

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
1124 Clark Street
Covington, Georgia
Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 20, 2021

Present: Chairman Marcello Banes, Commissioners' Stan Edwards, Demond Mason, Alana Sanders, J.C. Henderson, Ronnie Cowan, County Attorney Megan Martin, County Manager Lloyd Kerr and sitting in for County Clerk Jackie Smith was Judy T. Johnson.

Chairman Banes called the meeting to order, extended a welcome, and read the thought for the day. The invocation was given by Commissioner Mason; and the Pledge of Allegiance to our great flag was led by Commissioner Henderson.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Sanders made the second. Approved (5-0)

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Bryan Fazio gave an update on the Bicentennial celebration and announced the opening of the Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale Health Department's Mass Vaccination site for the COVID-19 vaccine here in Newton County.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

- County Manager Lloyd Kerr gave an update to the Board of Commissioners with a PowerPoint presentation. (PowerPoint is attached and made a part of these minutes.)

OLD BUSINESS: (Tabled April 6, 2021)

County Manager: Discussion/consideration of Lease Agreement with Snapping Shoals for Fairview Park lighting.

- County Manager Kerr presented the request for the lighting at Fairview Park.

Commissioner Sanders motioned to approve the contract with Snapping Shoals for lighting at the Fairview Park. Commissioner Mason made the second. Approved (5-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

Fire Services: Seeking approval to accept the Publix Grant

- Amount: \$1000
- No match
- No cost to Newton County

Recreation: Requesting permission to apply for the Kubota Hometown Grant

- Amount: \$100,000
- No match
- Funds will be used to for park upgrades

Recreation: Requesting permission to apply for the Georgia Power Grant.

- Amount: \$25,000
- No match
- Funds will be used to for park upgrades

Recreation: Requesting permission to apply for the AARP Grant.

- Amount: \$25,000
- No match
- Funds will be used to for park upgrades

County Clerk: Approval of BOC Minutes dated April 6, 2021

Commissioner Edwards made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda with a second from Commissioner Mason. Approved (5-0)

FINANCE: MONTHLY FINANCIALS - March 2021

- Finance Director Brittany White presented a PowerPoint report of the March 2021 Financials. (PowerPoint presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

FINANCE: Budget Transfer – Additional \$50,000 to Coroner Department.

- Finance Director Brittany White went over the line items regarding the budget transfer as follows:
 - \$15,000 for Small Equipment
 - \$17,500 for General Operating Expenses
 - \$3,000 for Travel
 - \$4,000 for Education
 - \$500 for Uniforms
 - \$10,000 for Contract Labor

Commissioner Henderson made the motion to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$50,000 with a second by Commissioner Mason. Approved (4-1 with Commissioner Edwards opposed)

ZONING/PUBLIC HEARING 7:30 p.m.

Rezoning Case Number REZ20-000011

Location: 2001 Dogwood Drive

Map & Parcel Number: 24-038

FLUM: DN (Development Node)

Zoning: R2 (Single Family Residential)

Acreage: 28.73 acres

Request: Rezone entire parcel from F2 to M1 to develop property for a warehouse.

District 3

- County Planner, Shena Applewhaite, presented a request from the applicant to table the public hearing for up to 90 days to allow the applicant time to meet with the concerned citizens to address their concerns. Ms. Applewhaite noted that the Public Hearing would be re-advertised by legal ad, written notification to adjoining property owners and signage with the new hearing date at least 15 days prior to being heard by the Board of Commissioners.

Motion made by Commissioner Sanders to table the petition for up to 90 days to allow the applicant to work with the community. A second was made by Commissioner Edwards. Approved (5-0)

FINANCE: Approval of Coroner Dorothea Bailey-Butts PCard Application, Credit Limit: \$5,000 month

- Finance Director White presented the request.
- There was discussion among the Board regarding employees with PCards and what the limits were.
- Commissioner Henderson requested Ms. White to read the list of PCard holders into the record along with the limit amount. The holders are as follows:

Department	Name	Monthly Limit
Animal Control	Cynthia Wiemann	\$ 1,000.00
BOC	Nwaka Hughes	\$ 1,500.00
BOC	Latonja Threats-Hamp	\$ 1,500.00
BOC	Marcello Banes	\$ 20,000.00
Cornish Creek	James Brown	\$ 5,000.00
Cornish Creek	Sanquanish Rockmore	\$ 2,500.00
DA's Office	Leslie Smith	\$ 5,000.00
DA's Office	Christine MacDonald	\$ 1,500.00
DA's Office	Randi McGinley	\$ 1,500.00
EMA	Jody Nolan	\$ 1,500.00
EMA	Wendy Peacock	\$ 5,000.00
Facilities	Jason Johnson	\$ 5,000.00
Finance	Newton Co Financial Admin/Brittany White	\$ 5,000.00
Finance	Newton Co Purchasing/Randi Fincher	\$ 20,000.00
Fire Services	Bradly Todd Stapp	\$ 5,000.00
Fire Services	Michael Conner	\$ 5,000.00

