

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
1124 Clark Street
Covington, Georgia

Regular Meeting
MINUTES
January 19, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Marcello Banes, Commissioners' Stan Edwards, Demond Mason, Alana Sanders, J.C. Henderson, Ronnie Cowan, County Manager Lloyd Kerr, Attorney Sam VanVolkenburg, and County Clerk Jackie Smith

Chairman Banes called the meeting to order, extended a welcome to all present, and read the thought for the day. The invocation was given by Commissioner Alana Sanders, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to our great flag led by Commissioner Ronnie Cowan.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Chairman Banes requested to move item 21 from the agenda and to add item 16A – A Resolution to Support Continuation of the Tax Credit Program for Film and Television Production.

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Sanders to adopt the Agenda dated January 19, 2021 with the duly noted changes.
Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Archie Shepherd
Covington

- Concern about communication

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Recognized and introduced Dr. Little, Piedmont Newton Hospital to provide an update on COVID-19.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Briefly went over Power Point presentation.
- Attached and made part of these minutes.
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OLD BUSINESS:

Information Services: Discussion/Consideration of requesting approval of Security Vendor Service Level Agreement.

Presented by IT Director Greg Mann.

- Agreement was reviewed by the county attorney.
- Agreement will be updated annually.

- Agreement is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Cowan to approve the Security Vendor Service Level Agreement as stated by IT Director Greg Mann.
Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

CONSENT AGENDA

Appointment – Chairman’s – Planning Commission – Landis Stephens
Appointment – Chairman’s – Zoning Board of Appeals – Dr. Nick Hawthorn
Appointment - District Two - Zoning Board of Appeals - Darren Wiggins
Appointment – District Two - Planning Commission – Alan Milhouse
Appointment – District Four – Planning Commission - Vivian Richardson
Appointment – District Four – Zoning Board of Appeals - James Russell
Elections: Acceptance of \$65,408.00 from the Center for Tech and Civic Life grant to help cover costs associated with the January 5, 2020 election.
Fire Services: Requesting approval to apply for Firehouse Subs Foundation grant.
Fire Services: Requesting approval to apply for Motorola Solutions grant.
Fire Services: Requesting approval to apply to Publix Charity grant.
County Clerk: Approval of BOC Minutes – January 5, 2020

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Henderson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

FINANCE: MONTHLY FINANCIAL PRESENTATION – DECEMBER 2020

Finance director Brittany White presented the December financials to the board and went over the monthly revenues and expenditures.
No action necessary.

FINANCE: BUDGET TRANSFERS

Finance director Brittany White presented the budget transfers for the board to take action on.

- Discussion and concern voiced about the trash, furniture, etc. that is now being left on the sides of the roads.
- Ms. White presented moving funds (\$200,000) from positions that have not been filled to fund temporary workers to pick up the trash.
- Mr. Kerr noted that we will use a Temporary Agency for these workers.
- He noted that historically it has fallen to public works to pick up the trash, but hoped to place funds in the upcoming budget to hire someone to pick up trash off the roads.
- Information is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Edwards to approve the budget transfers as presented by the finance director.

Motion carried (3/2) with Commissioners Sanders and Henderson voting in opposition to the motion.

FAMILY CONNECTION: REQUESTING NCBOC TO SERVE AS THE FISCAL AGENT FOR 2022 (JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2021)

Presented by County Manager Lloyd Kerr.

- Fiscal Agent
- Annual requirement
- Information is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Cowan, to approve The request for the NCBOC to serve as the Fiscal Agent for 2022 for the Family Connection program.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

CORONER'S OFFICE: DISCUSSION CONSIDERATION OF SAFETY, TRAINING, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.

Coroner Bailey-Butts appeared before the board to present her request.

- Requesting additional funding for personnel, training, equipment and office space.
- Chairman Banes asked if there was a total number she was requesting.
- She said she needed \$3,500 for training and \$5,500 for supplies and another \$1200 for equipment and other items she mentioned did not have a monetary amount.
- After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Cowan noted that with his experience over the years in setting up offices, he did not think the amount she was requesting would meet the need to set up an office and operating expenses.
- He suggested funding an additional \$50,000 between now and July 1st.
- Funding Source: Contingency Fund
- Chairman Banes and Mr. Kerr will meet with the Coroner at the Cousins School to see if there is office space available there that would help meet her needs.

Motion by Commissioner Cowan, second by Commisisoner Henderson, to transfer from the budget up to \$50,000 to get through July 1st and to set up and operate the Coroner's Office.

Motion carried (4/1) with Commissioner Edwards voting in opposition to the motion.

PUBLIC WORKS: REQUESTING APPROVAL TO PURCHASE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE EASEMENTS FOR TWO BRIDGE PROJECTS ON BROWN BRIDGE ROAD (YELLOW RIVER AND SNAPPING SHOALS)

Presented by Transportation director Chester Clegg.

