



You Are Why We Are Here

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES
January 8, 2024
6:00 PM

Present: Chairman, Jeff Jacques
District 1 Commissioner - Robert Franklin
District 2 Commissioner - Kyle Foster
District 3 Commissioner - Elizabeth Busby
District 4 Commissioner - Josh Smith – Sick – Attending Via Zoom

Media: Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen Leader
MJ Kneiser, WLHR Radio – Via Zoom

Staff: Terry Harris, County Manager
Kandy Bond, County Clerk
Jack Samuels, County Attorney
Robert Ogburn, Planning & Zoning/Assistant County Manager
Alexandria Gunter, Planner – Planning & Zoning
Kelsey Hill, Dual Admin – Planning & Zoning/County Manager

Item 1. Call to Order

Chairman Jacques called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Item 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag: led by Commissioner Franklin

Item 3. Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Jacques requested to amend the agenda to include (Personnel & Litigation) on Item 8. Executive Session

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to approve the amended agenda

Motion to Approve – Commissioner Busby

Motion Seconded – Commissioner Franklin

Discussion: None

All in favor vote: motion carried 5-0 (agenda approved)

Item 4. Approval of Minutes

- a. BOC Regular Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2023
- b. BOC Public Hearing Impact Fees Minutes – May 1, 2023
- c. BOC Regular Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2023
- d. BOC Public Hearing Minutes – August 7, 2023
- e. BOC Regular Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2023
- f. BOC Regular Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2023
- g. BOC Public Hearing Minutes – December 4, 2023
- h. BOC Special Called Meeting – December 28, 2023

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.
Motion to Approve – Commissioner Franklin
Motion Seconded – Commissioner Busby
Discussion: None
All in favor vote: motion carried 5-0 (minutes approved)

Chairman Jacques: Commissioner Smith assumed the role of Vice Chair as of January 1, 2024 and will serve through December 31, 2024. Chairman Jacques thanked Commissioner Busby for her service as Vice Chair for 2023.

Item 5. Public Comment

None

Item 6. Items for Discussion

- A. V-2023-007 Variance:** Gary Walker, Applicant and property owner, has filed an application for a Variance to the Unified Development Code, Chapter 1, "General and Legal Status Provisions," Article 1-1, "General Provisions," Section 1-109, "One principal dwelling unit on a lot" to replace the previous six mobile homes on lot. The property consists of a +/- 2.53 _acre tract located on Muddy Branch Rd. Canon, GA 30520 (Map/Parcel 054/ 016). **Planning Commission Recommends Denial 3-0**

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to approve, deny, and/or table.
Motion to Deny - Commissioner Busby
Motion Seconded – Commissioner Foster
Discussion: None
All in favor vote: motion carried 5-0 (denial)

- B. RZ-2023-019 Rezone:** Stanton Porter, applicant and Pedro Ramirez-Martinez, Property Owner have filed an application for Rezone from Agricultural General (AG) to Rural Residential (RR) for a +/- 14.15 _acre tract located at 869 Old Stagecoach Rd. Carnesville, GA 30521 (Map/Parcel 028/074A). Proposed use: Major Subdivision **No recommendation: Application withdrawn by applicant**

N/A - Withdrawn

- C.** Scott Strickland has submitted a Citizen Zoning request to change from Highway Business (HB) to Agricultural Intensive (AI). The property is located at 165 Conger Rd. Carnesville, GA 30521 (Access on Highway 320) on a +/- 19.19 _acre tract (Map/Parcel 028/061 C). **Planning Commission Recommends approval 3-0**

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to approve, deny, and/or table.
Motion to Approve - Commissioner Foster
Motion Seconded – Commissioner Busby
Discussion: None
All in favor vote: motion carried 5-0 (approved)

D. County Attorney Appointment

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to approve, deny, and/or table.

Motion to Approve - Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve Bubba Samuels and Team.

