

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
1124 Clark Street
Covington, Georgia
Regular Meeting
August 15, 2023

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Marcello Banes, Commissioners' Stan Edwards, Demond Mason, Alana Sanders, J.C. Henderson, Ronnie Cowan, County Manger Harold Cooper, County Attorney, and Clerk Jackie Smith

Others Present: Citizens, Covington News and the Newton Citizen

Chairman Banes called the meeting to order, extended a welcome, and read the thought for the day. The invocation was given by Commissioner Demond Mason, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Mason, to adopt the agenda dated August 15, 2023.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Commissioner Sanders said she had first presented this request in 2022 with several follow-up emails, but did not receive a response. The policy allows for an appeal to the BOC if there is no response and that is why she is asking to amend the agenda tonight for discussion. She commented that the request is now on the chairman's desk for approval. She inquired when she would receive an answer to her request. Chairman Banes said he was waiting on information he requested from ACCG and NACO and, after receiving the information he would respond.

Motion by Commissioner Sanders, second by Commissioner Henderson, to amend the agenda to request approval for travel to the National Association of Black Officials. Motion failed (3/2) with Commissioner Sanders and Henderson voting in opposition to the motion.

Original Motion passed (3/2) with Commissioner Sanders and Henderson voting in opposition to the motion.

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Agenda items only)

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Expressed appreciation to everyone who worked on, who donated, and who attended the annual Family Fun Day at Legion Field. It was a success and appreciate you helping to make it possible.
- Recognized Ms. Mary Terry James, President of the Newton County Historic Committee for Black Heritage Preservation. Ms. James expressed their appreciation and heartfelt thanks for the \$10,000 that the board gave to the Juneteenth Event. She mentioned they were able to do so much with the money and wanted to say "thank you."

COUNTY MANAGERS REPORT:

- Provided a PowerPoint presentation and went over the items in his presentation for the board and citizens.
- PP is attached and made part of these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

CONSENT AGENDA

Sheriff's Office: Seeking approval to apply for the FY23 Grant
Grant Amount: Undetermined
Funding Source: Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)
Budgeted: Yes
Match: 25% (Cost sharing Cash or In-kind)
Purpose: To be used to support the RSAT program
within the NC Detention Center.

Sheriff's Office: Seeking approval to apply for the FY23 JAG Grant
Grant Amount: \$25,952.00
Funding Source: Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
Budgeted: Yes
Match: No
Purpose: To be used to purchase needed equipment to assist in the
efforts to combat crime.

Juvenile Services: Seeking approval of Professional Services Contract with
Attorney Teri Doepke for Family Treatment Court.
Contract Amount: \$5,500.00
Funding Source: Juvenile Court Annual Budget
Budget: Yes
Match: No

Finance: Requesting to sell 3 surplus items/vehicles.
Contact Person: Beth Lubick, Finance department

Appointment to Board of Zoning Appeals – District One - James Chapman

County Clerk: BOC Minutes & Executive Session Minutes dated August 1,
2023.

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Edwards, to approve the
Consent Agenda dated August 15, 2023 as presented.

Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

PARKS & RECREATION: 1. REQUESTING APPROVAL TO USE OMINA PARTNERSHIP COOP AS OUR METHOD TO RECEIVE QUOTES FROM TWO PROMINENT SPORTS TURF VENDORS. TO CONTRACT WITH SPORTS TURF COMPANY TO PERFORM DESIGN BUILD (PRE-CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN PHASE SERVICES TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH & GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE TO RELOCATE FIELDS.

Presenter: Jeff Prine/Dwayne Mask
Contract Amount: \$48,000.00
Funding Source: SPLOST 2023 Parks & Recreation County Wide
Budgeted: Yes
Match: No

Motion by Commissioner Henderson, second by Commissioner Mason, to approve the use of OMINA Partnership Coop as method to receive quotes from two prominent sports turf vendors and to contract with SPORTS Turf Company to perform services as outlined by Mr. Prine.
Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

GIS: REQUESTING APPROVAL OF A SMALL GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEWTON COUNTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC. FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) SOFTWARE.

- Presenter: Scott Sirotkin
- Time Sensitive: Yes
- Contract Amount: \$339,900 over 3 years (or \$113,300 annually); 33.3% cost shares from NC, NCWSA & City of Covington.
- Funding Source: 33.3% GIS Department - \$113,300.00
33.3% City of Covington - \$113,300.00
33.3% NCWSA - \$113,300.00
- Budgeted: Yes
- Match: No.
- MOU: Attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Mason, second by Commissioner Henderson, to approve the MOU between Newton County and the City of Covington as presented.
Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

GIS: REQUESTING APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN NEWTON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF COVINGTON REGARDING MANAGEMENT OF A SMALL GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC. FOR GIS SOFTWARE.

- Presenter: Scott Sirotkin
- MOU is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Cowan, to approve the MOU between Newton County and The City of Covington as presented.
Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

COUNTY MANAGER/FINANCE: PIEDMONT NEWTON HOSPITAL AGREEMENT

- Presenter: Harold Cooper, Brittany White
- Time Sensitive: Yes
- Purpose: 10 new inpatient beds
- Cost: \$2,200,000
- Funding Source: \$1.1M ARPA Funds
\$1.1M General Fund
- Budgeted: Yes
- Match: No
- Agreement: Attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Mason, to approve the Agreement between Newton County, Georgia and Piedmont Newton Hospital, Inc.
Motion carried unanimously (5/0)

NELSON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

CEO of Nelson Heights Community Center Anthony Henderson appeared before the board to provide an update.

- Provided a copy of the NHCC Procedures.
- Highlighted different items in the manual.
- Answered questions from board members.
- Discussion, at times, became contentious. A copy of the discussion is part of the minutes.
- No action was taken.

Chairman Banes called for the meeting to adjourn.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards, second by Commissioner Mason, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Smith, County Clerk

Marcello Banes, Chairman