Fire Services	Billy McCullough	\$ 1,500.00
Human Resources	Human Resources Dept/Amanda Shoemaker	\$ 5,000.00
Information Systems	Tim Singley	\$ 5,000.00
Juvenile	Scharita Greene	\$ 3,000.00
Juvenile	Kendra Mayfield	\$ 4,500.00
Juvenile	Janell Gaines	\$ 4,500.00
Keep Newton Beautiful-CCWT	Laurie Riley	\$ 500.00
Public Defender	Terri Hall	\$ 500.00
Public Works	James Palmer	\$ 5,000.00
Recreation Dept	Greg Sullivan	\$ 5,000.00
Senior Services	Teresa Williams	\$ 1,500.00
Senior Services	Freda Reed	\$ 2,000.00
Sheriff Office	Brice Smith	\$ 1,000.00
Sheriff Office	Billy Leazer	\$ 2,500.00
Sheriff Office	Marty Roberts	\$ 5,000.00
Sheriff Office	Mike Cook	\$ 2,500.00
Sheriff Office	Training & Travel/Brandy Burch	\$ 2,000.00
Sheriff's Office	Ezell Brown	\$ 5,000.00
Sheriff's Office	Vincent Loveless Jr.	\$ 500.00
Sheriff's Office	Brandon Esque	\$ 1,000.00
Sheriff's Office	Jerry Carter	\$ 2,000.00
Sheriff's Office	Sammy Banks	\$ 2,500.00
Sheriff's Office	Jack Redlinger	\$ 500.00
Sheriff's Office	Amanda Peters	\$ 1,000.00
Sheriff's Office	Keith Crum	\$ 1,000.00
Sheriff's Office	William Bowen	\$ 500.00
Sheriff's Office	Donnie Granger	\$ 500.00
Sheriff's Office	Demeca Howard	\$ 500.00
Sheriff's Office	Terrance Spring	\$ 500.00
Sheriff's Office	Selena William	\$ 1,000.00
Sheriff's Office	Richard Howard	\$ 1,000.00
Sheriff's Office	Ary Grijalva	\$ 1,000.00
Superior Court	Kathy Kitchens	\$ 2,500.00
Tax Commissioner	Marcus Jordan	\$ 5,000.00

Commissioner Henderson made the motion to approve the PCard for Coroner Dorothea Bailey-Butts with a credit limit of \$5,000 per month. A second was made by Commissioner Sanders. Approved (4-1 with Commissioner Cowan opposed)

FIRE SERVICES: Requesting permission to purchase rescue tools/equipment; Cost: \$94,439.00; Budgeted: Yes; Rescue tools and vehicle stabilization equipment for 2 new fire engines.

- Chief Conner and Deputy Chief Stapp presented the request.

Commissioner Edwards made the motion to approve the request for rescue tools/equipment at a cost of no more than \$94,439.00 with a second from Commissioner Mason. Approved (5-0)

Purchasing/Finance: Approval of Agreement for Postage Machines for Administration Building and two at the Judicial Center; Cost: \$115.15 per machine per quarter; Funding Source: General Fund; Budgeted: Yes

- County Manager Kerr presented the request.

Commissioner Mason made the motion to approve with a second from Commissioner Henderson. Approved (5-0)

Citizen Comments

- Thelma Starr Nolley expressed concerns regarding the collection of property taxes
- Susan Jackson expressed concerns regarding the upcoming FY22 Budget
- Alicia Brown expressed concerns over the upcoming FY22 Budget
- Donna Lindsey agreed with the 2 previous citizen comments regarding the FY22 Budget and further expressed concerns over the PCard limits stating the amounts should be lower.
- Thomas Buckner commented on the number of employees with PCards

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Cowan – None
- Commissioner Henderson stated he was in favor of making the PCards public record except for the Sheriff's Office
- Commissioner Sanders thanked all the citizens who spoke about the FY22 Budget and stated she was in favor of doing the budget line by line
- Commissioner Mason stated he thought it was an excellent idea to go line by line and for the citizens to utilize their District Commissioner to do so and have that conversation directly. He also noted that the Commissioners were given the proposed Budget to review and he had gone over the document line by line and during the Budget presentations, if he had a question, he asked it at that time. He encouraged the citizens to make positive impacts, to come together and help each other.
- Commissioner Edwards echoed District 2 comments. He also stated that during his first budget season as an elected official he learned the

importance of teamwork and to work with fellow Commissioners to try and get to a Budget everyone could live with.

Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Motion made by Commissioner Edwards to adjourn with a second by Commissioner Mason.

Approved (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Judy T. Johnson for
Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

Marcello Banes, Chairman