Motion Seconded – Commissioner Franklin

Discussion: None

All in favor vote: motion carried 5-0 (approved)

E. County Clerk Appointment

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to approve, deny, and/or table.

Motion to Approve – Commissioner Foster made a motion for Kandy Bond to continue as county clerk.

Motion Seconded – Commissioner Busby

Discussion: None

All in favor vote: motion carried 5-0 (approved)

F. Approval of Election Qualifying Fees

Elected Position	3% Fee
BOC Chairman	\$288.00
BOC Post 1	\$216.00
BOC Post 2	\$216.00
BOE Post 1	\$107.79
BOE Post 2	\$107.79
Clerk of Court	\$1,778.88
Coroner	\$108.00
Magistrate Judge	\$1,798.04
Probate Judge	\$1,778.88
Sheriff	\$2,122.59
Tax Commissioner	\$1,778.88

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to approve, deny, and/or table.

Motion to Approve and Sign Resolution – Commissioner Busby

Motion Seconded – Commissioner Smith

Discussion: None

All in favor vote: motion carried 5-0 (approved)

G. Audio Visual Upgrade

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to approve, deny, and/or table.

Motion to Approve – Commissioner Foster

Motion Seconded – Commissioner Busby

Discussion: Terry Harris – staff recommends Pro-Tech Systems quote for approval \$11,712.00

All in favor vote: motion carried 5-0 (approved)

H. 2024 LMIG

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to approve, deny, and/or table.

Motion to Approve and Sign Document – Commissioner Busby

Motion Seconded – Commissioner Foster

Discussion: Chairman Jacques – on an annual basis the Georgia Department of Transportation provides funding for road improvements to various cities and counties throughout the state of Georgia. The LMIG allotment for this year is \$543,955.94 and there is a required match from Franklin County. Since Franklin County did not participate in the TSPLOST vote in implementing that when it was put out several years back. We are required to provide a 30% match which is a total of \$163,186.78. Staff and county engineer have made a recommendation to use this year's LMIG to pave 4.13 miles of roadway, to include deep base patching, leveling, resurfacing, striping, and shoulder construction. Said roads are McGee Road, Reno Road, and Brown Road. Chairman Jacques requests for a motion and if approved to allow him to sign said document.

All in favor vote: motion carried 5-0 (approved)

I. EagleView – Tax Assessor Proposal

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to approve, deny, and/or table.

Motion to Approve – Commissioner Busby

Motion Seconded – Commissioner Foster

Discussion: Rick Cothran, Tax Assessor – clarification - one flight - \$27,437 for a budget amendment for the current budget year.

Commissioner Busby: concerns from citizens regarding privacy – it's a still photo not a live camera and it will only be accessible to certain individuals.

Chairman Jacques: Clarification, this should save office/staff time and could potentially circumvent site visits?

Rick Cothran: Yes, we are required to review all properties every three years (which is 15,500 parcels) and this will save us from having to go to everyone's home and knock on their door which would be a lot less intrusive.

Chairman Jacques: Is this being used by numerous cities and counties?

Rick Cothran: Yes, this company already has 82 counties signed up.

Chairman Jacques: Will this information be available to the citizens?

Rick Cothran: No, not that I'm aware of. It would be up to the county manager and commissioners.

Commissioner Smith: Who all will have access to this system as far as administrators go?

Chairman Jacques: The Tax Assessor's office unless granted otherwise by the board.

Terry Harris: The only other entity that might have access to be beneficial would be the Franklin County 911 center for EMS, fire, and law enforcement.

