

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

Newton County Executive Office Board Room

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Chairman Aaron Varner presiding

Present: Chairman Aaron Varner, Commissioners Mort Ewing, Ronnie Dimsdale, Ester Fleming, J.C. Henderson, Billy Strickland, Administrative Assistant John Middleton, Attorney Tommy Craig, Attorney Scott Cole, Clerk Jackie Smith

Also present: Cindy Tumlin-Covington News, Josh Puckett-Newton Citizen and a small group of citizens.

Call To Order: Chairman Varner extended welcome and read thought for the day.

Invocation: Pastor Rob Raynor – Eastridge Community Church

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Varner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/DATED MAY 1, 2001

Motion: To adopt minutes as presented.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Second: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried Unanimously

O-05-15-01 NEWTON COUNTY SPRINKLER ORDINANCE

Chairman stated this ordinance was discussed at the work session for this meeting. He introduced Fire Marshall Johnny Evans inviting him to recap the Sprinkler Ordinance and discussion.

- Johnny Evans commented every 2000 square feet commercial buildings and multi-family units would be sprinkled, with the exception of duplexes that are on the well system in the county.
- Instead of fire doors and firewalls a sprinkler system will be in place.
- Cost savings to developers and homeowners.
- An estimated saving in insurance coverage is 40-60%.
- Commissioner Strickland stated he felt we would not only save dollars, but lives, which is the most important.
- Commissioner Fleming expressed appreciation to Johnny Evans for his insight and planning. He stated things like this brings our county up another level.

Motion: To adopt Newton County Sprinkler Ordinance O-05-15-01 as presented.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Second: Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

Note: The original resolution is contained in file number O-051501, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.

O-05-15a-01 NEWTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ORDINANCE

Chairman stated this ordinance was discussed at the work session for this meeting. Chairman introduced Kerri Wright from Newton County Environmental Health Department and requested an overview of ordinance.

- She stated Environmental Health was requesting that Newton County adopt the state ordinances.
- She said this ordinance would allow them to go directly to the Environmental Court giving them assistance in doing their job.
- Commissioner Henderson stated the previous board first addressed this.
- Chairman Varner stated previous board addressed it, however there were 3 modifications that was made, but never acted upon.
- Kerri Wright stated they would like for the board to adopt the entire ordinance and rescind the previous ordinance.
- Commissioner Dimsdale questioned if this included all the changes and no other changes were made other than the three modifications, which Kerry concurred.

Motion: To adopt Newton County Environmental Health Ordinance O-05-15a-01 as presented.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried Unanimously

Note: The original resolution is contained in file number O-0515a01, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.

PORTERDALE ANNEXATION REQUEST

Chairman Varner introduced Porterdale City Manager Tom Foxx who stated the storeowner had applied for annexation into Porterdale.

- Commissioner Ewing asked the amount of land that was included and stated the property does not actually adjoin Porterdale at this time.
- Mr. Foxx said it was approximately .878 acres.
- Commissioner Dimsdale questioned if there had been conservation's with other property owners? Mr. Foxx said not at this time other than a developer who might be interested.
- Commissioner Fleming stated in that the Mayor and City Council of Porterdale had come forward to this board asking for approval of this request he would move to allow the annexation.

Motion: To allow annexation of the Super Short Stop into the City of Porterdale.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

For: Commissioner's Fleming, Henderson, and Strickland

Against: Commissioner's Ewing and Dimsdale

Motion Carried

WAIVER OF PENALTIES & INTEREST – JOHN P. ROACH JR.

Chairman stated recommendation letter was received from Tax Commissioner Barbara Dingler. She recommended to refund registration on two vehicles in the amount of \$52.96.

- Commissioner Fleming stated he respected the Tax Commissioners' recommendation, however he stated we all know how the system works.

Motion: To follow the recommendation of the Tax Commissioner and refund John P. Roach, Jr. \$52.96 for tag and tax penalty.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried Unanimously

WAIVER OF PENALTIES & INTEREST – SOUTHERN MECHATRONICS CO., INC.

- Commissioner Ewing stated that property owners understand they are taxed and it is their responsibility to see those taxes is paid.
- Commissioner Fleming voiced his concurrence with Commissioner Ewing's feelings.

Motion: To follow the recommendation of the Tax Commissioner and deny request to waive penalties and interest for Southern Mechatronics Co., Inc.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Motion Carried Unanimously

WAIVER OF PENALTIES & INTEREST – GEORGIA HEART SPECIALISTS

Motion: To follow the recommendation of the Tax Commissioner and deny the request to waive penalties and interest for Georgia Heart Specialists.

Proposed by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Second: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Motion Carried Unanimously

ZONINGS: NONE

STREET LIGHT PETITIONS:

Stewart Hollow Subdivision

Motion: To approve streetlight request.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Second: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Motion Carried Unanimously

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE:

First Reading:

Super Short Stop
10104 Washington Street
Covington, GA 30014
Owner: Young Ho Cha

Note: Background check indicated no record.

Bubba's #4
10055 Covington Bypass
Covington, Georgia 30014
Owner: Tim Mathis

Note: Background check indicated no record.

COUNTY CHECKS/APPROVAL:

Motion:To approve county checks as submitted.

Proposed by:Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Second:Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Motion Carried Unanimously

Citizens Comments (5 minutes or less)

Executive Session:

Time: 7:35 PM

Motion: To enter into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, and litigation.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Second: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried Unanimously

Regular Session:

Motion: To enter into Regular Session.

Time: 8:50 PM

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Smith
County Clerk

