



McDuffie County Board of Commissioners
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday Evening, June 20, 2023, 6:30
Government Center Meeting Room

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles G Newton, Chairman
Sammie Wilson, Vice Chairman
Gloria Thompson, Commissioner
Frederick Favors, Commissioner
William "Bill" Jopling, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:

David Crawley, County Manager
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Nikki Milburn, County Clerk (outgoing)
Carrie Edwards, County Clerk (incoming)
Jason Smith, Community Development
Stephen Sewell, Fire EMS

MEDIA: McDuffie Progress

Members of the Public

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Newton opened the public hearing at 6:30 pm.

1. **Request to Rezone (R-1 to I-1) – Parcel 00200069A00, 107.5 acres located on Warrenton Highway NW for cold storage warehouse.**

Chairman Newton went over the request to rezone for Ice Cap Cold Storage. Chairman Newton turned it over to County Manager Crawley to provide additional details. County Manager Crawley opened the floor to Andrew Vochan, design builder for Tippman Group, to speak on behalf of the company. Discussion regarding square footage, number of employees, need for additional power. Tippman Group supplied answers to discussions. Chairman Newton asked if Mr. Larry Knox would like to speak and he declined, stating it was covered.

2. **Request variance of setback requirements (R-2) – Parcel 0028A020 – 0.63 of an acre, Deer Trail Road.**

Chairman Newton went over the request variance of setback and turned it over to County Manager Crawley. Short discussion regarding current setback ensued. No public comment.

3. **Request variance of setback requirements (R-2) – Parcel 0028A021 – 0.63 of an acre, Deer Trail Road.**

Chairman Newton went over the request variance of setback and turned it over to County Manager Crawley. Short discussion regarding current setback ensued. No public comment.

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 6:47 pm, acknowledged quorum of commissioners' present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Favors offered invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Newton opened the floor to Butch Blount. Mr. Blount requested update on the sewage renovation on Wrightsboro Road. Chairman Newton and County Manager Crawley informed public of update and bid opening. Chairman Newton stated bid for contractors, that must be licensed and insured, on the three houses. The dollars for housing and sewage expire in August and both projects will commence prior to the closing date of contract.

Chairman Newton turned the floor over the Mr. Waldo Massey. Mr. Massey stated that his questions had be answered.

APPROVALS

Agenda

Current

Chairman Newton asked if there were any corrections to the current agenda or minutes.

County Manager Crawley stated that there were two additions to the agenda. Commissioner Jopling made a motion to add as #12, Schneider Geospatial first amendment to agreement to the agenda as well as add as #13, ETHOS Preservation grant to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

Work Session – June 5, 2023

Executive Session – June 5, 2023

Regular Meeting – June 7, 2023

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson with a correction made to the June 5th Work Session minutes and June 7th Regular Meeting Minutes regarding the delegation of specimen preparation cost between the County (Animal Shelter) and the McDuffie County Board of Health.

Correction: The county will be responsible for the specimen preparation cost for all domestic animals to Roger's Veterinary Service while the McDuffie County Board of Health will be fiscally responsible for the specimen preparation cost for all wild animals.

The motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Employee Appreciation Day: Friday, June 30th, Sweetwater Gym
2. Freedom Blast: Saturday, July 1st at Thomson-McDuffie Government Complex

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENTS

1. Consideration to Appoint Carrie Edwards as County Clerk effective Tuesday, June 20, 2023.



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County Manager Crawley requested appointment of Carrie Edwards as County Clerk. Commissioner Jopling made a motion to appoint Carrie Edwards as County Clerk. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consideration to Accept Planning Board Recommendation a Request to Rezone Parcel 00200069A00, 107.5 acres, from R-1 to I-1 for a cold storage warehouse.**

County Manager Crawley provided an update to the parcel zoned for Ice Cap Cold Storage. Chairman Newton requested motion. Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors. The motion carried unanimously.

2. **Consideration to Accept Planning Board Recommendation a Variance Request for Parcel 0028A020 to reduce the front setback.**

County Manager Crawley provided details of the recommendation to reduce the front setback. Chairman Newton requested motion. Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Consideration to Accept Planning Board Recommendation a Variance Request for Parcel 0028A021 to reduce the front setback.**

County Manager Crawley provided details of the recommendation to reduce the front setback. Chairman Newton requested motion. Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Consideration to Approve Proclamation for July as Recreation Month.**

Chairman Newton stated that July was Recreation month and read the Proclamation. Chairman Newton presented the proclamation to the Recreation Department. Chairman Newton requested a motion. Vice Chairman Wilson made a motion to accept. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling. A picture followed.

5. **Consideration to Approve Liability Insurance Renewal.**

County Manager Crawley provided details and update on the consideration to increase deductible from \$ 5k-10k. The decision was made to continue with the current deductible. Chairman Newton requested motion. Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **Consideration to Approve and Agreement with the Regional Commission for Grant Administration Services.**

County Manager Crawley provided update on the Regional Commission grant. Chairman Newton requested motion. Commissioner Thompson made the motion approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Consideration to Approve Renewal of the Funding Contract with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension for Organization Funding.

County Manager Crawley provided update on the continued funding agreement with University of Georgia. Chairman Newton requested motion. Commissioner Thompson made the motion approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Consideration to Approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Policy.

County Manager Crawley provided update on the budget process. Chairman Newton requested motion. Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Consideration to Approve Terms and Conditions for the American Rescue Plan Act Public Safety and Community Violence Reduction Grant Program.

County Manager Crawley provided update on the grant. Chairman Newton requested motion. Vice Chairman Wilson made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Consideration to Approve MOU with Fort Gordon.

County Manager Crawley provided update on MOU with Fort Gordon, requesting a 2-mile buffer to base boundaries. Chairman Newton requested motion. Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Consideration to Approve Cancelling July 3rd and 5th Meetings.

Chairman Newton requested motion. Vice Chairman Wilson made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Tax Assessors online module for appeals and monthly reporting.

County Manager Crawley provided update on the Board of Assessors online module that will allow for public to request to appeal. Discussion regarding monthly reporting, subscription cost if underutilized, and will the public be able to still pay in person in the office. Chairman Newton requested motion. Vice Chairman Wilson made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Historic Preservation Grant, ETHOS PRESERVATION, certified local grant to provide work adhering to Thomson Commercial Design Guidelines.



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County Manager Crawley turned the floor over to Jason Smith to update on the ETHOS Preservation, HPC grant. The grant totaling \$15k will be used for Thomson Commercial Design Guidelines. Chairman Newton requested motion. Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Monthly Budget Report

County Manager Crawley provided update on the monthly budget report. Discussion over solid waste provider.

15. Monthly Financial Report

Director Pam Workman provided update on the monthly financial report. Discussion of ongoing projects and upcoming end dates to include, West Bypass, Recreation Ballpark and new park located beside Thomson-McDuffie Government Complex.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:25 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion carried unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Newton", written over a horizontal line.

Charles G Newton, IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carrie Edwards", written over a horizontal line.

Carrie Edwards, County Clerk

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