

6NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
1124 Clark Street
Covington, Georgia
Regular Meeting
MINUTES
March 2, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Marcello Banes, Commissioners' Stan Edwards, Demond Mason, Alana Sanders, J.C. Henderson, County Manager Lloyd Kerr, Attorney Megan Martin, 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. Our invocation was given by the Honorable Tonya Anderson, Senator, District 43. Commissioner J.C. Henderson led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great flag.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Sanders, to approve the Agenda dated March 2, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Presentation: The Honorable Tonya Anderson, Senator, District 43

- Senator Anderson addressed the board and presented Newton County with a proclamation honoring our 200th Birthday.
- After Senator Anderson read the proclamation a group photo was taken.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:

- Recognized Mr. Miller Edwards of Mauldin, Jenkins who provided the board with the FY20 Audit Report.
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Information is attached to these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Superior Court/Resource Court: Seeking approval to apply for a state grant through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to provide operating funds for FY22. The CJCC grant application is due on March 19, 2021.

- Provides the operating budget for Alcovy Resource (Mental Health) Accountability Court for FY22.
- If awarded the grant – 10% match required

- Funding Source: Match Funds Source TBD. In recent years Resource Court has received all matching funds from Newton County, Walton County, and other community sources.

Superior Court/Veterans Court: Requesting approval to apply for a state grant through the Criminal Justice Coordinating council to provide operating funds for FY22.

- Cost: \$22,695
- Funding Source: General Fund
- Budgeted: Yes

Superior Court/Adult Felony Drug Court: Requesting permission to apply for FY22 State Accountability Court Grant through the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CAC).

- Cost: Reimbursement Grant. Funds to be released on July 1, 2021
- Funding Source: Council of Accountability Court Judges (CAC)
- Match: 10% - General Fund

Superior Court (Robert Foxworth): Requesting permission to use a corner of the roof of the Judicial Center to launch fireworks during the July 4th celebration for 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Edwards, to approve the consent agenda as printed in board packet.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

PUBLIC WORKS: REQUESTING APPROVAL BY BOC TO PURCHASE RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENTS FOR THE ROUNDABOUT AT KIRKLAND ROAD AND JACK NEELY ROAD, AND FOR TWO BRIDGE PROJECTS ON BROWN BRIDGE ROAD (YELLOW RIVER AND SNAPPING SHOALS)

County Manager Kerr invited Chester Clegg, Transportation Director to address the board who briefly went over the information.

- Information is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Henderson, second by Commissioner Edwards, to approve the request to purchase right-of-way easements for the Roundabout at Kirkland Road and Jack Neely Road, and for two bridge projects on Brown Bridge Road (Yellow River and Snapping Shoals).

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: DISCUSSION OF CONSIDERATION OF COVINGTON/NEWTON INDUSTRIAL PARK EXTERIOR FINISH REQUIREMENT EXCEPTION.

County Manager Lloyd Kerr invited Serra Hall, VP of Economic Development to address the board.

- Briefly went over PowerPoint presentation.
- PowerPoint is attached and made par of these minutes.
- Commissioner Henderson requested Attorney Martin to form the motion as follows.

Motion by Commissioner Henderson, second by Commissioner Cowan, to direct the county attorney and authorize the chairman to execute a letter of consent at the request of the applicant as presented by Serra Hall. To use the proposed exterior building materials as presented by Serra Hall & Judy Johnson subject to compliance of the applicable ordinance and requirements of the City of Covington.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

DISCUSSION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MOTION ON REZ20-000009

The county attorney commented that at the last board meeting Commissioner Cowan participated by phone and was unable to clearly hear the zoning request.

Commissioner Cowan addressed the board and asked to correct a mistake he made at the last board meeting that was based on information he could hear via the telephone. He noted that it is almost impossible to hear over the phone.

He noted that he did not realize that there were two houses on the same lot and they just wanted to separate the property line. Basically it was just to get a new survey line in order to have two lots into compliance and become legal lots into the county.

Motion by Commissioner Cowan, second by Commissioner Mason, to rescind motion made at the February 16, 2021 meeting regarding REZ20-000009 and allow the applicant to move forward with the zoning in order to bring the lots that are applicable into legal status with county codes.

