



The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Commission Meeting
Tuesday Evening, January 18, 2022, 6:30 pm
Government Center Meeting Room

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles Newton, IV, Chairman
Sammie Wilson, Vice Chairman
Bill Jopling, Commissioner
Frederick Favors, Commissioner
Gloria Thompson, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:

David Crawley, County Manager
Nikki Milburn, County Clerk
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Chase Beggs, Planning and Zoning

MEDIA: Erin Burditt, McDuffie Progress

Others: 10

Public Hearing

1. Application requesting a special exception for a satellite facility on Ellington Airline Road, Dearing, GA 30808, Parcel 00650001A00.

Chase presented the request to the Board. He advised that Mrs. Dollie McMichael and Viasat are requesting a special exception for a satellite facility at the corner of Ellington Airline Road and Gay's Circle. Ryan Frasier from Viasat answered questions by the board members. The planning board recommended approval with the condition that fencing and vegetated buffer be installed. Chairman Newton asked if there were any questions, hearing none this item was closed.

2. Application requesting a subdivision review, rezoning request and variances for lot size and setbacks on a 54-acre tract of land addressed 801 White Oak Road, Thomson, GA 30824, Parcel 00410031.

Chase presented the request to the Board. He advised that George Fuller has submitted a request for subdivision review. This development will be at 801 White Oak Road and will include 144 lots. The planning board made the recommendation to approve this request with the following conditions: natural gas included in each home, ADA compliant sidewalks on White Oak Road frontage, landscape buffer at White Oak frontage, homes be minimum 1,400 sq. ft. and facades be brick, stone or hardie board. Chairman Newton asked if there were any further questions, hearing none this item was closed.

Chairman Newton asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the 2 requests, hearing no response the public hearing portion of the meeting was closed.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm, acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC INPUT

Paul Daly-Mr. Daly addressed the board with several concerns. He asked regarding the library being closed due to not having heat. He also asked the Board regarding the plan for recycling since the city is no longer operating the recycling center on Augusta Highway. Chairman Newton advised that the recycling center is still open currently and that the county is working to plan for the future in regards to recycling. He asked that everyone be patient as the county works on the details, since there was no advanced warning for the county to put a plan together. Mr. Daly also asked about broadband, he stated that he is disappointed to learn that he lives less than a mile from a public school and can not get internet to his house. Chairman Newton advised that the David is working diligently on the Broadband grants that will allow us to expand broadband to the whole community. Chairman Newton asked Mr. Daly to stay after the meeting and that he and David would be happy to talk to him personally and address his concerns.

Julie Gerlach- Ms. Gerlach addressed the Board regarding her concerns over recycling. She advised that she is getting mixed information when it comes to recycling and she just wants to correct information so she knows what to do. Chairman Newton advised that the recycling center is still currently opened during the week and items can still be dropped off there. He also advised that the transfer station is in the process of getting set up to accept single stream recycling items also at no cost. He asked if the community will be patient as the county works out the details moving forward.

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)

Chairman Newton stated that there will be some recommendations that were presented at the previous Water/Sewer Commission to be added as #9.

Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to approve the current agenda with the addition of #9. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

Minutes

Work Session- January 3, 2022

Regular Meeting- January 5, 2022

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passes unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. State of the Community-Thursday, January 27th at Augusta Tech, 8:30am-10am.
2. Tourism Spotlight Luncheon-Wednesday, February 9th at Highrail, 11:30am-1pm.
3. Chamber Banquet- Friday, March 4th at Bordeaux Event Center, 5:30pm-10pm.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consideration to Accept Planning Board Recommendation for Special Exception Request for Ellington Airline Road.**

Chairman Newton asked is there was any further questions or comments regarding this request, there was no response.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to uphold the planning boards recommendation to approve this request with the conditions set by planning board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously.

2. Consideration to Accept Planning Board Recommendation for Subdivision Review, Rezoning Request and Variances for 801 Whiteoak Road.

Chairman Newton asked if there was any further questions or comments regarding this request, there was no response.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to uphold the planning board recommendation with conditions proposed by planning board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

3. Consideration to Approve Resolution 22-04; HPC Grant Application for Rock House.

Chase advised that this grant is for the City of Thomson commercial design guidelines and the Rock House Master Plan. This is a matching grant for local and federal funding, 40/60. And the local match will be shared with the city. The county is applying for this grant on behalf of the city because the grant requires a certified local government designation in order to apply, the county currently has this designation.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve Resolution 22-04. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

4. Consideration to Approve Budget Amendment for Fire/EMS.

Pam advised that she has a budget amendment for Fire/EMS for uniforms, equipment and fire fee. The budget amendment is for \$44,800.00.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve budget amendments for Fire/EMS. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously.

5. Consideration to Approve Budget Amendment for Senior Center.

Pam advised that she has a budget amendment for the senior center which includes changes that were made to the Aging Grant, this amendment is for \$3,784.00 and will be funded by contingency.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve budget amendments for the senior center. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

6. Consideration to Approve FY22 Road Resurfacing.

David advised that he was supposed to meet with Jerry Brinson yesterday but he was sick and unable to come to the office. David advised that unless anyone wants to make further changes to the road list, he feels that they have a good starting point for this year. He stated that he is waiting to get an updated price for the roads that were added per Boards request.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve FY22 road resurfacing. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

7. Consideration to Approve FY22 DFAC Budget Agreement.

David advised that DFCS sent over the revised budget agreement for FY22. He reminded the Board that in the past the Board has reimbursed the office for purchases and for accounting and audit purposes this is the best option for the finance department.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve reimbursement for FY22 DFCS budget agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

8. Consideration to Approve Digital Advertising Campaign for Tourism.

Chase advised that this agreement is with MediaOne who worked with tourism this past year to identify tourism opportunities and how to expand on target areas for the community. The service last year was provided by a grant. To renew this agreement and continue services would be \$45,000 for a year.

Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to approve the agreement with MediaOne for tourism. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously.

9. Consideration to Approve Water/Sewer Commission Recommendations.

Chairman Newton advised that the water/sewer commission met prior to this meeting. They have 3 recommendations for the Board to consider.

1. Beam Construction-

The water/sewer commission is recommending contracting with Beam construction in order to complete the mass water meter upgrade. The city originally thought it was a project they could handle but it has become more than they can take on. Beam will finish the remaining upgrades and should be completed within 6 months. The cost is \$439,775 and will be funded by GEFA loan.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve the contract with Beam for completion of project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously.

2. Revised Water/Sewer Connection Fees for Subdivisions.

The water/sewer commission is recommending to increase the tap fees for new development. This will cover the cost of materials; proposed increase is \$600 for ¾ inch and \$700 for 1 inch. Builder will be in charge of install of system.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the increase fee for new development. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

3. Revised Water/Sewer Connection Fees for Non-Subdivision.

The water/sewer commission is recommending to increase the tap fees for existing structures. This will cover the cost of materials and labor; proposed increase is \$1,300 for ¾ inch and \$1,550 for 1 inch.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve the increase fee for new development. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously.

10. Monthly Budget Report

David presented the monthly budget report.

11. Monthly Financial Report

Pam presented the monthly financial report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Property Acquisition

2. Personnel

Enter: Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to enter executive session at 7:29pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

Exit: Commissioner Jopling made the motion to exit executive session and return to regular meeting at 7:47 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:48 pm, seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Charles G. Newton, IV, Chairman

ATTEST:



Nikki Milburn, County Clerk