



The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Commission Meeting
Tuesday Evening, August 17, 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
Chase Beggs, Planning & Zoning
Stephen Sewell, Fire/EMS
Allison Eaddy, UGA Extension
Stacey Thomas, Tax Commissioner

MEDIA: Erin Burditt, McDuffie Progress

Others: 15

Public Hearing

1. **Request for Variance: Solar Land Use for 2713 Pine Forest Drive, Dearing.**
Chase presented to the Board the variance request for 2713 Pine Forest Drive for solar land use. He advised that SunPro Solar Company filed this request on behalf of the property owner for roof mounted panels that face the street right of way. This current ordinance doesn't allow for solar panels that are visible from right of way. Because of this, the planning board recommended to deny the request.

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 6:34 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

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)

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

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

Minutes

Work Session- August 2, 2021

Regular Meeting- August 4, 2021

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

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

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. McDuffie Mixer: August 19th, 5:30pm at Hickory Hill.
2. ACCG 2021 Policy Committee Meetings: August 25th – 26th (Macon) and Virtually September 8th. Please let Nikki know if you would like to register.
3. ACCG Fall Regional Training: September 28th, 10am-2:30pm at Savannah Rapids Pavilion. Please let Nikki know if you would like to register.

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consideration to Accept Planning Board Recommendation for Variance Request for Solar Land Use at 2713 Pine Forest Drive.**

Chairman Newton asked if there was any further discussion regarding this public hearing item.

Commissioner Jopling expressed concerns about the Solar Land Use Ordinance. He asked if there was any other way to allow this because he didn't feel like it was right to deny just because they wanted the panels mounted on their roof. Chase advised that their other option would be to have ground mounted that would comply with the ordinance. Chairman Newton stated that if they did ground mounted, Chase could approve and it wouldn't need to come back before the board. Chase stated that is correct and he can contact the owners and discuss that option with them.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to uphold the planning board recommendation and deny the request. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. Commissioner Jopling opposed and asked that the ordinance be reviewed.

2. **Consideration to Approve Land Bank Agreement.**

David advised that since the original agreement was completed, there have been several updates to the land bank authority laws. The county attorney has gone back to the agreement and made the proper updates and changes.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve the Land Bank Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously.

3. **Consideration to Approve Supplement for DA's Office.**

David advised that the DA is requesting a \$60,000 pay supplement for 6 assistant district attorney positions. This would require that each county in the circuit to pay a percentage of the supplement and all of the counties have agreed on their portion. McDuffie County would be required to pay \$24,840.00, this would be funded by contingency. The DA hopes this will add incentive for attorneys to come to the Toombs Circuit. Commissioner Favors expressed concerns over adding \$60,000 supplement for state employees ahead of raises to our county employees.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve supplement for DA's office. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Commissioner Favors opposed.

4. Consideration to Approve Changing Date for September Work Session.

David advised that dates will need to be added and changed for September. He advised that the Board will have to hold special called meetings for fire fee and millage. Dates will be emailed out when a plan to made.

5. Discussion Concerning Fire Fee.

David presented the Board with the most recent numbers for the proposed fire fee. He advised that going with a square footage would be the best option for property owners and the most efficient option. Chairman Newton added that after discussions with the consultants and fire staff, that he recommends going with a rollback on the millage in order to have the fire fee in place with the least amount of fiscal impact for property owners.

This item will be continued until further information is available.

6. Monthly Budget Report

David presented the monthly budget report.

7. Monthly Financial Report

David presented the monthly financial report.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:04 pm, seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Charles G. Newton, IV, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Nikki Milburn, County Clerk