



You Are Why We Are Here

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2022
6:25 P.M.**

- Present:** Chairman Jason K. Macomson
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin
District 2 Commissioner Kyle Foster
District 3 Commissioner Ryan Swails
District 4 Commissioner Eddie Wester
- Media:** Shane Scoggins, Franklin Citizen Leader via Zoom
MJ Kneiser, WLHR via Zoom
- Staff:** County Manager, Derrick Turner
County Clerk, Kayla Finger
Planning & Zoning Director, Scott DeLozier
County Attorney, Bubba Samuels via Zoom
- Item 1:** **Call Meeting to Order** – Chairman Macomson called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm and welcomed everyone.
- Item 2:** **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag:**
Commissioner Foster gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Item 3:** **Approval of the Agenda:** Commissioner Swails made a motion to approve the agenda with an amendment to add item 7-L County Manager Contract. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.
- Item 4:** **Personnel Report:** Manager Turner announced the promotion of Planning & Zoning Director, Mr. Scott DeLozier to Assistant County Manager. Mr. DeLozier will continue to serve as the Planning & Zoning Director in addition to his new role. The board congratulated Mr. DeLozier on his promotion.
- Item 5:** **Approval of Minutes:**
- A. 12/6/21 Public Hearing
 - B. 12/6/21 Regular Board Meeting



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Commissioner Swails made a motion to accept all the minutes as presented. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.

Item 6: Public Comment:

Mr. Andy Myers, 2245 Roach Road spoke about his desire to serve on the recreation board.

Item 7: Items for discussion:

- A. Steve Norris, 170 Norris Rd, Canon, Ga, has filed an application for a side yard setback variance for a stack house on a 22.30-acre tract. The property is located at 170 Norris Rd and is further identified as Tax Parcel 057-087. Dir. DeLozier reviewed the application as previously presented to the board in the public hearing. The planning and zoning board recommended unanimous approval with no additional conditions. There were no questions. Commissioner Wester motioned to approve the application as presented with no additional conditions. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.
- B. Brian Watkins, 14944 Hwy 17, Lavonia, Ga, has filed an application for a variance to extend the maximum length of a cul-de-sac road on a +/- 163.66-acre tract. The property is located at 17411 Hwy 17 and is further identified as Tax Parcels 042-053 & 042-038. Dir. DeLozier reviewed the application as previously presented to the board in the public hearing. The planning and zoning board recommended approval with the condition of the secondary cul-de-sac about halfway to provide for turnaround for public safety vehicles. Commissioner Swails motioned to approve the application as presented with the condition of the additional cul-de-sac. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.
- C. Brian Watkins, 14944 Hwy 17, Lavonia, Ga, has filed an application to for a preliminary plat review for a proposed 43 lot subdivision in Franklin County on a +/- 163.66-acre tract. The property is located at 17411 Hwy 17 and is further identified as Tax Parcels 042-053 & 042-038. Director DeLozier reviewed the preliminary plat for the board and stated it does meet all current county regulations. The planning and zoning commission recommended approval with no additional conditions. The board decided to add the same condition as the approval for Mr. Watkins variance.



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Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve the preliminary plat with the same condition as before regarding the additional cul-de-sac. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.

- D. Steven Brown, 6373 Hwy 145, Carnesville, Ga, has filed an application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a custom automotive paint shop as a home-based on a 2-acre tract. The property is located 6373 Hwy 145, and is further identified as Tax Parcel 036-039. Dir. DeLozier reviewed the application as previously presented to the board in the public hearing. The planning commission heard this application twice after much concern on the first hearing. The commission recommended approval with the conditions that they adhere to the hours of Mon - Fri 7- 7, Sat. 8-7, and Sun 10-2, and that they implement a vegetative buffer on the property behind the shop and it be built to Franklin County standards. The last condition was that since Mr. Brown is a renter, that this permit only extend to Mr. Brown's business and will terminate if he ever left.

Commissioner Swails motioned to deny the application.

Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.

E. Board Appointments

- i. Tax Assessors Board: The Tax Assessor's Office wrote a letter recommending Mr. Dan Stroud be reappointed to his position.

Commissioner Swails made a motion to reappoint Mr. Stroud to the tax assessor's board and approve the resolution stating his reappointment. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.

A copy of the resolution was available for public inspection at the meeting.

- ii. Recreation Board: The Director of the Recreation Department, Mr. Randall Gailey sent the board a letter recommending the appointment of Wesley Varner, Orie Hurt, Michael Rich, and Robby Hill.

The 4 members up for reappointment were: Kenneth Roach, Wesley Varner, Orie Hurt, & Michael Rich.

8 applications were received. Terms for this board are for 4 years. Appointees will serve from Jan. 1, 2022 - Dec. 31, 2025.



