



You Are Why We Are Here

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 28, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

BOC: Chairman Jeff Jacques
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin
District 2 Commissioner Kyle Foster
District 3 Commissioner Elizabeth Busby
District 4 Commissioner Josh Smith

Media: Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen Leader
M.J. Kneiser, 92.1 Lake Hartwell Radio

Staff: County Manager, Derrick Turner
Planning & Zoning Director/Asst. County Manager, Matt Hailey
County Attorney, Bubba Samuels
County Clerk -Jane Brown

Item 1: **Call meeting to order** - Chairman Jacques called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. "First time in 8 months we have had a full Board present."

Item 2: **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** - Commissioner Busby led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Item 3: **Approval of the Agenda** - Commissioner Franklin motioned to approve the Agenda as written; Commissioner Busby seconded the motion. All were in favor, 5-0. No discussion.

Item 4: Public Comment:

- a. Jeff Schwan - 1591 Reno RD, Royston - IBC Construction - He has been a builder/employer in Franklin County since 1986. Noted history of I-85 in Franklin County. Industries have come to the County. Had acreage in front of hospital. Wanted to develop multi-family homes - had never run into the problems with Planning and Zoning. Started in May 2022 - took five months to get permit to build. Of all of the years he has been in the County, helping the County - employed over 300 people - not able to meet deadline promised developer. Hard to fathom in his mind after 30 years of working in the county - system needs to be fixed.
- b. Jason Boyce - 540 Carson Farm Rd., Carnesville. Get minutes out in s



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timely manner; government transparency. Has not been practice of prior Board. Wants minutes transcribed verbatim. Have asked Board to practice best practices for Minutes. Election Integrity has not been included in any Minutes - include as correction in Minutes. Government transparency. He presented flash drive to simplify storage of County information. Distribute to all Board Members. Suggest that County be put on hold and figure out what real priorities are before making decisions, Mr. Boyce offered to help in any way.

- c. Robert Crump - 1050 Hwy 326, Carnesville - wife passed in June 2022; sold house; bought 15 acres in Franklin County. Had he known before he purchased it that it would take so long to get anything done, he would never have bought property in Franklin County. He knows it's not this Board's problem - problem already created by previous Board. Time constraints put on all processes -- and I have to buy another permit after 9 months for same work because it isn't done in a certain amount of time?
- d. Terry Robertson - 64 Mountain View Drive, Lavonia - thanks Board for efforts - UDC-have done great job; county - work in progress; has growing pains; working towards solving it. Have heard stories about the problems getting permits. Again, thanked the Board for their efforts.

Commissioner Busby commented re: inspections and permits, she understands the frustration with the permit issuance and that is being worked on.

Item 5: Issuance of EMS Awards

EMS Director presented awards to two teams who were involved in two cardiac arrest, life-saving events:

September 18, 2022: Jim Crisp, Teryn Mize, Tyler Lanier, Curtis Ream, Ricky Maddox Mitch Murphy Teresa Boudway and Donna Maisonett.

January 28, 2023: Brittany Keith, Jenny King, Justin Parten, Jay Thomas, Amber King, John Bruce and Jim Crisp.

Item 6: Manufactured Home Ordinance:

Matt Hailey emphasized that the Ordinance needs to be more concise, more organized; per Chairman and Derrick Turner, there will be a vote on March 6. Issue with skirting. UDC will be updated.

Item 7: Jake Brake Ordinance:

Commissioner Busby spoke - will write GRP to help construct letter/ordinance - treat more on an individual basis - not an actual ordinance; progressive approach - will vote on this March 6.



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- Item 8: Budget Amendment:** Derrick Turner, County Manager, advised of the need for a budget amendment to hire a new dual-role staff member to be shared by Planning and Zoning and to assist the County Manager. A cost breakdown was provided to the Board. This person would be on board in April 2023.
- Item 9 : LMIG:** Low Bid by Garrett Paving Company = North Fairview Road and Plainview Rd repaving. Per County Manager, this will be voted upon on March 6. Commissioner Smith had question re: traffic control amounts on various bids - Chairman explained - 7 classifications; rest lumped into traffic control - overall bid amount considered.
- Item 10: Planning & Zoning - Permits/Inspections** Per Chairman Jacques- Significant amount of feedback from citizens from all walks of life and occupations, commercial, residential, non-profits, etc. Legal review. Make modifications to existing process. Grant people choices. Will have Public Hearing; document will be posted for everyone's review. Weighing inspections in-house not viable at this time. Possible ways to make modifications to existing ordinance (will have Public Hearing; all will be posted for review):
1. Allow individuals in county who are building house for personal use (primary residence) to sign waiver, accept all responsibility for all construction, following all rules and regulations; will be recorded with Recorder of Deeds Only requirement would be sign for Permit and one setback inspection.
 2. 3rd party inspections - independent - can go through current process and use county approved inspection or use 3rd party inspector from list of approved, licensed inspectors.
 3. Currently have been inspections required for accessory buildings that require plumbing or electric - this will be removed. Only requirement would be setback inspection. This is for buildings that won't be occupied. Permits will no longer be required for barns, poultry houses, etc. Also looking at fee structure to relieve burden on citizenry.
- Chairman Jacques feels like this is a step in the right direction. Per Commissioner Josh Smith - Planning & Zoning has been the biggest part of his job since he was sworn in - small steps, but this Board is bent on making this process efficient and cost-effective. Commissioners Smith, Fulton and Franklin agree with Commissioner Smith. This will be addressed at our next Work Session, with review by Counsel. County Manager has been instrumental in getting us to this point.



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Item 10: Executive Session: Motion by Commissioner Busby to go out of regular session and seconded by Commissioner Foster to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Voted 5-0 in favor.

At 7:48 pm the Executive Session closed, a Motion to go back to Regular Session was made by Commissioner Busby and seconded by Commissioner Foster, allowing the Chairman to sign a Closed Meeting Affidavit. After a 5-0 affirmative vote by the Board, the Work Session was Adjourned at 7:56 pm.


Signed on the 4th day of December, 2023


Chairman Jeff Jacques


Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner


Kyle Foster, District 2 Commissioner


Elizabeth Busby, District 3 Commissioner


Josh Smith, District 4 Commissioner

Derrick C. Turner, County Manager

Jane Brown, County Clerk