Thomson
mcduffie
County, Georgia

McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session
March 1, 2021, 6:30 PM
Government Center Meeting Room

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
Charles Newton, IV, Chairman
Wm. "Bill" M. Jopling, Commissioner
Sammie Wilson, Vice Chairman
Gloria Thompson, Commissioner
Frederick Favors, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:
David Crawley, County Manager
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Nikki Milburn, County Clerk
Stephen Sewell, Fire/EMS
Chase Beggs, Planning & Zoning

Media: Erin Burditt, McDuffie Progress

Other: 1

COMMISSIONERS' WORK SESSION

All agenda items are for discussion only. No action was taken during the meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Discussion Concerning Travel Allowance.**
Vice Chairman Wilson asked David to start discussion regarding travel allowance. David advised that he was asked to gather information regarding a travel allowance for commissioners. He advised that he asked Pam to put together a spread sheet to include commissioners, elected officials and department heads. The spreadsheet consisted of vehicle allowance and phone. The allowance was shown as $200, which is the amount the city just gave their city council. Commissioner Thompson and Commissioner Jopling expressed concerns over the vehicle allowance, since they feel that they do not travel enough to justify $200. They asked that more discussion be considered before going forward with approval.

   This item was continued until further information is available.

2. **Discussion Concerning HPC Grant and Design Guidelines.**
Chase advised that in order for the city portion of the HPC to move forward and be effective, design guidelines need to be put into place to make a more uniformed approach when dealing with new businesses or updates to existing properties. This grant will help with the cost of getting this in place which can be very costly. The city and county will split a portion of the cost, the county portion is $11,475.00 and proposed to be paid out of SPLOST.

   This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

3. **Discussion Concerning TUSA Consulting Agreement.**
David advised that TUSA is a consulting company that would come in and go over all aspects of our radio system and help come up with an engineering plan to upgrade and get out the most out of our system. They do not sell products so they have no interest in certain products, they are strictly engineers so they are focused on finding solutions to make our system work the best for our departments. The initial cost would be for phase 1 with would be an audit of the overall system, the cost would be $39,006.00 and funding is proposed from SPLOST.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

4. **Discussion Concerning Salary Calculations for Elected Officials.**
David advised that Pam was contacted by Connie Cheatham, Superior Court Clerk regarding change in some of the supplements provided for elected officials. Pam advised the board that the county doesn't currently provide her the supplement for Board of Equalization which ranges from $2,400-$3,883. She also advised that according to the COAG (Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia) most counties are paying $4,410.29 for magistrate court, we are still currently paying $3,883.08. Law has not been passed to include 5% increase for COLA for magistrate court.

This item will be continued until further information is available.

5. **Discussion Concerning Demolition of Vacant County Buildings.**
David advised that he would like to look into getting the old GSP building on Washington Road demoed. He knows that due to the age of the building this will require asbestos testing prior to demolition. By getting this done, the land bank authority could be reinstated and this property can be sold. He would like to potentially get some other properties taken care of eventually and in the land bank to sell.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

6. **Discussion Concerning Land Bank Committee.**
David advised that as stated before, he would like to reestablish the land bank authority. Members will need to be selected to serve and he needs to look into the by-laws of the previous authority.

This item will be continued until further information is available.

7. **Discussion Concerning Courthouse AV System Upgrades.**
David advised with COVID restrictions for the court system, there are multiple upgrades that need to be done with the current AV system in the courtrooms. There is also equipment that was installed originally but never worked as intended. Courtroom A is proposed at $8,278.93 and Courtroom B is proposed at $28,788.43.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

8. **Discussion Concerning Vehicle Purchase.**
David presented the board a spreadsheet with 5 departments that are currently in need of vehicles. He advised that he has priced vehicles with Dodge and Ford under state contract. The spreadsheet showed the different departments and comparable vehicles and prices. The Dodges were priced lower and he would be able to work with the local dealership to purchase these vehicles if that's what the board would like to do.
This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

9. **Discussion Concerning Equipment Purchase.**
David presented that as discussed in the previous item. The road department is in need of purchasing a backhoe loader and wheel loader. David included on the previous spreadsheet the prices under government pricing the cost from John Deere and Caterpillar for comparable equipment.
This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

10. **Discussion Concerning Building Improvements.**
David gave an update on the current building improvements at the DFAC building.

This was informational only.

11. **Discussion Concerning Airport Consulting Agreement.**
David advised that the city currently working on getting proposals for the airport. He would like to put together members from both city and county to sit on a committee to go over proposals once submitted. Chairman Newton advised that Vice Chairman Wilson sat on the committee last time for the airport project, if he felt like serving again.
This was informational only.

12. **Discussion Concerning Broadband Ready Community.**
David advised that we are currently waiting to hear back from DCA about our approval status for broadband ready. All paperwork from joint comprehensive plan and service delivery were submitted.
This was informational only.

13. **Discussion Concerning Additional Holiday.**
David advised that he was asked to add this item to the agenda. He asked the board about how they feel about adding President's Day back to the holiday calendar. The employees currently have 11 paid holidays.

This item was continued for further discussion.

14. **Discussion Concerning Boneville Pond Road.**
David advised that he just wanted to update the board on the status of Boneville Pond Road. The pond is being drained in order to repair the road. So far, CSX is working together to get the road repaired and incurring the cost of the repair.
This was informational only.

Enter: Vice Chairman Wilson made a motion to enter executive session at 7:42 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling.

Executive Session- Personnel

Exit: Commissioner Jopling made a motion to exit executive session at 8:22 pm and return to regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson.

ADJOURNMENT- 8:22 pm

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton, IV, Chairman

ATTEST:
Nikki Milburn, County Clerk