customers for serving the debt is insufficient and USDA, which administered the financing requires that the districts be self supporting. He also stated that over the past ten years, it was discussed and agreed upon annually, in retreats and City-County meetings, that once expansion was complete, rate leveling across the whole system would take place. He further stated that USDA was becoming increasingly impatient and the County had to take some sort of action very soon.

After discussion, the following motion was made by Jopling and seconded by McCorkle:

I move that the monthly sewer rates in McDuffie County be leveled at \$6.50 ready to serve fee and \$3.25 per thousand usage for residential customers and \$10.00 ready to serve fee and \$3.25 per thousand usage for commercial and industrial customers. To make this leveling possible I add to this motion that \$965,000 of sewer system debt be paid off using funding from McDuffie County accounts set aside for water-sewer purposes.

Commissioner Wilson requested a roll call vote at this time.

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

The motion passed with a two to one vote, with Commissioner Wilson voting against. Commissioner Newton was in favor of the motion.

**2. County Appointment to Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Board**

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

Don stated that the one remaining appointment to the Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Board was a county employee appointment. Don Clauson, Solid Waste Director, has expressed an interest in being on the board.

At this time Chairman Newton asked for any other nominations. There being no other nominations a motion was made by Wilson to appoint Don Clauson, Solid Waste Director, to the Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Board, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Discuss Proposed Drift Event**

Chairman Newton asked Mike Carrington, Executive Director of Forward McDuffie, to address this matter.

Mike stated that the Chamber of Commerce is requesting approval to hold a second Drift Event at the airport. He stated that they have received approval from the City of Thomson with the understanding that the residents of Belle Meade be notified prior to the event and that proper licenses, insurance, security and emergency personnel be in place.

He also stated that the event is anticipated to be a sizable fundraiser for the Thomson-McDuffie Chamber of Commerce as well as a benefit to local hotels/motels and restaurants. Portions of the proceeds will be divided with Spirit Aviation. The Chamber also plans on donating parking fees to our local first responders.

Newton and Jopling stated that they had received several complaints from Belle Meade citizens regarding the noise from the Drift event held earlier in the year. They have requested that a poll be done of Belle Meade residents and the results reported back to the Board.

Newton also asked how often the event would be held and if the airport would be the permanent location for the event. Mike stated that there was a possibility of building a track to hold the event at a different location in the future, but could not discuss it further due to confidentiality agreements.

After discussion a motion was made by McCorkle to approve holding the Drift event at the airport, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

## 2. Board of Assessors Appointment

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

Linda stated that Ruby Harbin's term expired today, September 20<sup>th</sup> and has recommended replacing Ms. Harbin with Robin Lancaster. She explained that there were qualifications that had to be met to be on the Board and Ms. Lancaster met all of the qualifications. She has 18 years of experience in residential and commercial appraisals and has agreed to attend the required 40 hours of school to be a member of the Board. Linda believes she would be an asset to the Board of Assessors.

There being no other nominations a motion was made by McCorkle to approve the resolution appointing Robin Lancaster to the Board of Assessors for a six year term beginning on September 21, 2011 and expiring on September 20, 2017, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

McCorkle has requested County Manager Don Norton and County Clerk Penny Salley to inform the Board 30 days prior to any upcoming appointment to allow more opportunity for consideration of additional nominees.

## 3. Monthly Budget Report – August 2011

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

Don reported that as of August 31, 2011, with 66.7% of the year lapsed, the County had collected \$7,305,949.70 or 41.1% of the projected YTD revenue for the General Fund. With 66.7% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund Expenditures were \$7,644,563.36 or 62.6%.

## 4. Monthly Financial Report – August 2011

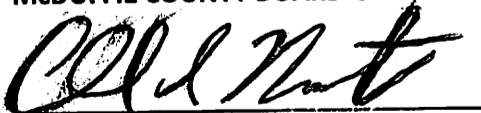
Chairman Newton asked Pam Workman, Finance Director, to address this matter.

Pam Workman, reported on all bank accounts showing a grand total of \$8,985,585 as of August 31, 2011; Hotel/Motel revenue reflects a YTD \$122,857 or a total of 5.52% more than on the same date in 2010; Local Option Sales Tax Collections are YTD \$1,551,677 or a total of -12.23% decrease from the same date in 2010; SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditures report a cumulative revenue total of \$17,818,007 with a balance of \$408,977 plus \$490,255.00 interest earnings; SPLOST V revenues reflect \$8,881,821 as of August 31, 2011; expenditures are \$5,510,758. Of the \$17,655,000.00 in Bond Construction Funds for the new Government Center Project, \$17,028,195.04 had been spent.

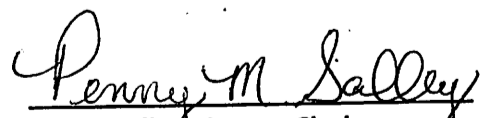
## ADJOURNMENT

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