

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING AGENDA  
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – 1124 CLARK STREET  
COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30014  
APRIL 7, 2026  
7:00 P.M.**



1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Each speaker is allowed three minutes to comment, voice concerns or opinions regarding agenda topics only.
5. **REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**  
Dr. Duke Bradley, Newton County Schools Superintendent
6. **REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER** Staffing Updates
7. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - 7a. BOC Minutes March 12, 2027 - FY2027 Budget Workshop
  - 7b. March 17, 2026 - Regular Session – 7:00 p.m./Executive Session
  - 7c. RATIFICATION – Newton County Sheriff's Office to apply for FY25 Public Safety and Mental Health Initiative Grant. Proposed Grant Amount: \$600,000.00/Match: \$100,000.00  
Funding Source: Bureau of Justice, Justice Department.
  - 7d. Disposal of surplus asset - 2006 Roland VersaCamm SP-300V Printer currently has no value, is inoperable and the parts are discontinued for repair.  
**This is the end of the consent agenda.**
8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** Zoning Agenda (7:30 p.m.)  
CUP26-000001 Tabled from March 3, 2026  
**NEW BUSINESS**
9. Consideration of Resolution to appoint new solicitors for Newton County Probate Court.  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
NAMING LEE R. MOSS, TAYLOR CARTER, AND KARA HOOKS AS  
SOLICITORS FOR THE NEWTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT**  
Resolution R-040726e                      Presenter: Judge Melanie Bell
10. Consideration of Newton County Sheriff's Office to apply for the FY25 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). Proposed grant amount: \$30,929. There is no match required. Presenter: Brandy Burch
11. Consideration of Peach State Construction Company proposal for the River Ridge Trail culvert replacement project. Cost: \$125,850.00/Funding Source: Public Works General Fund  
The funds are budgeted and there is no match required. Presenter: Chester Clegg
12. Consideration of QX Ground proposal for the Ellington Road culvert replacement project. Cost: \$78,361.80/Funding Source: Public Works General Fund/The funds are budgeted and there is no required match.                      Presenter: Chester Clegg
13. Consideration of Newton County Parks & Recreation to accept a charitable contribution in the amount of \$20,000.00 from Amazon. The funds will be used to help with special events.  
Presenter: Dwayne Mask

14. Consideration of **AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 12, ARTICLE IV OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA REGARDING MOTION PICTURE, TELEVISION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTIONS.** Ordinance Number O-040726  
Filming Price Increases
15. Consideration of **A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA APPROVING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR MOTION PICTURE, TELEVISION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTIONS.** RESOLUTION R-040726 Filming Price Increases
16. Consideration of Agreement with Carl Vinson Institute of Government to facilitate a Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) event for Newton County. Cost: \$5,885.00  
Funding Source: Opioid Settlement Funds/The funds are budgeted and there is no match required. Presenter: James Brown
17. Consideration of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. Biological Rover Monitoring Contract for scheduled monitoring in the Alcovy River at Alcovy Trestle pump station; monitoring will follow USEPA's Rapid Bioassessment Protocol (EPA). Cost: \$5,929.00/Funding Source: Cornish Creek/Water Resources/Budgeted/There is no match required.  
Presenter: James Brown
18. Consideration of Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Agreement for Updated Comprehensive Plan. Cost: \$20,000.00/Funding Source: General Fund/Budgeted  
Presenter(s) James Brown, Shena Applewhite
19. Consideration of Budget Transfer – Contingency for New Positions – Magistrate Court 2 Deputy Clerk Positions. Funding Source: General Fund Contingency for new positions.

7:30 p.m.

**ZONING AGENDA - PUBLIC HEARING**

**Unfinished Business – Tabled-March 3, 2026 Applicant has requested to withdraw.**

1. CUP26-000001 (Conditional Use Permit)

Applicant: Larry Cox

Location: 2765 Access Rd

Map & Parcel Number: 0024 076

FLUM: DN (Development Node)

Zoning: CH (Highway Commercial), Almon Tier 2 Non-Residential/Mixed Use Overlay

Acreage: 1.94 ac

District: Three (3)

Request: Conditional use permit to operate an office with outside storage/fleet parking in the Almon Tier 2 Overlay.

2. NTL26-000001 (Conditional Use Permit for a New Cell Tower)

Applicant: Brant Ratcliffe

Location: Hwy 81

Map & Parcel Number: 0016 030

FLUM: COM (Commercial)

Zoning: R-2 (Single-Family Residential)

District: Two (2)

Acreage: 3.36 ac (project area is 0.29 acres)

Request: Conditional use permit to develop a wireless telecommunications tower facility.

Planning Commission recommended denial on 3/24/26. (5-0).

3. Consideration of Resolution for Moratorium on Convenience Stores.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENACTING A LIMITED MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS, REQUESTS, OR SUBMISSIONS THAT PROPOSE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONVENIENCE STORES  
RESOLUTION R-040726a**

4. Consideration of Resolution for Moratorium on Data Centers.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENACTING A LIMITED MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS, REQUESTS, OR SUBMISSIONS THAT PROPOSE THE DEVELOPMENT OF DATA CENTERS.  
RESOLUTION R-040726b**

5. ALCOHOL LICENSE

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - Covington Market LLC. 5485 Highway 81 South Covington, Georgia 30016

District One (1)

Note: Development Services confirmed Covington Market LLC currently holds a valid business license and currently there are no active code enforcement violations or issues associated with this business.

In addition, the location has received approval from the Fire Department.

**This the end of the zoning agenda.**

20. Consideration of Resolution to amend the Newton County Board of Commissioners Employee Handbook. **A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO AMEND THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK TO ALLOW FOR REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED PARTICIPANTS.  
RESOLUTION R-040726c**

21. Consideration of Resolution to amend Association County Commissioners of Georgia Defined Benefit Plan. **RESOLUTION TO AMEND ASSOCIATION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GEORGIA DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN FOR NEWTON COUNTY EMPLOYEES. RESOLUTION R-040726d**

22. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Each speaker is allowed three minutes to comment.

23. **BOARD COMMENTS**

24. **EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)**

25. **ADJOURN**

Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or have questions regarding the accessibility of meeting or the facilities, are required to promptly contact the ADA Coordinator Pamela Maxwell @ 678 625 1243 or email: [pmaxwell@newtoncountyga.gov](mailto:pmaxwell@newtoncountyga.gov) to allow the county to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.