- Information is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Edwards to approve the Construction & Maintenance Easements for two bridge projects on Brown Bridge Road (Yellow River & Snapping Shoals).

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

REQUESTING APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A 2021 CAT AP600F PAVER- (YANCEY)

Presented by Transportation director Chester Clegg.

- Information is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Sanders to approve the purchase of a 2021 CAT AP600F Paver (Yancey) for a not to exceed amount of \$357,357.00.

Motion carried unanimously

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES: DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION R011921 – A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENACTING A LIMITED MORATORIUM UNTIL FEBRUARY 19, 2021, ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS OF ZONING PETITIONS AND PRELIMINARY PLAT/CONCEPT PLAN PETITIONS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Development Services director Judy Johnson appeared before the board to submit this request.

- Staff is requesting an emergency moratorium for new residential development.
- Currently we have 6,652 undeveloped available lots in the county.
- 440 residential subdivisions.
- Our ordinance does not define what a civic use is and we need to update our ordinance.
- The moratorium allows staff time to come back to this board at a work session on February 2nd to go over amendments to the ordinance.
- The moratorium will stop two types of requests. Acceptance of new zoning petitions or preliminary plat/concept plans.

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Edwards to approve RESOLUTION R011921 – A Resolution of the Newton County Board of Commissioners Enacting a Limited Moratorium Until February 19, 2021, On The Acceptance of Applications of Zoning Petitions and Preliminary Plat/Concept Plan Petitions for New Residential Development.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

COUNTY MANAGER: DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF FIRST AMENDMENT TOWER SITE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GLOBAL SIGN ACQUISITIONS & NCBOC.

Presented by County Manager Lloyd Kerr.

- Information is attached and made part of minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Cowan, to approve the First Amendment to the Tower Site Agreement between Global Sign Acquisitions and the Newton County Board of Commissioners.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

COUNTY MANAGER: DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF SITE LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEWTON COUNTY, COVINGTON-NEWTON 911 CENTER AND CROWN CASTLE.

Presented by County Manager Lloyd Kerr.

- Information is attached and made part of minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Cowan, second by Commissioner Sanders, to approve the Site License Agreement between Newton County, Covington, -Newton 911 Center and Crown Castle.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

COUNTY MANAGER: DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF FIRST AMENDMENT TO TOWER SITE LEASE BETWEEN PINNACLE TOWERS, LLC DBA CROWN CASTLE AND NEWTON COUNTY BOC/SOCIAL CIRCLE.

Motion by Commissioner Sanders, second by Commissioner Five to approve the First Amendment to the Tower Site Lease Agreement between Pinnacle Towers, LLC DBA Crown Castle and Newton County BOC/Social Circle.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

COUNTY MANAGER: DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF SITE LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEWTON COUNTY, COVINGTON-NEWTON 911 CENTER AND CROWN CASTLE SOUTH, INC. (MT. ZION)

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Sanders, to approve the Site License Agreement between Newton County, Covington-Newton 911 Center and Crown Castle South, Inc. (Mt. Zion)

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

COUNTY ATTORNEY: CONSIDER/APPROVE RESOLUTION R011921, A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A NEWTON COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY REVENUE BOND (FIRE STATION 4 AND EQUIPMENT PROJECT), AUTHORIZE AN INSTALLMENT SALE AGREEMENT WITH THE NEWTON COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY, AUTHORIZE A PLACEMENT

AGENT AGREEMENT WITH STIFEL, NICOLAUS & COMPANY, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

NOTE: THIS ITEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA.

ALCOHOL LICENSE:

Final Reading

Flash Foods LLC dba. Circle K Store #2745127
4175 Salem Road
Covington, GA 30016
Owner: Circle K Stores Inc/David Radar
District: Two

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Henderson, to approve the alcohol license for Flash Foods, LLC, dba Circle K Store #2745127 located at 4175 Salem Road, Covington, GA.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

First Reading

Convenience Stores Inc. d/b/a JP Covington
387 Hwy. 11 N.
Social Circle, GA 30025
Owner: Jones Petroleum/Kenneth R. Johnson
District One

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Barbara Morgan
Covington

- Voiced disappointed in public facilities advertisement.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Cowan

None

Commissioner Henderson

None

Commissioner Sanders

FYI: Senator Hank Johnson will be speaking on Saturday @ 10 a.m. in Rockdale County. Subject: Small Businesses

Commissioner Mason

- He noted that regarding Ms. Morgan's concerns he would like to see them addressed and we provide more information moving forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 9:15 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Mason, to enter into executive session for the purpose of land acquisition.

Motion carried unanimously.

The board reconvened in regular session @ 9:27 p.m. and with there being no more business and a motion by Commissioner Mason and second by Commissioner Sanders, the meeting adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

Jackie Smith, County Clerk

Marcello Banes, Chairman

January 19, 2021

BOC Meeting: Excerpt regarding Coroner Funding Request

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