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Commissioner Foster made a motion to reappoint Mr. Michael Rich to his vacancy. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.

Commissioner Swails made a motion to appoint Mr. Andy Myers to fill Mr. Orie Hurt's vacancy. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. No further discussion. The motion passed 3-1, with Commissioner Wester voting against.

Commissioner Wester made a motion to reappoint Mr. Wesley Varner to his vacancy. Commissioner Swails seconded the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.

Commissioner Wester made a motion to appoint Mr. Orie Hurt to fill Kenneth Roach's vacancy. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. Commissioner Swails questioned if all applications had been considered. Commissioner Wester stated he had served as a liaison to the recreation board and that Mr. Hurt has served a long time and has done a great job. Chairman Macomson noted the letter of recommendation from Dir. Gailey stating their approval of Mr. Orie Hurt. All were in favor, 4-0.

- F. Alcohol Ordinance Amendment - First Reading: Chairman Macomson reviewed the board's previous actions approving the alcohol ordinances and shared that all four passed in the general election. He noted for the record that this proposed amendment is available for public inspection and will be considered for a vote in February. A copy will be attached to the official minutes.
- G. Ethics Training: Chairman Macomson explained the need for training for new members to boards and also elected officials. He encouraged the board to consider approving ethics training as a minimum. It would also be helpful to give some introductory training of how to properly conduct meetings and keep official records. The board reached a consensus to have Manager Turner explore some options with Carl Vinson facilitating a session, or possibly videos.
- H. County Holidays: Chairman Macomson proposed the board consider adopting Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Veteran's Day, and Columbus/Indigenous People's Day to the county calendar of paid holidays. The state of Georgia currently observes these holidays,



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and this causes an issue with our court system when we are open and the state is not. The courts can't effectively function when the state is not open. He stated that he thinks the county's schedule should more closely follow that of the state. Clerk of Court, Heather Hill, and Judge Ken Eavenson agreed to this proposal. The commissioners were all in agreeance to allow for the three proposed holidays. Manager Turner noted that the state has adopted one other holiday, Juneteenth for the 2022 calendar, and since the state calendar is what we are trying to comply with to not disrupt county operations, maybe the motion should be to follow all state holidays. Chairman Macomson responded that he has noticed that the state calendar changes and the board may not agree with all future changes to the state calendar, and he would rather look at approving specific days.

Commissioner Swails motioned to approve adding Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Veteran's Day, and Columbus/Indigenous People's Day. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. Chairman Macomson clarified that if these holidays were to fall on a weekend, we would still give a Monday or Friday to allow for a paid holiday off. All were in favor, 4-0.

I. Executive Session - Personnel & Litigation

Commissioner Wester made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters of personnel and litigation.

Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0. The commissioners moved to the back conference room and called the County Clerk and County Manager back one at a time and both were allowed back for the discussion of pending litigation.

Commissioner Wester made a motion to close out of executive session and resume the regular meeting and authorize Chairman Macomson to sign the affidavit stating the board only discussed matters concerning personnel and litigation and approve the executive session minutes. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.

J. County Attorney Appointment: Commissioner Franklin motioned to renew county attorney Bubba Samuels contract for another year. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor, 4-0.

K. County Clerk Appointment: Commissioner Swails motioned to re-appoint Mrs. Kayla Finger to county clerk with a 3% increase to her



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salary, effective on Jan. 6 pay period. Commissioner Wester seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.

L. AMENDED ITEM: County Manager Contract – Commissioner Wester motioned to extend Manager Turner's contract to December 31, 2023 with a 5% base salary increase effective on Jan. 6 pay period. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. All were in favor, 4-0.


Item 8: Managers' Report: Manager Turner presented the attached financial report for the period ending November 2021.


Item 9: Announcements: Chairman Macomson reminded commissioners to submit required ethics in government forms. He also announced that Commissioner Foster (District two) is the vice-chair for calendar year 2022. This position rotates each year among commissioners by a set schedule, in the order of commissioner districts. Last year, Commissioner Franklin (District one) was the vice-chair. Commissioner Swails thanked all the county employees and staff for their dedicated work for the county. Chairman Macomson echoed those thanks.

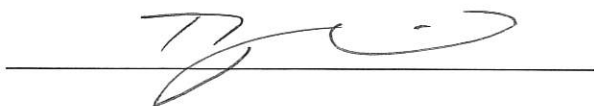
Item 10: Adjourn
Commissioner Wester made a motion to adjourn.
Commissioner Foster seconded the motion.
All were in favor, 4-0.

Signed on the 7th day of February, 2022


Chairman Jason K. Macomson


Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner


Kyle Foster, District 2 Commissioner





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Ryan Swails, District 3 Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Wester", written over a horizontal line.

Eddie Wester, District 4 Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kayla Finger", written over a horizontal line.

Kayla Finger, Clerk