



The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Commission Meeting
Tuesday Evening, May 18, 2021, 6:30 pm
Government Center Meeting Room

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles Newton, IV, Chairman
Gloria Thompson, Commissioner
Bill Jopling, Commissioner
Frederick Favors, Commissioner
Sammie Wilson, Vice Chairman

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:

David Crawley, County Manager
Nikki Milburn, County Clerk
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Stephen Sewell, Fire/EMS
Allison Eaddy, UGA Extension

MEDIA: Erin Burditt, McDuffie Progress

Others: 5

Public Hearing

1. Request to Rezone: 1011 Whiteoak Road, R-2 to C-2.

Chase advised the Board that this request to rezone is for a former commercial property located at the corner of Whiteoak Road and Harrison Road. Due to the fact that it's been several years since there has been an operating business, there has to be request to rezone to set it back to commercial. The Planning Board recommends approving this request. Chairman Newton asked if there were any questions or concern regarding this request, hearing none this hearing was closed.

2. Variance Request: 1213 Washington Road, Reduction of 25' on front setback requirement and 20' on side setback requirement.

Chase advised the Board that this request was regarding a variance setback requirement. The current property is the site of a carwash. The owners wish to tear down the current structure and rebuild a tunnel style car wash. Due to the design it will require changes in the setback. The Planning Board recommends approval with the condition that the entrance from Washington Highway be closed. Chairman Newton asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding this request, hearing none this item was closed.

Chairman Newton asked if there were any further public hearing items at this time, hearing no response the public hearing portion of the meeting was closed.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm, acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Favors offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT

1. Brittany Engleking- Mrs. Engleking lives on Temple Road and wanted the board to know about the issues of debris on the road that is causing issues. She advised that she is constantly finding

large pieces of metal that has caused her and her family to have to purchase new tires. She stated that she reached out multiple times to the road department, they would come out and inspect and scrape the road and that would be it. Chairman Newton and David Crawley, County Manager both addressed that they have been out to the site and have never been able to find the same issues that Mrs. Engleking has called about. David advised that he even had the road department to dig up the fresh dirt that was laid on the road and put new down. Mrs. Engleking advised that didn't fix the problem.

2. Waldo Massey- Mr. Massey advised that he feels like he is getting the run around with the commissioners because the project still hasn't started and the neighbors are becoming discouraged. Chairman Newton advised that part of the problem is that he hasn't been able to get out to the area to begin the process of easement paperwork with the homeowners. Chairman Newton advised that the project is going to happen and that everyone has been working to get everything together in order to make sure it is done correctly.

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)

Chairman Newton asked that #9 be added to the agenda for discussion concerning private cemetery.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve the current agenda with the addition of #9. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously.

Minutes

Work Session- May 3, 2021

Regular Meeting- May 5, 2021

Chairman Newton asked if there were any corrections to the minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thompson to approve the minutes and was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Chamber Banquet: May 25th at 5:30pm, Belle Meade.

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT

1. Consideration to Approve Appointment of Tommy Phelps to Land Bank Authority.
Chairman Newton asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding this appointment.

Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to approve this appointment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration to Approve Request to Rezone 1011 Whiteoak Road.
Chairman Newton asked if there were any further questions regarding this request.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to uphold the planning board's recommendation and approve this request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

2. Consideration to Approve Variance Request for 1213 Washington Road.

Chairman Newton asked if there were any further questions regarding this request.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to uphold the planning board's recommendation and approve this request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

3. Consideration to Approve Freedom Blast Funding.

David advised that the chamber is requesting funds for the annual Freedom Blast that will be held July 2nd. The recommendation is \$4,000.00 from the county that will be matched by the city. The funding would be from contingency.

Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to approve the freedom blast event funding. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

4. Consideration to Approve Health Insurance.

David presented the health insurance renewal to the Board. There was a couple different options, one would be a renewal of current plan with a 4% increase in price. The second option would allow for saving but it would include some risk when it comes to the copays and out of pocket for employees. Commissioner Favors asked how long they had to make a decision because he wasn't comfortable voting tonight with some time to read over the information. David advised that if they are going to make changes it needs to happen soon so there is time to get with employees. Commissioner Thompson expressed her concern with changing the plan also that would leave employees with a greater risk of paying out of pocket cost.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to renew insurance with the plan as is with the 4% increase. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

5. Consideration to Approve GEFA Loan Agreement.

David advised the Board that the GEFA Loan is for the Wrightsboro Road Sewer Project. The loan amount is for \$650,000.00.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve the GEFA Loan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

6. Consideration to Approve Resolution 21-05; GEFA

David advised that this resolution is a part of the previous agreement and just states that the county understands the terms and conditions of the loan agreement.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve Resolution 21-05. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors and passed unanimously.

7. Consideration to Approve Funding for Georgia Trend Advertisement.

Chairman Newton advised that Georgia Trend has asked to do another spotlight advertisement for McDuffie County. This advertisement cost will be divided with city, Dearing and the school board. The county portion will be \$2,060.00 and funding for this ad will come from contingency.

Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to approve the Georgia Trend Ad. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously.

8. Consideration to Approve County Extension Program Assistant Contract.

David advised that this is a renewal of the current program assistant contract for UGA Extension.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve contract. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

9. Discussion Concerning Private Burial.

Chairman Newton advised that the Smith family has requested that they be allowed to bury their son who was killed in a recent car accident on their farm. The farm is currently the site of a nonprofit, Old Frontier which also has a church services weekly. Chase advised that the requirement from the planning side would be that the area be labeled on a plat so it will be documented on any future parcel plans. After discussion, the Board agreed to allow the family to move forward with the burial plans as long as requirements are met on the planning and zoning side.

10. Monthly Budget Report

David presented the monthly budget report.

11. Monthly Financial Report

Pam presented the monthly financial report.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:08 pm, seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Charles G. Newton, IV, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Nikki Milburn, County Clerk