All in favor vote: motion carried 5-0 (approved)

J. Eddie Addison – Airport Update

Eddie Addison (PowerPoint presentation-handout). We have lost 3 people from the airport: Charly Schell and his wife were killed in an airplane crash in WY, Wayne Martin, and Richard McSpadden. He stated that everyone is a volunteer and introduced the Airport Authority members (Mike Ward, Kevin McCraney, Mark Brown, Johnny Cox, Woodson McFarlin, Bo Rowland and state he is chair

for the committee). We want to make sure we create a safe environment, adhere to the GA open meetings act, and make sure we are fiscally responsible. We are self-funded with revenues through rent, fuel, Franklin and Hart counties donate \$3,500 per year, thankful for the Franklin County SPLOST distribution, grants, and private donations. We've had fiscal audits every year since 2019. We have a 10-year outlook and a 5-year strategy that we have employed and it seems to be working pretty good for us. We want to leverage our resources and to develop relationships. We believe the airport is an economic engine for growth. Chairmen of Boards of 200 companies fly into our airport in Falcon 500's or 900's and the airport is their first impression. We want them to fly into Franklin County instead of other areas. We use an CPA accounting firm from Hartwell and checks are dually signed. We are getting dinged during audits for missing records, we want to ask this board for our records. Records are required to be kept for 20 years and the county was providing sanctuary for records before we went our separate ways. We have requested to get our records back. Chairman Jacques – I see no reason why if the records are in the possession of the county that we can't review and grant access. We have a hanger list with 27 people wanting hangers. The state of Georgia is contemplating grants for small airports to get hangers. A flight school who has 7 planes wants to move in as well as one business - but we don't have space for them. Commissioner Busby: How many hangers do you currently have? Addison: About 15 hangers. The county does really well on taxes on the planes, it's a revenue generator for the county. Chairman Jacques: What precludes any of these entities from constructing their own hanger. Addison: The airport owns the property and we aren't doing ground leases and all existing leases were grandfathered in. Projects completed: just finished up the parallel taxi way phase 1 and 2, automatic weather observation service, runway lighting (LED). Planning on a runway expansion, hangers, concrete work, apron extension, cut timber on property and clear blockages.

Item 7. Announcements

Commissioner Franklin: Bailey Road lines are not visible needs to be addressed.

Chairman Jacques: We have several roads that need to be address and will add that road to the list and send it to the staff and board.

Terry Harris – update – The elections department has officially moved back into their building and that project is complete, they have been there about three weeks and have officially moved out of the old elementary school. The Franklin County Health Department moved back in their building the first of December and that project is also complete. The drainage collapse of the sewage line at the 911center was a challenge because we couldn't close them down, the repair work was done with them in the building and it has been completed. We are very close to completing the renovations at the jail, one more section and the jail will be completely replumbed.

Chairman Jacques: Future work session agendas will have a county manger report and district reports from Commissioners.

Item 8. Executive Session

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to close the Regular Session and go into Executive Session.

Motion to Adjourn - Commissioner Busby

Motion Seconded – Commissioner Foster

Discussion: None

All in favor vote: 5-0 (approved to close Regular Session and go into Executive Session – no vote will be taken after Executive Session)

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to come out of Executive Session back into Regular Session with the authorization to sign the Closed Meeting Affidavit in which Personnel and Litigation were discussed.

Motion to Adjourn - Commissioner Foster

Motion Seconded – Commissioner Busby

Discussion: None

All in favor vote: 5-0 (approved to close Executive Session and go back into Regular Session)

Item 9. Adjourn

Chairman Jacques asked the board for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn - Commissioner Busby

Motion Seconded – Commissioner Foster

Discussion: None

All in favor vote: 5-0 (approved to adjourn)

Upcoming Meetings

January 30, 2024 – BOC Work Session @ 6:00 PM

February 5, 2024 – BOC Public Hearing @ 5:30 PM

February 5, 2024 – BOC Regular Meeting @ 6:00 PM

February 27, 2024 – BOC Work Session @ 6:00 PM

Signed on the _____ day of _____ 2024

Jeff Jacques, Chairman

Josh Smith, District 4 Commissioner

Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

Terry Harris, County Manager

Kyle Foster, District 2 Commissioner

Kandy Bond, County Clerk

Elizabeth Busby, District 3 Commissioner