



**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES**

You Are Why We Are Here

APPROVED

1-8-2024

DATE: September 11, 2023

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Franklin County Justice Center

Present: **Chairman, Jeff Jacques**
 District 1 Commissioner – Robert Franklin
 District 2 Commissioner – Kyle Foster
 District 3 Commissioner – Elizabeth Busby
 District 4 Commissioner – Josh Smith

1. Call meeting to order – Chairman
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag – Chairman Jacques
3. Approval of Agenda
 Motion – Commissioner Foster
 2nd Motion – Commissioner Busby
 No discussion
 Motion carried 5-0 approved
4. Approval of Minutes
 Motion to table minutes until the next meeting by Commissioner Busby and motion was seconded by Commissioner Foster. Motion Carried 5-0 approved
5. Public Comment

Cara Lee Coker – 1560 Holbrook Carnesville – IBA meeting last month presented 3 plans to install sewer line in and around the industrial property down Hamilton Road and the corner of Hwy. 59 and Hwy. 51. These plans range from 2 million to 4 million dollars in tax payer money. The third plan encompassed private AG intensive farmland running all the way down the branch to Nails Creek and promised to serve around 13 thousand acres. Pretty sure those thousands of chickens on that farm land doesn't need to hook up to the sewer lines. I speculate that the IBA is pushing for the county to pay for the sewer so they can land a big industrial deal. I know there have been several private meetings held with the previous county manager, county



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engineer and one or two of you at a time to negotiate a plan for this deal. I ask you to consider the following: 1.) All discussions should be held in plan view and in public, Citizens should have a voice, do not meet privately and make your decisions without meeting with the people. I'm pretty sure the people will not go along with this plan. 2.) Carefully consider who this will benefit, it will benefit the land seller and buyer. It won't benefit the people who currently live here. 3.) Regarding the cost to taxpayers. This will still cost the tax payers money even if they get grants to pay for the entire installation. Because of the county's resources, employees, equipment and time. Planning, managing, constructing, and maintaining it. 4.) Please do not fall into the misconception that bringing industry, housing, warehousing, or big distribution centers to our rural county will lower our taxes. This is simply not true and the data is clear. Look at Jackson Co., Barrow Co., or Gwinnett. They have growth and the median home owner property taxes are higher than ours by 30 - 50 percent. Growth did not lower their taxes. Why? Because the more you develop, the more you need. You'll need water sources, sewer lines, road improvements, police, fire, trash, and schools and so on. What does that add up to? More government employees, bigger county buildings, more equipment and resources and probably another 400 pages will be added to our UDC. All of this will equal higher taxes. If businesses want to come to Franklin County, they should pay their own way. To put it in the form of a metaphor - "The flower doesn't chase a bee, and Franklin County is a rare and beautiful flower."

Alvin Williams 1972 cedar ridge road. - Developers paying their own way - our county doesn't have to pay for them to come. If they have enough incentive to build they will be happy to pay for the lift stations and upgrade. That is a burden that tax payers wouldn't have to pay. Some are looking for land between Atlanta and Greenville and we are in the middle. They will pay their own way if you let them do it.

Phil Greenwood Grady School Road- We are already paying for a sewer line for wealthy developers on 59. The applicant who wants their property updated didn't show up today. The sewer line we are paying for now is over 900K. We are already paying for this and before we do more for the developers, I think we should reconsider.

Guerry Hall, 150 Guerry Hall Road - The IBA is the people pushing this, and it is made up of the City Mayors and a couple of extras. Look at the city of Lavonia they had one of the nicest little towns you ever seen, but they have screwed it up. Within five years they won't recognize it, congratulations to them. Harris Little (same thing in Carnesville). He was tickled to tell me that the land at 106 and



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Harrison Bridge 220 houses - he was proud of that. I said what was he going to do Harris? He wants the place to grow big so he can sell out and move. I told him to sell out and move anyway. Don't screw the place up, then sell out and move. For anybody that lives here that wants big growth, I'd like to see it put on the ballot to see who wants it and who doesn't. If a person that wants growth, they can move on up the interstate the growth is already there. There are more trying to get away from growth than to get it. If they screw up our little town, then don't come to Bold Springs we won't stand for it.

Massey Jeryl 95 Stillwater Gumlog- I moved here about seven years ago and fell in love with Franklin County. There is value in keeping Franklin County - Mayberry(ish). I'm not opposed to growth, but if Franklin County keeps a Mayberry(ish) tone then there is value in that. I don't mind driving 20 minutes to Toccoa to get what I need, the payoff of living in the country is it and there is a value in keeping that. There are people living in the city that want to live like this.

Tom Kontonickas 780 Bulldog Circle Lavonia - I hate to see us becoming Gwinnett County. I lived there from 1972-2001 and it's not pretty. If we want to put up with a lot of traffic and extra costs then that's what we are looking at. I think our town and tone is nice and beautiful. I don't think we should grow in such a manner that it destroys it.

