

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

Newton County Jury Impaneling Room
Tuesday, October 2, 2001
Chairman Aaron Varner presiding

Present: Chairman Aaron Varner, Commissioner's Mort Ewing, Ester Fleming, J.C. Henderson, Billy Strickland, Administrative Assistant John Middleton, Attorney Tommy Craig, and Clerk Jackie Smith.

Note: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale was absent as he was in the hospital.

Also Present: Cindy Tumlin, Covington News; Matt Savage, Newton Citizen and small group of citizens.

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

Invocation: Rev. Wayne Rutherford, First Church of the Nazarene

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Varner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 18, 2001

Motion: To approve minutes with a correction to typo on page 13. It read \$20,00, and should have read \$20,000.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried Unanimously

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 27, 2001

Motion: To approve minutes as submitted.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Second: Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

RESOLUTION NO. R-100201 – TO REPEAL MORATORIUM ON SIGN PERMITS

Discussion was held at the work session regarding this repeal. Attorney's office felt that since the lawsuit regarding billboard's had been settled the moratorium could be lifted and gives more time for board to study sign permits.

Motion: To approve Resolution Number R-100201 – To Repeal Moratorium on Sign Permits.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Motion carried unanimously

Note: The original resolution is contained in file number R-100201, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.

APPROVAL OF LANDFILL EMPLOYEE HOLIDAYS

Chairman Varner asked Executive Assistant John Middleton to address the board regarding this recommendation. Mr. Middleton mentioned this had been discussed briefly at work session and board had requested further information. He stated at present the landfill is open seven days a week, 365 days a years. This schedule requires the landfill employees to be available to work on all holidays and weekends. They currently work a holiday rotation, operating with a minimal number of employees so that some of the employees can take a holiday as scheduled. Under the current personnel policy Newton County has 10-1/2 holidays. After meeting with the chairman and Jerry Prosser (Landfill Director) to study the issue, they presented the following proposal for board consideration. Mr. Prosser also stated that he had spoken with Mr. Hilliard regarding the recycling centers and Mr. Hilliard is on board with this too. It was discussed and decided that a committee would be formed to study the possibility of closing the sites on Sunday. The committee will report back to the board their findings.

Proposal: The Newton County landfill and Recycling Centers be closed on the following six (6) county holidays:

1. Independence Day
2. Labor Day
3. Thanksgiving Day
4. Christmas Eve Day (Full day – due to trash volume on day after Christmas)
5. Christmas Day
6. New Years Day

He stated that notification of closing dates will be handled by posting signs at the Recycling Centers two (2) weeks in advance of holiday closing; run a notice on the

Covington Cable two (2) weeks in advance of holiday closing and possibly have the newspaper run a short story on the revised holiday schedule.

The board thanked Mr. Middleton and Mr. Prosser for their report and expressed appreciation to the employees of the landfill and duly made motion to approve.

Motion: To allow landfill employees and recycling center employees to have the six (6) requested holidays as presented.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Five

Motion carried unanimously

IMPACT FEES

Board concurred that Impact Fees is a very complicated issue and decided to hold another work session for further discussion on this subject.

SCRAP TIRE FEE INCREASE PROPOSAL

Discussion regarding number of tires that citizens could take to landfill...4-tire limit.

Board supports prohibiting the dumping of truckloads of tires at recycling centers.

Confirmed that the state has mandatory \$1.00 per tire fee requirement to dump.

Concern that majority of tires are coming from dealers and not local citizens.

After further discussion it was decided to conduct a work session on Scrap Tires and have Code Enforcement Officer Rodney Robertson to address board.

Board also requested a more breakeven number for the scrap tire fee.

GAITHER PLANTATION – HUNTING POLICY

Chairman stated this was a discussion item and was seeking guidance regarding a hunting policy or to prohibit hunting all together at Gaither Plantation. He stated the State Wildlife Management would be interested in managing a program for us.

The board voiced concern about liability to county.

Also, that land is being leased to raise cattle on and the endangerment to those animals.

After much discussion the board requested the chairman to contact the state agency for further information and report back to board at a future work session.

AMEND AGENDA TO DISCUSS TAYLOR PROPERTY

Attorney Dan Greer requested to speak on behalf of the Taylor's.

Motion: To amend agenda as requested.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

Points:

- Attorney Dan Greer addressed the board stating the Taylor's zoning was approved by the Planning Commission.
- Board of Commissioners denied zoning earlier.
- Attorney Greer served the board with lawsuit by the Taylor's.
- Property is in Oak Hill Development Node
- He displayed a map indicating surrounding zonings.
- Stated they would like to get things worked out instead of filing a suit.

Board appreciated Mr. Greer's information and will take it under consideration.

ZONINGS: None

STREETLIGHTS:

Avonlea, Pleasant Hills Phase II, Parkscapes, Cornerstone, Berkshire Phase III, Long View Subdivision, Creekview Heights

Motion: To approve as requested.

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

Second: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Motion carried unanimously

Note: Board requested update on streetlight policy and Mr. Middleton stated that he and John Byce were working on this and would report back by first of the year.

ALCOHOL LICENSE: None

APPROVAL OF COUNTY CHECKS

Motion: To approve as submitted.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion carried unanimously

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 8:02 P.M.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Second: Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Five
Motion carried unanimously

REGULAR SESSION

Time: 8:15 P.M.

Motion: To enter into Regular Session.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Second: Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Four

Motion carried unanimously

Time: 8:15 P.M.

Motion: To adjourn

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Second: Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Five

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Smith, Clerk

Aaron Varner, Chairman