Amended Motion

AMEND AGENDA TO ADD ITEM #12A CONSIDERATION OF REZ20-000009.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Cowan, to approve REZ20-000009.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

FIRE SERVICES/PURCHASING: REQUESTING APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR SUNBELT BUILDERS FOR FIRE STATION NO. 4.

Presented by Jeff Prine, Project Manager.

- Information is made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Cowan, to approve the contract for Fire Station No. 4 between Newton County and Sunbelt Builders.

Motion approved unanimously (5/0)

COUNTY MANAGER: DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR SALE OF REALTY REGARDING CONVEYANCE OF 0.09 ACRE OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE COUNTY AT TAX PARCEL NO. 00449 069 TO ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNERS IGLISIA SHAW BOYD AND JASON A. BOYD

Presented by County Manager Lloyd Kerr.

- Small tract of land adjacent to a house on Brown Bridge Road.
- Previously discussed request in February.
- Gives the owner a more cohesive property line.
- Property is not useful to county and this will relieve the county of maintenance.
- Information is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Henderson, second by Commissioner Edwards, to approve the agreement for sale of realty regarding conveyance of 0.09 Acre of real property owned by the county as tax parcel No. 00449069 to abutting property owners Iglesias Shaw Boyd and Jason A. Boyd as recommended by the County Manager.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

7:30 p.m. 15. PUBLIC HEARING
ATTORNEY: CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH BAYMARE, LLC, WITH KNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL BY MORGAN COUNTY AND WALTON COUNTY.

County Attorney Sam VanVolkenburg and Serra Hall addressed the board and answered questions. Ms. Hall noted the next three items are connected.

- Serra Hall presented a PowerPoint presentation that is attached and made part of these minutes.
- Attorney VanVolkenburg said that if approved this sets up a frame work for future projects that crosses county lines.

Chairman Banes opened the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

- There were no citizen comments in favor or in opposition to the development agreement.

Chairman Banes closed the public hearing at 7:41 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Mason, to approve the Development Agreement with Baymare, LLC with the knowledge and approval by Morgan County and Walton County.

Motion carried (4/0/1) with Commissioner Henderson abstaining.

Commissioner Henderson said he abstained because he was disappointed the companies do not give more back to the county, i.e. recreation.

ATTORNEY: CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF A DEVELOPMENT SERVICES INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH JASPER

COUNTY, MORGAN COUNTY, WALTON COUNTY, AND THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF JASPER, MORGAN, NEWTON AND WALTON COUNTIES.

- IGA is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Cowan, to approve the Development Services Intergovernmental Agreement with Jasper County, Morgan County, Walton County, and the Joint Development Authority of Jasper, Morgan, Newton, and Walton Counties as presented by the county attorney.
Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

Resolution R030221. A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS OF NEWTON COUNTY TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF JASPER COUNTY, MORGAN COUNTY, NEWTON COUNTY AND WALTON COUNTY, THE BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS OF MORGAN COUNTY, AND THE BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS OF WALTON COUNTY, REGARDING PROJECT BAYMARE, AND RELATED PURPOSES.

- Resolution R030221 is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Cowan, to approve Resolution R030221, a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Newton County, Georgia, authorizing the Board of Tax Assessors of Newton County to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Joint Development Authority of Jasper County, Morgan County, Newton County and Walton County, the Board of Tax Assessors of Morgan County, and the Board of Tax Assessors of Walton County, regarding Project Baymare, and related purposes.
Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

ALCOHOL LICENSE:

Final Reading

Peachmart 2534 LLC dba Bailey's Inc.
2536 Hwy. 81 S.
Covington, GA 30016
Owner: Bailey's 76 (Sneha Gilani)
District Two

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Edwards, to approve the Alcohol License request for Peachmart 2534 dba Bailey's Inc., located at 2536 Hwy. 81 South, Covington, GA.
Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

Final Reading

Wadhvaniya USA LLC dba Salem Food Mart

3633 Salem Road
Covington, GA 30016
Owner: Sahil Wadhvaniya
District 2

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Henderson, to approve the Alcohol License request for Salem Food Mart located at 3633 Salem Road, Covington, GA.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session.

With there being no further business and a motion by Commissioner Henderson and second by Commissioner Mason, the meeting adjourned @ 8:43 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Smith, County Clerk

Marcello Banes, Chairman