Jason Boyce 540 Carson Farm Road Carnesville - I have two topics: Quality of life which was hit pretty well here this evening. However, the industrial at Flying J if that pumping station were put anywhere else-but on that site (even if we have to pay for it) there will be an uproar. My sheep don't need the sewer, Martin's chickens don't need sewer. We need quality of life, it's beautiful out there. Don't run the sewer by Nails Creek and have us listening to a pumping station every night. Secondly- I need to talk about elections. We are behind the eight ball and kicking the ball/can/everything down the road, so we can't really affect the November elections. Except, we can hand count all the paper that comes out of the BMB so we know the tabulator can't cheat. Georgia counties have control over their elections, not the Secretary of State, not the Governor, and not the State Elections Board. I have some laws for you: county officials elected, appointed, or hired have the responsibility to follow the law. You can't do things illegal just because the state tells you to. Our county attorney may disagree with some of the things I'm presenting. So, you might want to get additional guidance to ensure you are seeing it from both sides. We can help with that. I'm not a lawyer. I just want to save Franklin



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County. The BOC should tonight establish a committee to assist the elections superintendent in implementing legal, fair, transparent, and an auditable solution for Franklin County elections. This will remove your partial risk of forcing yourselves and the rest of us to vote in an illegal fashion. The county is responsible. The Secretary of State and the Governor have said in court it is the county's responsibility. Doing the right thing is never easy and it's not always a career builder. You are the five people that have the responsibility and authority to fix our broken voting process. We have great people in Franklin County and they can't make these machines work. Save our County, save our State, save our Country and save our Freedoms and then we can get back to talking about zoning. Without our freedoms zoning doesn't matter. Don't kick this can any further down the road. We need action taken now so we can affect the March primaries. We have proven techniques that work, that are cheaper, more accurate and available than the Dominion process. It still uses the Dominion servers but not the ballot marking devices and it doesn't use the scanners. There is information here that I will email you. Those machines were declared illegal in 2019, before the 2020 elections. But they forced upon us. Judge Amy Totenberg, *Curling v. Raffensperger*.

6. Items for discussion:

New Business

- a. Richard Mewborn has submitted a Citizen Zoning request to change from Rural Residential (RR) to Highway Business (HB). The property is located at 4450 Gumlog Rd (Map/Parcel 006/035). **Planning Commission recommends Approval: 5-0**
-Motion to table by Commissioner Foster, Seconded by Commissioner Busby - Discussion - confusion with partial ID number - Vote - motion carried 5-0 to be tabled.
- b. Dave Davis has submitted a Citizen Zoning request to change from Highway Business (HB) to Light Industrial (LI). The property is located on Highway 51 (Map/Parcel 021/046A). **Planning Commission recommends Approval: 3-2**
-Motion to table because applicant is not present by Commissioner Busby, Seconded by Commissioner Foster - motion carried 5-0 to be tabled.



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- c. Therrell Murphy Jr has submitted a Citizen Zoning request to change from Highway Business (HB) to Heavy Industrial (HI). The property is located at 12306 Old Federal Rd (Map/Parcel 011/073). **Planning Commission recommends Approval: 5-0**
-Motion to approve by Commissioner Busby, Seconded by Commissioner Foster. Discussion - plans for the property? Vote 5-0 motion approved.
- d. Therrell Murphy Jr has submitted a Citizen Zoning request to change from Agricultural (AG) to Heavy Industrial (HI). The property is located on Burke Rd (Map/Parcel 011/050A). **Planning Commission recommends Approval: 5-0**
-Motion to approve by Commissioner Franklin, Seconded Commissioner Smith. No Discussion. Vote motion carried 5-0 approved
- e. An application has been submitted for a retail license to sell alcoholic beverages at the following location: 4738 Sandy Cross Rd Royston, GA 30662. The business name is Toccoa Grocery Inc, dba Sandy Cross Grocery. Ranjit Singh has requested to be appointed as the licensee.
-Robert Ogburn - they have gone through the necessary background checks and licensing information by the state - Motion to Approve Commissioner Smith, Seconded by Commissioner Foster, No Discussion. Vote motion carried 5-0 approved
- f. An application has been submitted for a retail license to sell alcoholic beverages at the following location: 9961 Sandy Cross Rd Carnesville, GA 30521. The business name is Sandy Cross 9961 LLC, dba Goldmine Travel Center. Moniruzzaman Chowdhury, Abdullah Manna, and Jashim Uddin have requested to be appointed as the licensees. Mohammad Masud has requested to be the license designee.
-Robert Ogburn - they have gone through the necessary background checks and licensing information by the state - Motion to Approve Commissioner Smith, Seconded Commissioner Foster. No discussion. Vote 5-0 approved
- 7. Announcements
Commissioner Busby - Looking for individuals to serve on the Ethics Board.
Chairman Jacques - Reminder of upcoming meetings referenced on the agenda. Next month's Work Sessions we will be looking at audio and video enhancements to make our meets better and more efficient.
- 8. Motion to Adjourn meeting by Commissioner Busby and Seconded by Commissioner Foster - No Discussion - Vote 5-0 approved to adjourn



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Upcoming meetings

September 26, 2023 Work Session 6:00 PM @ Franklin County Justice Center


October 2, 2023 Public Hearing 5:30 PM @ Franklin County Justice Center


October 2, 2023 Regular Meeting 6:00 PM @ Franklin County Justice Center

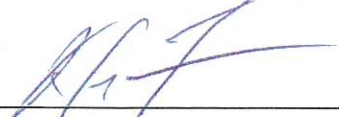
October 31, 2023 Work Session 6:00 PM @ Franklin County Justice Center

All meetings are held at the Franklin County Justice Center unless indicated. Please visit the County's website www.franklincountyga.gov for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities should call the Office of the County Clerk at 706-384-2483 to allow the County to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.


Signed on the 8 day of Jan., 2023²⁴


Jeff Jacques, Chairman


Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner


Kyle Foster, District 2 Commissioner


Elizabeth Busby, District 3 Commissioner


Josh Smith, District 4 Commissioner